

Somerville's
original
independent
newspaper

The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com



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SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



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on the move

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Somerville hit and run driver surrenders



The driver of a vehicle that struck a victim on McGrath Highway on April 12 and then fled the scene turned himself in to the authorities last Thursday.

By The Times Staff

According to an update from the Massachusetts State Police, the driver of the vehicle that struck the victim in this crash turned himself in at the Somerville Police Station around noon on Thursday of last week.

The 64-year-old Somerville man also surrendered the vehicle, a white 2015 Ford Transit Connect. He has been summonsed to appear in Somerville District Court on a charge of leaving the scene of a crash that caused personal injury.

The investigation is ongoing. Whether additional charges will be sought depends on the result of that investigation.

Per MSP Media Relations policy, names of suspects summonsed to face charges (as opposed to being arrested) are not released until the defendant appears in court. For personal injury crashes that are not fatalities, police who do not have an arrest warrant

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Somerville Spring Clean-up 2021

Celebrate Earth Day by helping out our own environment

Residents are invited to sign-up and join Ward Captains, Groundwork Somerville leaders, Main Streets Organizations and city officials in each of the city's seven wards to help prepare the city for the spring and summer by weeding open spaces, cleaning up streets and beautifying our community following the long winter months.

To volunteer, fill out the Google Form at: <https://forms.gle/qWEYZMPE5BPLey1b7>

To Volunteer at Ward 4 RSVP with Groundwork Somerville and Mystic River Watershed go to The Somerville Arts Council website

All participants are invited to meet at their designated ward Saturday, April 24, at 10:00 a.m. The schedule for the day will be: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Volunteers are advised to check the weather and dress accordingly, dress comfortably, and bring water to stay hydrated. Clean-up materials will be provided.

A sanitizing station and masks will be available. All city protocols for social distancing will be followed. Check-ins to

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Join in the Somerville Spring Clean-up on Saturday, April 24.

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So, **Patriots' Day** came and went this week with little fanfare and fuss, and no Boston Marathon, all because of the ongoing the coronavirus threat. It is very important we continue to be safe, yet we can't help but miss these grand old traditions that most of us look forward to. It's unfortunate that we have had to give up so much so far, but these events and special occasions will return. For now, be safe and ride this thing out with patience and good humor.








The **City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services** invites local Veterans and family members of Veterans to submit short video messages to celebrate **Memorial Day**. Veterans and Veteran families are encouraged to record short videos, about 10 to 15 seconds long, to share what Memorial Day means to them or a message for troops deployed overseas. Submissions will then be compiled into a larger video to mark this year's holiday. Videos should be submitted by **Friday, April 30**. They can be emailed to **Ted Louis-Jacques**, Director of Veterans' Services, at tjacques@somervillema.gov or texted to him at 617-404-5290.

Nomination applications for candidacy for seats on the board of Somerville's **Union Square Neighborhood Council** are being accepted through **Monday, April 26**. Prospective candidates must complete and return a form contained within the election packet (<http://unionsquareneighborhoodcouncil.org/images/election/2021%20Elections%20Packet.pdf>), where more information about USNC and the election process can be found.

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

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 21 – April 27 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>April 21</i>	Rain	67°/37°	13%	9%	S 18 mph
 Thursday <i>April 22</i>	Partly Cloudy	47°/39°	8%	5%	W 21 mph
 Friday <i>April 23</i>	Partly Cloudy	59°/44°	44%	32%	WNW 21 mph
 Saturday <i>April 24</i>	Sunny	66°/45°	9%	2%	W 12 mph
 Sunday <i>April 25</i>	Rain	57°/46°	49%	28%	NNW 15 mph
 Monday <i>April 26</i>	Rain	57°/44°	41%	26%	WNW 14 mph
 Tuesday <i>April 27</i>	Partly Cloudy	60°/48°	24%	17%	NW 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: **City Council addresses hostile architecture, police use of force**

Tom says:

‘Director of Mobility and Commissioner of Public Works work with the State Delegation to remove hostile architecture from the Davis Square MBTA station, as well as to ensure that no hostile architecture continues to be installed around the city.’

But will the ‘hostile architecture’ already placed around the city be removed? It isn’t just benches with arm rests. A few years ago Kenney Park in Somerville saw their benches removed and replaced with tiny, flimsy round tables with chairs. Certainly not meant for the comfort of any adult, and also difficult for people with certain disabilities to use.

TheoNa says:

Why is this called “hostile architecture” rather than “public safety architecture?” It serves a purpose in supporting safety and social stability. As an alternative, may I suggest that the city officials who are against “hostile architecture” instead post a sign above the benches listing their home addresses and inviting those who wish to sleep on the bench into their homes.

The real “hostile architecture” in this town is the hostility being directed at auto users with the pandemic-rate growth of speed bumps, bus and bicycle only lanes, and chicanes.

Matt C says:

This is good, glad to see moves towards humanizing architecture in the city. There are smart ways to continue to involve our infrastructure – e.g. we dont need segregated bike lanes everywhere rather we need a few with lots of feeder access. As for speed bumps, I would love to see more, effective ways of slowing folks down on our streets. When residents of my street reached out to our alderman requesting one we were told it was hard to do.

Response to: **Newstalk – April 14**

Ezekiel says:

Bill White is leaving?!?!? Lemme get this straight – Mbah, Ballantyne, Rosetti, Neidergang, and White are all leaving (though Mbah or Ballantyne will be back as mayor). The council is losing all its grownups. Lord help us. I hope somebody leaves a conch in the council chambers.

Karoline Blamauer says:

The only person on the visible horizon actually and thoroughly qualified to be the next mayor is Bill White. I hope that is his thinking in announcing his retirement from the Council. If not, DRAFT WHITE FOR MAYOR!

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](https://www.somervilletimes.com) to leave your own comments

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Job #1



I did a story back in 2011 about the first jobs of my Baby Boomer Somerville friends. This is part two. In the first story, I mentioned that I worked at Lyn-dell’s Bakery as a helper (in the ‘60s) and at FW Woolworth’s as a stock boy/lunch counter guy. I also worked at The Dodge ‘Em Cars at Revere Beach.

Newcomers to the Ville may be scratching their heads when they read some of the following places, saying, “I never heard of that joint.” That’s because a lot of the establishments mentioned are now history. So, I guess it’s sort of like us Somerville lifers are speaking in some kind of secret code.

One friend worked at Loud’s Candy shop in Powder House Square for Mr. Melville and Garret Insurance for Mr. Garrett, Jim Lynch and Ralph Jr. Remember those guys? The Dunkin’ Donuts in Porter Square hired a lot of



Somerville kids. I also worked briefly at the CVS in Porter before it moved across the street. Some of my friends worked at Friendly Family Center and Osco in Davis Square. It’s now Rite-Aid, though I still call it Osco.

A lady traveled all the way to Medford for her job at Child World near Wellington Circle. After working hard at La Contessa Italian Bakery, another gal spent her first paycheck on a leather coat at Cummings, also formerly in Davis Square. Star Market in Porter Square gave a lot of Somerville kids their first real jobs.

Today, there are many new up-and-coming businesses in the building that used to house Ames Safety Envelope. Half of my friends that used to frequent The Embassy Lounge on Somerville Avenue worked at Ames. A lot of Somerville folks put in years and years at Polaroid in Waltham. I miss all that free film!

Did you work at McDonald’s back in 1975, when a Big Mac cost 65 cents? How about Mark’s Department Store? I think the wage was \$2.85 an hour. The Stop & Shop near Union Square and the one in Davis Square, along with the Dairy Queen on Cedar Street, hired us. Yum! One of my pals worked at Y-Not variety on Willow Avenue with the original owners, Tony and the other Tony.

Did you work at Kresge’s, where you



could get sliced boiled ham for 89 cents a pound? Lots of Villens worked at the Somerville and Broadway theaters (I worked at the one in Davis). We worked at local parks as playground counselors making key chains and things out of “gimp.” Royal White laundry on Cedar Street hired lots of friends.

Brigham’s in Davis Square and on Winter Hill were popular for hiring Somerville folks. Would you like jimmies on that? Others worked next door at the Star on Broadway. My pal John washed pots and pans in Somerville Hospital’s kitchen making \$2.10 an hour.

Some of my friends worked at their Uncle Vinny’s restaurant on Broadway. Bob tells us, “I was a car shuttler for Belotti Oldsmobile. It was the best job because I got to drive all the new cars that came

out.” A friend tells me he worked for the Neighborhood Youth Corps at the Trade High School one summer for 90 cents an hour. And how many of my old friends worked for Mrs. B at Bradlees? A lot. Do you remember the Bradlees credit card? I think it was my first one. I’ll have to do an entire article about the old Lechmere sales store in Cambridge.

It was so exciting when we finally entered the work force. The friends we made at these jobs will stay in our memories forever, and so will the creeps. It was a great feeling to be able to buy our own clothes, record albums, go to the movies, and save up for that first car. I’ll never forget the look on my dad’s face when I came home wearing bell bottom pants and a leather fringe jacket ... that I bought myself!

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Share your hot ideas for keeping cool this summer

Do you have ideas on how to keep cool in the heat? The City of Somerville, in partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, is now accepting applications for the Keep Cool Somerville Community Projects Grant Program to support creative and impactful cooling solutions this summer.



Residents and community groups are invited to propose small-scale pilot projects to improve resilience to hot weather. A handful of projects will be funded to be implemented over the summer. No project is too small! Grants can range from several hundred dollars to just under \$10,000.

Potential projects could seek to raise awareness of extreme heat risks and coping strategies, improve access to cooling resources, promote mutual aid during heat waves, or any other idea that improves community resilience to hot weather, especially among residents most likely to be impacted. Grant applicants are encouraged, but not required, to draw on the Cooling Strategies Toolkit for inspiration.

There are several opportunities for interested applicants to get feedback or assistance before submitting a proposal. The project team is hosting a virtual Keep Cool Idea Workshop on Tuesday, May 4, at 6:00 p.m., as well as virtual coffee hours for community members to discuss potential projects and ask questions. Multilingual assistance is available.

Applications are due Wednesday, May 26. For more information, including application instructions, virtual event links, and the Cooling Strategies Toolkit, visit somervillema.gov/keepcool.

OBITUARY

Mary Emma Loretta (Champion) Walker



Walker, Mary Emma Loretta (Champion), 72, died peacefully in hospice care on April 14, 2021. Mary was born in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada on July 8,1948, to Vernon Eldon Champion and Emma Jean MacDonald of Prince Edward Island. They immigrated to Somerville in 1963, sponsored by Vernon’s sister, where Mary enrolled at Somerville High for her sophomore year and graduated in 1966.

Mary jumped straight into the workforce after high school and held many interesting jobs in her lifetime. She was one of few women who administered state vehicle inspections in the 60s, while also making subs at the adjacent shop that turned construction workers and truck drivers into regulars. To the delight of her children, she worked at the local Jack-in-the Box in the 80s, where she had a soft spot for the late night crowd that tumbled in, and knew just how to keep them in line so that they didn’t get kicked out. She also worked for T.J. Maxx in the 80s and travelled across the country to assist with opening new locations. But it was her time serving as Election Commissioner for the City of Somerville from 1990-2001 that gave her the greatest sense of accomplishment and pride. Having obtained her US Citizenship in 1989, it meant a great deal to her to oversee fair and proper elections.

Mary was also deeply involved in Somerville’s Parent Teacher Association, volunteering for 12 years until retiring as president in 1989. As a Somerville PTA scholarship honoree in 1994, she was introduced the way many would remember her today, “Whatever the assignment, whatever the job, she did it well. She did it from the heart.”

Mary will be remembered as someone with a fondness for children of all ages, as someone who would give her last dollar to someone in need, and someone who always put others before herself. She loved bingo; trips to Foxwoods with her best friend, Pat; following professional wrestling with her son; her beloved NASCAR; and visiting Ogunquit, Maine. She crocheted many, many afghans that kept cozy every man, woman, and child she ever had the occasion to meet. Having grown up in a family of fishermen, she knew how to get every last bit out of a lobster, a skill her daughter happily carries on.

Mary is survived by her companion of nearly 40 years, Gerard Clavette; their son Brian Clavette of Manchester, NH; and Mary’s daughter Catherine Piantigini, her son-in-law Michael, and her granddog, Rocky of Somerville. She is also survived by her brother Donald Champion, and sister-in-law Donna of Ontario, Canada. Mary was fortunate to have many nieces and nephews, whom she loved very much, and who loved her very much.

Services were held Monday at the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq) Somerville, and the funeral took place on Tuesday at St. Paul Cemetery, Arlington

In memory of Mary, donations may be made to the Friends of the Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; CASPAR (Cambridge And Somerville Programs for Addiction Recovery), CASPAR, Inc., P.O. Box 45538, Somerville, MA 02145; and the Somerville Homeless Coalition, Inc., 1 Davis Square, Somerville, MA 02144.

Somerville hit and run driver surrenders CONT. FROM PG 1

can only physically arrest a suspect if the suspect is located in the vehicle a short time after the crash. Whereas this suspect was identified more than three days after the crash, the charging mechanism available to police was to summons him to court. Troopers assigned to the Medford Barracks responded to a

pedestrian struck by a vehicle on McGrath Highway in Somerville on April 12. The vehicle did not stop after striking the pedestrian and fled the scene on McGrath highway towards Cambridge. The crash resulted in life-threatening injuries to the pedestrian. Troopers responded to the

scene at 8:40 p.m. after State Police, Somerville, and regional dispatchers all received calls reporting a pedestrian was down on the roadway and was injured. At the time he was hit, the pedestrian was apparently coming from the nearby Stop & Shop supermarket and was carrying several bags of groceries.



Somerville Spring Clean-up 2021 CONT. FROM PG 1

keep numbers at 25 people per location will be conducted. Questions? Contact: iaritza menjivar – Events Coordinator: imenjivar@somervillema.gov Locations are as follows:
WARD 1: East Branch Library, 115 Broadway Zero New Washington St., corner of New Washington St. and Inner Belt Rd.
WARD 2: ArtFarm, 10 Poplar St. The South St. Farm, 138 South St. Quincy Street Open Space., 14 Quincy St.
WARD 3: Morse Kelley playground (cor-

ner of Summer St. & Craigie St). City Hall @ 93 Highland Ave
WARD 4: Go to The Somerville Arts Council website
WARD 5: Community Path Cedar St. entrance @ 154 Cedar St.
WARD 6: Davis Sq., Statue Park (near JP Licks), 4 College Ave.
WARD 7: Dilboy Stadium, meet at tennis courts, 110 Alewife Brook Parkway



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Somerville considers deprioritizing of drug possession offences

By Joe Creason

The Legislative Matters Committee held their meeting on Thursday, April 15 in order to discuss the city’s agenda as well as issues with development of certain policies.

Decriminalization or the deprioritizing of arrests for drug possession offenses, was an item of major interest for many members of the Committee. Assistant City Solicitor Hannah Pappenheim and Chief of Police Charles Femino were present for this discussion of reform on criminal justice at the municipal level.

“We’re looking for something real, whether that be a formal policy or ordinance, as opposed to what is the unspoken policy right now,” said Ward 1 City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, “I believe the Mayor’s Office has spoken to the Solicitor’s Office, so I hope we now have opinion on the matter.”

Data over the past five years shows that the number of possession arrests has been small enough to indicate that deprioritizing has been the policy in action, according to McLaughlin. The Councilor says that the Committee’s hope is to get something down on paper that solidifies this policy and prioritize



Deprioritizing of arrests for drug possession offenses was one of the topics of discussion at the latest meeting of the Somerville City Council’s Legislative Matters Committee.

treatment over incarceration. McLaughlin submitted another agenda item for the creation of a fair and transparent system of taxation for large tax-exempt non-profit organizations, which was co-signed by the entire Council. Action with regards to this issue is inspired by the City of Boston’s PILOT ordinance, a piece of legislation which formalizes a system of payment to the local government in order to offset losses in revenue due to a large non-profit operating within the municipality. “The ordinance states explicitly that a large non-profit institution, such as Tufts or Partners, would pay 20 percent in taxes of what they would pay if it was a for-profit organization. It’s not as simple as just asking for 20 percent, but it is a way of formalizing expectations with these larger non-profits,” said McLaughlin. Legislation regarding the city’s ability to deny, revoke, or suspend permits to companies with a history disregarding worker safety and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) violations. “Essentially, this is something extremely important that we should be looking at when people are applying for permits in our city,” said McLaughlin. The long-debated ordinance to regulate the use of leaf blowers in Somerville has been kept in Committee for further discussion.

Virtual meeting to discuss Kensington Connector Revitalization designs

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, State Senator Pat Jehlen, State Representative Mike Connolly, City Council President and Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, and City of Somerville staff invite you to the second virtual public meeting to discuss the Kensington Connector Revitalization Project.



The Kensington Connector is a 148-foot pedestrian and cyclist corridor below I-93 at Mystic Avenue in Somerville. It sits at the intersection of East Somerville, Winter Hill, and Assembly Square neighborhoods. This public space project seeks to beautify the corridor and advance safety improvements in coordination with the City’s Mobility Division and MassDOT to connect the neighborhoods more effectively and reclaim this underpass as a space for people.

At this meeting, the City will provide updates on an art installation planned for this spring, ongoing Mobility and MassDOT work, and three proposed concept designs to permanently transform the Connector into an art-inclusive space. The designs are also posted on the project website, where residents can review and provide feedback.

The meeting will be held virtually on Monday, May 3, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Visit to learn more and register to attend.

NOTICE:

Free: Sofa, seats 3, off white in pristine condition.
If interested call Paul 781-396-9350.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #228

The Story Teller

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

His goal in writing was to stimulate interest, excite and enlighten young people about history. His heroes were mostly of the American saga. Elbridge Streeter Brooks (1846-1902) was a well-known author, reviewer and editor for numerous publishers and magazines: *The Independent*, *Wide Awake*, *Publishers Weekly*, and *Harpers* to name a few. He set out writing a series of articles named *Historic Boys* and *Historic Girls* which were in the *St. Nicholas Magazine*.



He authored over 65 books. The first was a labor of love about his father, a Doctor of Divinity who graduated from Tufts College and died in 1876, the Centennial year of General Washington’s flag raising. This was befitting for Elbridge who was a true Yankee, with Patriot blood running through his veins.



His mother was a descendent of the Munroes, who fought at Lexington and whose farmlands and gristmills topped General Putnam’s Prospect Hill defensive earthworks. Eleven of the seventy Minutemen at Lexington were relatives of his mother. Three of the names on the monument erected to the memory of the fallen heroes were her blood relations. The first was Ensign Robert Munroe. His great grandfather also responded that day and later served on Prospect Hill during the Siege of Boston. Additionally, his paternal grandfather was a privateer during the War of 1812. This account left no wonder as to why his stories were weighted with historical fervor. *The Andy Griffith Show* aired an episode about Paul Revere and also the Emancipation

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COMMENTARY

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

New climate law can help us build a greener Somerville



By Justin Klekota,
Candidate for Somerville
City Council At-Large
(<http://electjustin.org>)

As we celebrate Earth Day this month, we remember that the greatest challenges facing humanity require the cooperation of the entire global community. As the heroic efforts of our public health and medical professionals to fight the pandemic continue, we must resolve to build a healthier, greener future. Massachusetts has the opportunity to lead given the historic climate legislation passed into law last month that empowers our Commonwealth to reduce fossil fuel emissions to combat the threat of glacial melting and sea level rise along our coastlines and waterways. Somerville and municipalities throughout the

world must meet this challenge to combat the climate crisis by reducing our fossil fuel emissions by 50% in 2030 and to net zero by 2050 or sooner. Working with progressive activists and legislators throughout the Commonwealth, I co-authored the “Green New Deal for Massachusetts Now,” securing the Democratic Party’s endorsement of the climate legislation, now law, and engaging thousands of Somerville voters in support of it. Similarly, Somerville’s path to realizing carbon neutrality requires the concerted effort of City government and Somerville residents working together.

Somerville’s first step to carbon neutrality is transitioning to carbon-free, renewable energy. Somerville residents, businesses, and government can immediately take advantage of renewable energy transfer programs, such as CleanChoice Energy (cleanchoiceenergy.com), at costs comparable to fossil fuel-derived energy. These opt-in programs power homes through 100% renewable wind and solar energy from regional sources and help finance construction of new wind turbines

and solar farms while reducing fossil fuel emissions. Our new climate law also requires our local electric utilities to increase their share of renewable energy by at least 3% per year starting in 2025. Somerville non-profits in food security, homelessness, and emergency shelter can also take advantage of a newly created grant program to finance installation of solar energy technology on their buildings. It will take thirty years to build enough wind and solar to replace fossil fuel power altogether, so Somerville City government needs to do its part by incentivizing inclusion of solar panels in new construction.

Somerville needs to become more energy efficient too. The new climate law in Massachusetts will provide cities new standards for buildings with net-zero emissions and new efficiency standards for home appliances. Somerville residents and businesses can also take advantage of cost-saving energy efficiency improvements through programs such as Mass Save (masssave.com). Creation of new green and street-side open spaces throughout Somerville accessible to

residents, businesses, and local artists also encourages greener local commerce supported by cyclists, pedestrian traffic, and public transit.

Somerville needs to transition to electric vehicles. Transportation is the largest source of fossil fuel emissions, so transitioning to electric vehicles can go a long way to reduce our carbon footprint. The new Massachusetts climate law requires that new electric vehicle charging stations be built and creates a rebate program to reduce the cost of electric vehicle purchases. The City of Somerville should lead the way by transitioning all of our City-owned vehicle fleets to electric by 2030. Somerville residents can do their part too by purchasing hybrid gas/electric or electric vehicles when buying a new car, taking advantage of the rebates when possible.

Somerville also needs buildings free of fossil fuels. The new Massachusetts climate law will create new building standards for net-zero emissions that encourage use of electric heating and appliances, phasing out use of natural gas, propane, and heating oil. Somerville residents

can do their part by replacing their aging fossil fuel heating systems with electric furnaces and water heaters and by participating in a newly created pilot program to install geothermal heat pumps. The City of Somerville should lead the way by replacing all fossil fuel systems in City-owned buildings by 2030.

Lastly, Somerville needs more green jobs. The newly expanded Massachusetts Clean Energy Center provides job training and grants to residents of newly-defined environmental justice communities and local businesses to participate in clean energy programs. Somerville City government should actively engage and assist our business leaders and diverse communities in pursuit of those grants and vital job opportunities.

Creating a future free of climate crisis requires a thirty-year commitment of the entire global community. Somerville can lead the way by bringing its City-owned infrastructure to carbon neutral by 2030 and empower its residents through knowledge, grants, and close partnership to build a greener economy, one city at a time.

The Elizabeth Peabody House celebrates 125 years of impact

April 22, 2021 marks the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of Elizabeth Peabody House, a Somerville nonprofit that supports families in reaching their full potential through early childhood education, youth development, and family assistance. The organization will mark the start of its 125th anniversary year, which it will celebrate from April 2021 through April 2022, with a virtual event - Elizabeth Peabody House at 125.

The event will feature the rich history and current impact of the venerable community institution as well as a speaking program with remarks from civic leaders, Elizabeth Peabody House families, and program staff. The event is free to attend but supporters will be able to purchase an at-home party package filled with local products to be delivered to their front door.

“For 125 years, The Elizabeth Peabody House has been a community hub for families to expand educational and economic opportunity,” said executive director Kretcha Roldan. “We are thrilled to mark this momentous milestone with Elizabeth Peabody House students, families, alumni, supporters, and neighbors from Somerville and surrounding communities.”

The Elizabeth Peabody House was founded as a settlement house serving the diverse immigrant community in Boston’s West End in 1896. Offering arts, education, and health programming, the organization was named in honor of Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, a Bostonian who was a Kindergarten trailblazer in America, a noted intellectual in the Transcendentalist movement, an author and publisher, and an advocate for women’s rights, antislavery policies and indigenous rights. During the redevelopment of the West End in the 1950s, Elizabeth Peabody House followed much of the community up the road to Somerville and has been a fixture on Broadway in the former Broadway Methodist Church building in the decades since.

Today, as a modern nonprofit with historic roots, Elizabeth Peabody House offers families in Somerville and surrounding communities preschool, afterschool, summer camp, and a food pantry. This year the program nimbly responded to community needs during the COVID-19 pandemic to transform its afterschool program into a full-day remote learning hub for K-12 students learning online. Since September, the program has welcomed 19 students from Prospect Hill Academy and 10 students from Somerville Public Schools and nearby school districts including Boston, Everett, and Malden. Across all of its children’s programs, Elizabeth Peabody House enrolls some 102 students and serves more than 10,000 patrons annually in its food pantry. Responsive to community conditions, Elizabeth Peabody House stands ready to meet families’ needs today and for the next 125 years.

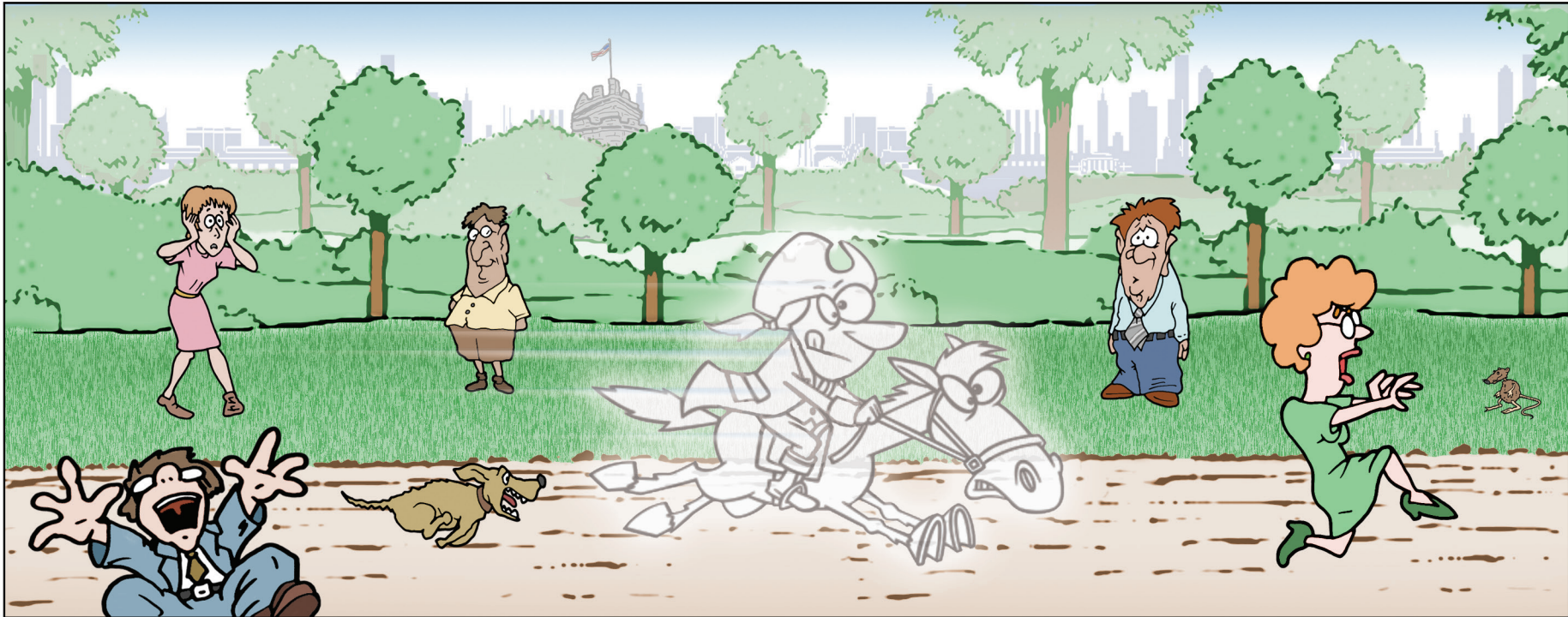
Throughout the 125th year celebration, Elizabeth Peabody House plans to host opportunities for its community to come together - in-person or online as public health conditions allow - including student celebrations, family events, alumni reunions, community conversations, and a gala to close out the year. Elizabeth Peabody House has set a goal of raising \$125,000 over the course of the 125th anniversary year to support its best-in-class programs and revitalize its historic buildings, ensuring the nonprofit has the strong foundation to continue its legacy of impact for the next 125 year. Those who have been part of the Elizabeth Peabody House family for decades and neighbors who are getting to know the organization for the first time are invited to join in the celebration.



COMMENTARY

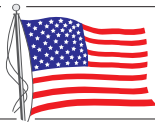
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



What would the ghost of Paul Revere be warning us about today?

Our View Of The Times



While the usual commemorations of Patriots' Day have not taken place this year due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, we still look for ways to remember with reverence the exploits of the brave men and women who made the American Revolution the success it eventually became.

Locally, we especially honor those who fought the battles of Lexington and Con-

cord, and of Menotomy. And, of course, the lauded "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" is a fundamental part of the great American saga.

Revere's fateful ride through Somerville, Medford, and Arlington, warning of the approach of British forces, thrills us and fills us with pride, knowing that we often tread the same paths that he did as we go about our own present-day lives.

It's interesting to imagine what the great man might wish to warn us about today, were he to suddenly appear amongst us, tearing through the streets, proclaiming that which he felt we needed to know.

Would he be shocked by the political divisions that have been tearing at the very fabric of our Republic in recent years? Would he implore us to wear our face masks or to make sure we get ourselves

vaccinated? Or would he advise us to do just the opposite? Who's to say?

The brilliant cartoonist Walt Kelly coined the phrase "We have met the enemy and he is us" in his *Pogo* comic strip. It is doubtful that Mr. Revere would be shouting about the approach of the Redcoats in this day and age. But is it possible that he'd be shouting about us instead?

Again, who's to say?

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

week. Happy birthday to **Bob DiGuardia**, who is also celebrating this week. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Jay Forestier**, **Lee Erica Byron Palmer**, **Paul Stanford**, **Bob DiGuardia**, **Benjamin Holmes**, **Celia Miller-Saltman**, **Jim Ospenson**, **Susannah Buzard**, **Sylvia Cabrera**, **Tina Kneeland**, **Bella Revett**, **Angelmarie Dinunzio**, **Kate Sherlock Guiliano** and **Debbie Shansky Murray** 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.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and **Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin** invite you to a virtual community meeting to discuss **roadway upgrades and traffic safety improvements on Pearl Street**. As part of the Pearl Street Reconstruction and Traffic Safety Improvements project, sidewalks will be reconstructed, the road will be repaved, and traffic safety upgrades will be installed on the eastern section of Pearl Street, between McGrath Highway and Mount Vernon Street. Construction is expected to begin later this year. At this meeting, City staff will introduce the project, provide existing conditions data, and present

concepts for potential roadway changes to improve traffic safety and support sustainable, multi-modal transportation. Community members are invited to provide input about the conceptual designs and priority locations for different types of improvements. The meeting will take place virtually on **Wednesday, April 21**, at 6:30 p.m. Learn more and register to attend at www.somervillema.gov/pearlstreet.

East Somerville Main Streets is going to have a **plant sale fundraiser** at the **East Somerville Market** on **April 25**. They are accepting donations of seedlings, cuttings and propagations of flowers, veggies and houseplants. Please contact them at Director@EastSomervilleMainStreets.org if you'd like to donate towards the cause. Proceeds will help us offset the expenses of putting on the East Somerville market.

The **state** has announced that all remaining groups are now eligible to **receive the COVID-19 vaccine**. **Monday, April 19**: People age 16 or older became eligible. For more information and to pre-register for an appointment, visit mass.gov/vaccine or call 211. The

city of Somerville is also available to help those who face barriers to accessing vaccines, including people who need transportation or language assistance. If you are currently eligible to receive a vaccine and need help accessing the vaccine, please call 311.

As of April 13, a total of 5,838 Somerville residents have **tested positive for COVID-19** since March 2020, and sadly there have been 84 deaths. See the latest Somerville case data at somervillema.gov/covid19dashboard. Additional types of outdoor performances and outdoor retail now allowed: Outdoor spoken word performances and outdoor retail or artist stands are now allowed under Somerville's reopening guidelines with proper safety procedures. If you're interested in hosting a performance or setting up shop outside, visit our website to learn more about requirements and application processes. Facemasks are still required in all indoor and outdoor public spaces in MA. The private gathering limit in Somerville remains at a maximum of ten persons. This applies to events held indoors or outdoors. Please stay vigilant as we seek to beat

the virus. **Free COVID-19 testing: CHA Somerville Hospital** offers free testing at **Assembly Row**. To make an appointment, call 617-665-2928. The mobile COVID-19 testing unit offers testing for all in our neighborhoods. To make a mobile appointment, call 617-682-0583. Mobile testing schedules, as they become available, and more testing information can be found at somervillema.gov/covidtesting. The state's **Stop the Spread testing sites** are also an option. For more information, visit the state's website.

The **Somerville Community Preservation Committee** is holding its annual **Community Preservation Plan public hearing** on **Wednesday, April 28**, at 7:00 p.m. The Community Preservation Plan establishes how \$2 million in Fiscal Year 2022 Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds will be allocated across affordable housing, historic resources, and open space categories. The draft plan is available at somervillema.gov/CPA. Immediately before the hearing, at 6:30 p.m., the Committee will host a workshop for individuals and organizations who would like to learn more about how to apply for CPA funds. *Continued on page 11*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olío

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#776

1. Besides Jagermeister, you need what to make a Jagerbomb cocktail?
 2. Which is the only bird in the Chinese Zodiac?
 3. If you are a heli-culturist, you study what creature?
 4. What color is the spice saffron?
 5. Who was the first athlete to appear on the Wheaties box?
 6. Broad, butter, baked, pinto and runner are all types of what?
 7. The name of which French dessert also called "whitedish"?
 8. What are male and female swans called?
 9. What is the other name rapper Eminem goes by?
 10. Which Ford had a son named Edsel?
 11. Who was known for asking readers to "Believe It or Not"?
 12. In cricket, what do players use to hit the ball?
- Answers on page 12*

Answers on page 12

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. President John F Kennedy could read 4 newspapers in 20 minutes.
2. There is a city called Rome on every continent.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

FICTIONAL MOTHERS

ACROSS

1. Build a collection
6. Economic measure acronym
9. Beverly Goldberg's schmoopie
13. Use an ÈþÈe
14. Neither here ____ there
15. Tall ancient monument
16. Daisy-like bloom
17. Much of it about nothing?
18. Commotions
19. She's 'Bow' to Dre in TV sitcom
"Blackish"
21. Mother to Jo, Meg, Amy and Beth
March in novel and movie
23. Before tac
24. Ripped
25. Part of Super Bowl entertainment,
pl.
28. Homesteader's measure
30. "Game of Thrones" Lannister and
mother to Joffrey, Myrcella and Tommen
35. Douses
37. Adjutant
39. Article of faith
40. Genuflecting joint
41. TV mother to Alexis and David,
"friend" to Jocelyn Schitt
43. "Will be," as sung by Doris Day
44. Perform in a play
46. Load sixteen tons, e.g.
47. Peacock's pride
48. Mowgli's adoptive mother
50. Apartment
52. Skeleton in a lock
53. Part of a jousting outfit
55. Spelling competition
57. Mother to Carlton in "The Fresh
Prince of Bel-Air"
60. "Well, I'm a-standin' on a corner in
____, Arizona," from the Eagles "Take it
Easy"
64. Country's LeAnn ____
65. Hoover's agency acronym
67. Piano practice piece, e.g.
68. Church song
69. What Usain Bolt did
70. Poisonous substance
71. Wife to Papa, mother to Baby
72. Sum it up
73. Go on a buying spree

DOWN

1. Way, way off
2. _____ Verde National Park
3. Naysayer's favorite prefix?

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

SUDOKU

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

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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.

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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Bike sharing now and into the future

By Alex Reidy

The first ever regional bike share meeting for Bluebikes on Tuesday, April 13, began with introductions from people involved in seven surrounding municipalities, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Somerville, and Watertown.

The virtual meeting featured Somerville Director of Mobility, Brad Rawson, and Somerville Project Manager for Transportation, Justin Schreiber, who provided a quick overview of public bike shares that include 10 municipalities and around 400 stations in use right now.

A public bike share is transportation that is owned by the public and has a sustainable business model, with a focus on removing barriers between residents and visitors, and is responsive to community needs.

It is supported primarily by Blue Cross Blue Shield as title sponsor. Each municipality has its own contract with Lyft, which has its own specific requirements that holds municipalities responsible. Bluebikes

is a dock-based system, with all trips starting and ending at a station, and the user being responsible for the bike.

Annual passes increased from \$99 to \$109. 30-day passes are now only \$25, with \$2.95 for a single trip. Discount programs for low-income individuals will not change this year, remaining \$50 per year or \$5 dollars a month. Free 90-day passes are being offered to employees of local retail stores. Boston offers a \$5 annual pass to people experiencing homelessness or living in transitional housing.

Bike share trips have grown tremendously since they started in 2011, with new municipalities joining in every year. Shared rides have increased annually, except in 2020 where ridership decreased after experiencing record ridership in the beginning. Areas that saw decrease in usage was in the larger cities where people were leaving their houses less often. Areas that saw increased ridership involved round-trip rides.

56 stations that were retired for the winter are returning to usage on May 1. Salem is in



Bike sharing is catching on fast, with Bluebikes in particular providing affordable and convenient access to alternative transportation throughout the region.

contract negotiations to become a Bluebikes municipality. New launches include Hyde Park in Boston, three new stations in Everett including the Wellington MBTA Station, and two along the GLX in East Somerville and Gilman Square. One is set to serve the new high school, and one to serve the station in

Assembly Square. Events this year include 30 days of biking in April, a challenge to bike every day of the month. May is Bike Month, adding in some cute Unicorn Bikes. June will celebrate Pride Month, making donations when you ride pride bikes to certain organizations that support the

LGBTQ community. July is the 10th anniversary of Bluebikes. Access to E-bikes is tentatively in the works. It all depends on the Massachusetts law that classifies what an E-bike is, plus Bluebikes needs to consider if it is equitable and economical. Dockless bikes are not in the picture as of right now.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ageless Grace Program – various dates - Ageless Grace is a fitness and wellness program consisting of 21 simple exercise tools designed for all ages and abilities. These exercises, based on everyday movements, focus on the healthy longevity of the body and mind. Classes are held bi-monthly in English and bi-monthly in Spanish via Zoom. Please contact Chris at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 or email ckowaleski@somervillema.gov with any questions or for additional information.

Senior Lunch Box Pick Up – Wednesday, April 21 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Ralph & Jenny Senior Center, 9 New Washington Street. While we aren't able to share lunch together we hope you can stop by for this fun treat! RSVP is a must; spaces are limited. To enjoy a box lunch please call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. Masks required.

Mask Pick Up – Friday, April 23 – 10:30 a.m. to Noon – At the Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. The COA has masks available for Somerville residents who are 60 and over. If you are in need of a mask or may know of a friend or neighbor who may need a new mask, you can pick it up at our Drive -Thru location. If you have any questions, please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

Caregiver Check-In – Tuesday, April 27 at 11:30 a.m. - Are you a caregiver for a loved one and want to connect with other caregivers? Would you like to discuss the joys and challenges of caregiving? The Somerville Council on Aging is hosting a monthly check-in via Zoom for caregivers. Please contact Natasha by either calling

617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail Natasha at NNaim@Somervillema.gov.
Virtual Bingo Day – Tuesday, April 27 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Join us online or via phone to play BINGO. If you would like to participate please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov We will supply you with the bingo cards and instructions. Space is limited, RSVP a must.

ONGOING EVENTS

Friendly Caller Program - Looking for a way to practice social distancing but still remain connected to other people? Look no further than the Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly Phone Caller program. We have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

EXERCISE

Exercise Schedule
Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Somerville City Cable
RCN = 13/Comcast = 22
The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
Fit-4-Life YouTube

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hd26HjpWBI&t=68s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWHfyoeZaws&t=247s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcl2eBSS024&t=158s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EDtaldYSz0>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAAnwfwGybTI>

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF_EEbqF0&t=130s
Yoga with Janine video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zezcj9XXBU>
For questions or to register for a Fit-4-Life Zoom exercise class, please contact Chris at CKowaleski@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

SOCIAL MEDIA


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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6:00pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

The meeting will be held using GoToWebinar. TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7620590162079911439>
Webinar ID: 308-828-803

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (914) 614-3221
Access code: 748-935-124


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

255 Powder House Blvd Applicants Jonathan and Kathleen Evans propose to construct a fence within the frontage area with a nonconforming height and opacity, which requires two Hardship Variances.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

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

4/14/21, 4/21/21 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 6:00pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

The meeting will be held using GoToWebinar. TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2645983942626009103>
Webinar ID: 838-864-595

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0060
Access code: 986-544-364


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

379 Somerville Ave 379 Somerville Ave LLC proposes to construct a 5-story net-zero ready general building and establish a Household Living principle use for ten (10) dwelling units in the MR5 zoning district with no parking provided on-site. This proposal requires Site Plan Approval and a Special Permit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

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

4/14/21, 4/21/21 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

The **Community Preservation Committee** will hold a public hearing for all interested parties on **Wednesday, April 28, at 7:00 pm**. The hearing will be held virtually on the GoToMeeting platform in compliance with Governor Baker's emergency orders regarding the Open Meeting Law during the COVID-19 crisis.


The Committee seeks public input on how the City should prioritize spending \$2 million in Community Preservation Act funding. The draft FY22 Community Preservation Plan and other information about the Community Preservation Act in Somerville are available at www.somervillema.gov/cpa. A presentation for individuals and organizations interested in proposing a CPA funded project on City land or proposing a project for a feasibility study will be offered before the hearing from 6:30 -7:00 pm.

Please join the presentation and hearing from your computer, tablet, or smartphone. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/792438397>. You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (646) 749-3122. Access Code: 792-438-397. The hearing will also be recorded and made available on the CPA website.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Community Preservation Committee at the hearing and by submitting written comments by Friday, May 14 by email to itumusiime@somervillema.gov. You can also share your ideas by taking the Community Preservation Committee survey at www.somervillema.gov/cpa.

Attest: Laura Beretsky, Chair

4/14/21, 4/21/21 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee** and the **Somerville Planning Board** will hold a **joint public hearing** on **Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 6:00pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8290728205411429645>

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following:

Proposed Zoning Map Amendment for 256 Elm St., 270 Elm St., 58 Day St., & 7 Herbert St. (Council Item #211170).

Proposed Amendments to Section 8.3 MPD Overlay District, Section 12.3 Buyout & Payments, and Section 13.1 Civic Space (Council Item #211433).

Proposed Amendments to Article 8.2 Small Business Overlay District and the Official Zoning Map. (Council Item #211693)


Proposed Amendments to the Body Art Services use standards and Table 9.1.1 Permitted Uses, including the corresponding zoning district use tables. (Council Item #211611)

Proposed Amendments to regulate rooftop mechanical systems and mechanical penthouses. (Council Item #211612)

These proposed amendments can be found online at the Somerville City Council's meeting calendar <https://tinyurl.com/citycouncilcalendar> by clicking the same item numbers or descriptions identified above under the 12/31/2021 meeting date or the 4/29/2021 meeting date *after* the agenda is posted prior to the hearing.

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

4/14/21, 4/21/21 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

CHAD A. WHITING
DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

The Director of the Water & Sewer Department will hold an information session, followed by a public hearing, on **Monday, May 3, 2021**. The information session and hearing will be hosted online and there will also be an option to call into the meeting from a phone. Visit www.somervillema.gov/water shortly before 6 p.m. to join live or get call-in information, or call 311. The information session and public hearing will be recorded and rebroadcast on GovTV (channel 13 on RCN, channel 22 on Comcast) and on the City's YouTube channel, youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV.

The information session will start at 6 p.m. and the hearing will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to take testimony from Somerville rate payers relevant to the setting of the Fiscal Year 2022 water and sewer rates. Anyone who would like to testify is welcome to attend and will be heard. Written testimony will be accepted until Friday, May 7 at 6:00PM and should be e-mailed to water@somervillema.gov or mailed to the Water & Sewer Department, ATTN: Hearing, 17 Franey Rd, Somerville, MA 02145.

Chad A. Whiting
Director

4/21/21 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 21-71

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

Somerville Parking Policy Study

A RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress landing page <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/33100/home> on or after **Wednesday, April 21, 2021**. Sealed proposals will be received at the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 PM, Wednesday, May 12, 2021**. 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 email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x. 3400

4/21/21 The Somerville Times

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.storagetreasures.com on **5/12/2021 at 12:00 PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Richard Lamacchia/Self unit #363MZ. 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.

4/21/21 The Somerville Times

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and follow us on Twitter at [@somervilletimes](https://twitter.com/somervilletimes)

LEGAL NOTICES



Request for Qualifications

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Construction Manager at Risk for construction of the Water Works II building on a 1.1 acre site that is part of the larger Capen Court campus, an affordable senior living complex operated by the Somerville Housing Authority (SHA). Mystic Water Works Housing Phase II is the proposed second phase of a two phased affordable housing development in the West Somerville neighborhood at the intersection of Mystic Valley Parkway, Alewife Brook Parkway and Capen Court.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Construction Manager at Risk for 21 single bed-room living units and related public spaces contained in a single three-story structure. Phase II is situated on the Capen Court campus, an affordable senior living facility operated by an affiliate of the Somerville Housing Authority. The units will be rented to seniors and persons with disabilities. The construction method will be modular.

Please contact Josh Luttrell at Anser Advisory
98 Magazine St.
Boston, Ma. 02119

508-902-7755
Josh.luttrell@anseradvisory.com

RFQ available on **Wednesday, April 14th at 10 AM** from Josh Luttrell.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAMM) in the category General Building Construction. General Bidders must include a current DCAMM Prime Contractor Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Prime Contractor Update Statement.

General RFQ deadline for submission is **April 28th, 2021 at 5:00 PM**

For additional information regarding this project contact Josh Luttrell, information above.

Somerville Housing Authority.
Joseph R. Macaluso, Executive Director

4/14/21, 4/21/21 The Somerville Times

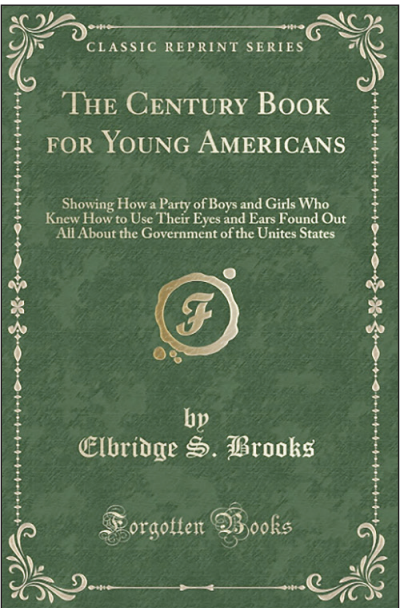
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Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 5

Proclamation which was one of its best of the 249 in the series. It showed how stories, even rustic ones, can bring history to life if presented to youth in the right way.

Somerville had its own homespun story teller in Elbridge S. Brooks. He said, “In writing for them, it is my endeavor to throw away the dead bones of history and to put a living, every day interest into the historical story.” He brought to life soldiers, sailors, statesmen, explorers, and inventors, not only for the youth but for time-honored adults.



These were uplifting narratives of Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, John Paul Jones, Patrick Henry, and many others. How popular was he? One of his most celebrated volumes, *The Century Book for Young Americans*, had an exceptional sale of 20,000 volumes within three months of its publication.

Brooks spent the last fifteen years of his life writing from his home at 44 Walnut Street on his hallowed Prospect Hill. During his career, he was a member of the prestigious

Authors’ Club of New York, received an honorary degree of Master of Arts from Tufts College and was in *Who’s Who in America*.

Until the time of his death, he was the first Vice President of the Somerville Historical Society. His research at the Society and the stories he created helped inspire America’s future generation, The Greatest Generation. The society dedicated its Historic Leaves, Volume 1, Number 1, to his biography and memorial.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

The workshop will cover the process for applying for CPA funds for a project on city land, restrictions for open space and historic resources projects, and the program to support feasibility studies for some proposed projects. The workshop and the hearing will be held virtually. Visit somervillema.gov/CPA or call 311 for instructions on how to join. Written comments about the Community Preservation Plan may also be emailed to [Judith Tumusiime](mailto:jtumusiime@somervillema.gov), Community Preservation Act Manager, at jtumusiime@somervillema.gov by **Friday, May 14**. For more information or to share feedback about the CPA, visit somervillema.gov/CPA to take the CPA survey and sign up for the email newsletter.

Applications are now available for **Somerville youth 14** and up to apply for the **Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program**. Applications will be accepted **through Friday, May 14**. Employment opportunities are available in the **Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, and other city departments**. Some positions can be done remotely or in a hybrid of remote and in-person work. Youth who are hired can expect to work 20 hours for approximately six weeks starting in late June or early July. All positions pay the city’s living wage rate, which is currently at \$15.46 per hour. Youth who would like to apply can do so by visiting <http://bit.ly/SomerJobs2021>. Interviews will be held on a rolling basis upon receipt of applications.

Somerville, along with the 19 other

communities that make up the **Resilient Mystic Collaborative (RMC)**, was recently awarded the **Environmental Business Council of New England’s Award for Leadership by a Non-Profit Organization**. The **Environmental Business Council of New England** presents annual awards to recognize companies, organizations, and individuals for outstanding accomplishments in environmental management, energy resources and management, and climate change. The 20 communities of the RMC were recognized for their work to mitigate climate change risks in the Mystic River watershed. The RMC raised more than \$2.5 million in 18 months to support stormwater flood management and storm-hardening infrastructure in the region, next-generation coastal flood management, and to support work to address disparities in the impact of climate change.

Deanna Cremin, a 17-year-old from Somerville, was found murdered on March 30, 1995. Her case remains unsolved. If you have any info about the unsolved homicide of Deanna Cremin, please contact **Det. Alan Monaco** at 617-625-1600 Ext. 7226. Please help bring closure to the Cremin Family.

The **City of Somerville’s Elections Department** has set up an online appointment system to allow candidates for municipal office to safely pick up and drop off nomination papers and speak with **Elections staff** while City Hall remains closed to the public. Candidates can sign up for a 30-minute appointment

between May 3 and June 9 at www.somervillema.gov/elections. For more information about municipal elections, including how to run for office and a full election cycle calendar, visit www.somervillema.gov/elections

The **Somerville Museum** is now open to the public. Hours are Thursdays, 2:00 – 7:00 p.m., Fridays, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. They require all visitors to wear face masks regardless of vaccination status, and everyone needs an advance timed-entry ticket. Tickets available on Eventbrite. Time slots are 1/2 hour long. \$5 for Non-Members. Members enjoy free admission. Want to become a member? Sign up here: <http://somervilmuseum.org/join-html/>

Somerville Council on Aging’s Virtual Wang Theatre Tour. Join **Scott Towers** as he takes you on a never before seen tour of the Wang Theatre. The **Boch Center Wang Theatre** is listed on the **National Register of Historic Places** and has been one of the premier theatrical destinations in Boston since opening in 1925. Rivalled by few other theatres in the world, it boasts a seating capacity of 3,500 and one of the five largest stages in the U.S. Learn about the theatre’s architectural highlights and unique history, from its hotel roots and glamorous days as a movie “cathedral,” to today’s role as an impressive venue for performances and events. Visit the same dressing rooms and hallways once walked by entertainers like **Ella Fitzgerald, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Queen, Elton John, Lady Gaga, Liza Minnelli** and more. Your ex-

perience will include a live walkthrough of the theatre as well as historic images and prerecorded content. The tour will take place via Zoom. **May 13** at 1:00 p.m. Please RSVP to **Maureen** by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email her at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov. Space is limited.

The **Somerville Arts Council (SAC)** is partnering with **Assembly Row** to create a new art installation in the form of three giant vertical banners (16’5”w x 58’5”h) that hang on a facade along Great River Road and face the Mystic River and the Orange Line. The site, especially when seen from the Orange Line, is the perfect location to welcome people to Somerville. For this project, titled “We are Somerville,” we seek new work that conveys the people of our city. We are open to many different mediums. We seek original work that is colorful, vibrant and captures a person’s—and our city’s—personality. We are open to three single images of three different people, as well as “collages” that incorporate different people within a single banner. Somewhere in the design—it could be quite simply—we seek to include the text: “We are Somerville.” We are looking for one artist to create and manage this project. Artists may choose to feature solely their own art, or work with other artists or an organization. For questions, contact rstrutt@somervillema.gov; for more info and to apply: We Are Somerville Call: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jck-ImqgIq-5Dik599pep417f2QOFJdKOFUVJf_Ra2hk/viewform?edit_requested=true.

Get your patio ready for summer living

It's time to extend your home's living spaces to the outdoors. To get your patio prepped for a summer of relaxation and fun, consider the following décor ideas and inspiration:

The Entryway

Your patio will be more enticing if you have beautiful sliding glass patio doors leading to it. If you do go in for this upgrade, it's important to know that patio doors can be customized in a number of ways that affect their look and function. To help you make sense of your options, shop with manufacturers that offer visualizer tools, such as the one available at ProVia, provia.com/app. This can help you see what colors and hardware look best in your home and find the combination you like best.

Their Aeris wood and vinyl sliding doors, for example, offer many customization opportunities, including wood stain finishes, interior and exterior colors; options for internal grids and internal blinds; and a wide array of decorative glass, privacy glass and tinted glass options.

Beyond beauty, be sure to prioritize high performance, partic-

ularly when it comes to energy efficiency, storm protection, and of course, smooth, easy and quiet operation. After all, it's hard to feel relaxed if simply getting outdoors is a struggle.

Exterior Decorating

Boost comfort and ambiance by applying the same attention to detail when decorating your patio as you would indoors. Beyond furniture that's comfortable enough to lounge on all day or evening, incorporate throws, pillows and even rugs. Add splashes of color and vibrancy by hanging outdoor wall art, or, if you're feeling extra creative, painting a mural.

Paper lanterns hung above your patio dining area can bring a touch of romance to meals enjoyed outdoors. And get inspired by the nature around you by ensuring your patio features greenery. Potted and hanging plants or even ivy, jasmine or roses grown against a wall or all good choices.

Beauty Inspired by Nature

These days, manufactured stone is not just for the side of your home. The possibilities for using it in and around the patio are endless. Add drama to a bound-



ary wall between the patio and yard; beautify your outdoor kitchen's grill unit, pizza oven, table or island; and enhance seating around the fire pit or fireplace and the bases of pergolas or columns.

Just be sure to select products that look like authentic stone even upon careful inspection, and are designed to withstand the elements. For example, the choices available from ProVia

are artfully crafted to produce a realistic, dramatic effect, mimicking stones from unique geographic regions in a range of cuts. Unlike other options on the market, their colors permeate throughout the entire stone,

giving every manufactured stone a realistic look with hues that last for years. To learn more, visit provia.com/stone.

With a few stylish upgrades, you can get your patio in tip top shape for summer. (StatePoint)

Information session and public hearing on FY2022 water and sewer rates

The City of Somerville will hold a virtual information session and public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022 water and sewer rates on Monday, May 3. The information session will start at 6:00 p.m. and the public hearing will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to testify is welcome to attend and will be heard. Additional Q&A time will be offered following the hearing if attendees have remaining topics of discussion.

The information session and hearing will be hosted online and there will also be an option to call into the meeting from a phone. Visit somervillema.gov/water shortly before 6:00 p.m. to join live or get call-in information, or call 311.

The proposed rates were submitted to the City Council during its meeting on Thursday, April 8, and can be viewed online at somervillema.gov/water.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What kind of shoes does a lazy person wear?
Loafers.

On This Day in History April 21

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

1775 – British troops begin the siege of Boston.

1836 – The Territory of Wisconsin is created.

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 baseball game is played at Chicago's Wrigley Field, then known as Weeghman Park.

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

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

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OFF THE SHELF
by Doug Holder

Singer dancer and teacher
Allison Reyes finds a creative
sanctuary in Somerville

Lyrical
SOMERVILLE
edited by Doug Holder

I was lucky to connect with Somerville's Allison Reyes. This young woman is part of a musical group Testi5, where she sings and dances, she also teaches ballet, and has a strong bond with her church, and the Dominican community.

Doug Holder: As an artist, how has it been for you living in Somerville?

Allison Reyes: Living in Somerville has opened up amazing opportunities for me to grow, I've been able to sing in churches around the city, teach dance teams in those same churches, and met incredible people. I was part of the choir at school, the jazz band, and the dance team. It has been completely different than when I lived in Rhode Island. Somerville has such a tight knit community. It was really surprising when I experienced the opportunities that were presented to me, and to learn and put these things in practice.

DH: I have interviewed a number of Brazilian artists. There is a large community around here. You are from the Dominican Republic. Tell us about the Dominican community, and the artists that work and play in our city?

AR: Since we've only been living here for three years, we haven't really had a chance to learn much about the Dominican community here in Somerville. I have met many Salvadorians and Brazilians, but I have only met a few Dominicans. Because of this, every Dominican I meet becomes a friend and connection. We are so proud of being Dominicans and we would love to be part of events where people can meet people of different Latino descents, once everything goes back to normal.

DH: A video of you singing a song (titled *Lléname*) takes place in a church. I get the impression that you have a strong sense of spirituality. Tell us about your relationship with the church.

AR: I've been part of the church my whole life, I've dedicated years of my life serving at the church, I danced, sang and even used to work with kids at church. However, being part of the church is not what defines me as a Christian, is my relationship with God that is most important to me.

DH: Your dad has been a big influence on you, and he is the founder of your band, Testi5. Can you talk a bit about this? You have a number of other musicians as well that you work with. How did you hook up?

AR: Ever since I have been conscious my dad was either working or playing for the church. Whenever he was practicing at home, I would go and sing along to the music he was practicing to. It was a lot of fun, he never pressured me to be part of music. I always did it because I wanted to.

My dad met Eddy (the drummer of our band) at church. He was playing with a guest that came over for an event at our church in RI, and my dad went to greet him and exchanged numbers. After that Eddy introduced my dad to Johann and Joel



(guitarist and drummer). and they became friends, and that's how it all started.

DH: Describe your music in a few lines, and why should we experience it?

AR: The goal of our music is to reach the hearts of everyone who listens to it. Nowadays we are living in times of uncertainty and fear. With our music we want to bring hope and perseverance. When people go through their toughest moments, we want our music to make them feel safe and reassured that God is with them through every step of the way.

DH: You are a dancer as well. Is there a lot of interplay between your dance and your singing, etc.

AR: Before I was a singer, I was a dancer, and it is a huge part of me. So, when my dad proposed to me to be the main singer of Testi5, I made sure to let him know that dance was also going to be a part of it. A dancer and singer is not something commonly seen in the Christian community, so I really would love to be different, and show those Christians who would like to pursue both careers that it can be done.

DH: You are a graduate of Somerville High. Did you have any mentors there that influenced you?

AR: Going to Somerville high was tough for me for the first year. I had transferred as a junior to a completely new school and since I'm extremely shy, so it was really hard for me to make friends. However, I did have incredible teachers. My AP US History teacher Ms. Santos was always extremely helpful when it came to anything I needed. She actually came to the first concert Testi5 ever did, and in our first music video called *Dueño de mi Corazón* she was right there in the crowd cheering me on. Another teacher who was always super supportive and really impacted my life was Ms. Massillon, my World History teacher. I used to teach her daughter ballet, she would come to my dance recitals, and she would always make sure I was doing well in every aspect of my life. She was truly an angel sent from heaven; I want to be like them when I grow up.

Kitty Beer's stories and articles have appeared in print and online in the U.S. and Canada, including her work as an environmental journalist. She grew up in New England and raised her two children in Canada, Germany, and upstate New York. She holds her B.A. from Harvard University, and her M.A. from Cornell University.



Beer's series of novels about climate change is titled *Resilience: a Trilogy of Climate Chaos*, reflecting her emphasis on the courage of people overcoming disaster. The novels are *What Love Can't Do* (2006), *Human Scale* (2010), and *The Hampshire Project* (2017). All three are published by Plain View Press, a 38-year-old literary publishing house focusing on issues of sociopolitical importance.

House of Two Deaths

Billy's house is empty now.
Sunny little pretty house,
Cunning smiling house, house of
Death.
Death has tracked us,
Mocked us now, for years.
The father first, our brother, Billy.
That little boy on a tricycle with whiteblond hair,
Serious little boy with leprechaun wit.
His son has that sparkle in his eyes. Or had.
O Josh, to suffer so. Sunny Josh,
Sunny smiling agonizing torn apart Josh.

Sorrow, sorrow to my heart.

Beautiful Nicole's chocolate hair cascades over her
Glowing face (not glowing, not flowering),
Hair and face soaked with tears of rage.
Her grief is a fury, Furies.
The House of Atreus--cursed house.
But there's no blood; cancer is like that.

Bill went slowly. His mind went, he became
Senile, a child again. He said
Goodbye to me after he couldn't speak
As he lay there, put his hand on my hand over his,
Smiling as if already with his God:
Bill the dying comforting me the living.

Then it was Rose's turn, loyal wife,
Passionate strong mother,
Raging against the dying of the light
To no avail. The cruelty!
Torn breast, ripped spine, corroded away
Riddled with the vile disease.

O Rosie, don't go!
Stay here! Your children are screaming for you.
But there she goes, in her terrible pain at the last
Almost glad. But leaving them is worst.
She knows, and this knowing kills her most:

She will never see them again.
Broken house.

— Kitty Beer

A new era of lending in the community

A photograph of three people (two men and one woman) looking at a large map spread out on a table. The man on the right is pointing at the map. They are in a room with a doorway in the background.

A man and a woman are standing in front of a house. The man is holding a document and pointing at it. The woman is looking at the document. There is a sign in the foreground that says "HOUSE FOR SALE".

A man and a woman are smiling and looking at a laptop screen together. The man is wearing a dark sweater over a yellow shirt, and the woman is wearing a patterned top. They are in a kitchen with white shelves in the background holding various items like a blue plate and a white mug. A white mug is on the table in front of them.

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