

Somerville's
original
independent
newspaper

The Somerville Times

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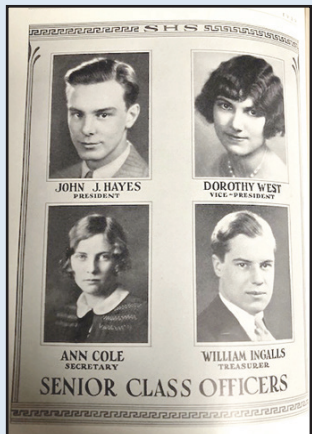


VOL. 9 NO. 17

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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City issues joint statement on justice for George Floyd



Following the conviction of Derek Chauvin on several counts related to the death of George Floyd, ordinary citizens and public officials alike lauded the decision as a victory for justice in America.

By The Times Staff

On Wednesday, April 21, several Somerville city officials issued a joint statement following the conviction of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin on multiple charges associated with the death of George Floyd.

The statement reads as follows:

Following months of speculation and uncertainty, yesterday's guilty verdict in Derek Chauvin's trial for the murder of George Floyd last May brought with it long-awaited accountability for Derek Chauvin's actions. But while accountability is the first step toward justice, the full achievement of justice is measured through transformation. It is about repair, dedication, and actions. Our thoughts continue to be with Mr. Floyd's family and loved ones, who have had to endure unspeakable pain. Our hope is that when we look back at this

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Cake4Kids Comes to Boston Area

By Denise Keniston
tw:@denisekeniston

Cake4Kids is a nonprofit that provides custom birthday and celebration cakes to underserved children. They have delivered thousands of cakes to kids all over the country and Boston is ready to get in on the sweetness!

Professional pastry chef Tali Pinnolis is the ambassador for the new Boston area chapter. She says a lot of families struggle to celebrate birthdays. "Imagine growing up never having a birthday cake. For the majority of us, the thought is difficult, if not inconceivable, to imagine," says Pinnolis. "With the COVID pandemic, especially, many families are so strapped for time, money and energy that celebrating a child's birthday is out of reach."

Cake4Kids was founded in 2010 by the late Libby Gruender in Sunnyvale, California and now has eight chapters, including Boston. The organization connects with its recipients through social workers or agency caseworkers, who learn the preferred flavors and themes for a child's desired birthday cake. Then it finds a volunteer to bake, decorate and deliver that cake.

Continued on page 4



Cake4Kids is looking for volunteer bakers and agencies with underserved kids.

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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.

It has been announced that the City of Somerville will move into a **modified Phase 4, Step 1** of the state’s reopening plan starting on **Friday, May 7**. This means that indoor capacity for several businesses will be increased significantly, something that the local economy desperately needs. For specific details and general guidelines, go to <https://www.somervillema.gov/reopeningphase4>.








Somerville Open Studios, a city-wide traditional open studios event across the city of Somerville, will hold a virtual open studios and an outdoor art fair with member artists the first weekend in May from noon until 6:00 p.m. Artists will be available in individual booths through an online platform to display artwork and talk with visitors on **May 1 and 2** from noon to 6:00 pm at: <https://my.boothcentral.com/v/events/somerville-open-studios-2021>. Outdoor spaces for the masked/distanced art loving public to visit some artists in person will be set up outdoor art-fair style on Saturday May 1 (Rain-date Sunday May 2) from noon to 6:00 p.m., see the SOS website for locations. The Somerville Open Studios website (www.somervilleopenstudios.org) is updated with over 250 participating artists in all art mediums (books + paper, collage, drawing, fiber + textiles, furniture, glass + mosaics, graphic design, installation, jewelry + beads, mixed-media, painting, photography, pottery, printmaking, sculpture, video), artists recent work and video introductions of artists, so that visitors can become acquainted with SOS artists and their work.

The **East Somerville Main Streets plant sale** will take place this weekend, **Sunday, May 2**, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pre-order pickups for the East Somerville Market are available at **Deano’s Pasta** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. this Sunday. Also, lots of day of sale vendors are taking pre-orders at <https://www.eastsomervillmainstreets.org/market>.

To those celebrating their birthdays this week: *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 28</i>	Rain	64°/49°	33%	21%	ENE 9 mph
 Thursday <i>April 29</i>	Rain	61°/54°	52%	31%	ESE 11 mph
 Friday <i>April 30</i>	Rain	67°/46°	32%	17%	WSW 17 mph
 Saturday <i>May 1</i>	Partly Cloudy	58°/44°	18%	11%	WNW 20 mph
 Sunday <i>May 2</i>	Partly Cloudy	64°/48°	9%	7%	WSW 15 mph
 Monday <i>May 3</i>	Partly Cloudy	67°/50°	22%	15%	WSW 11 mph
 Tuesday <i>May 4</i>	Partly Cloudy	67°/52°	24%	17%	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: *New climate law can help us build a greener Somerville*

Citizen says:
I was surprised to see no mention of increasing bus and bike friendly infrastructure, which is also where you could have the most impact as a city councilor.

Justin says:
Thanks for your note. Reclaiming street side open spaces allows us to create more infrastructure supported by cyclists, pedestrian traffic, and public transit.

Response to: *Somerville considers deprioritization of drug possession offences*

VIIA CBD says:
I just can’t wait for the moment when our government will simply come to the conclusion that marijuana is normal and it will simply be legalized and no restrictions will be made. After all, everyone knows very well that the same cigarettes harm us much more than marijuana! But I think that it will be in the next 5 years, or rather, I believe in it! Thank you for the article!

Response to: *Obituary: Mary Emma Loretta (Champion) Walker*

Steve keenan says:
So sorry to hear this sad news, Mary was a very nice lady. RIP, Mary.

Matt Hoey says:
She was absolutely wonderful! I have such fond memories of chatting with her at City Hall many times in the 90s. She was such a cool lady. My condolences to her family. Mary will surely not be forgotten.

Response to: *Boston National Poetry Month Festival, 2021: Virtual, virtuoso poets and musicians April 15-17*

Frank Sterle Jr. says:
Ode to a Beauty that Blinds ... Her looks transcend the barrier called fair / His heart and will to resist her she binds / Thinking naught but of her smile he pines / For the release of her bouncy brown hair / Her leaving his small realm he could not bear / Like the silky long curls her finger winds / He’s limp, all for that beauty that blinds / From all else yet at her helpless he’d stare. // While seeing the shallows though not the signs / Showing more than a pretty visual layer / Whether the twain may too meet with their minds / Hearts will share their most secrets should they dare / Feelings far further than vague dating lines / To know eternity their souls shall share.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

SHS Class of '29



As I was lamenting over the physical loss of sections of our beloved old high school, I was browsing eBay. I saw a 1929 copy of Somerville High School's yearbook, *The Radiator*. It was right up my alley.

On one of the pages (see photo) is an artist's rendition of the old high school, only calling it "new." I found the following historical note online: "In 1929, The Somerville Latin School was torn down to build the East Wing. The west wing

was built. The Central Wing which was the old English High, was remodeled. The Gym building was erected." So, the students of 1929 had a new gym, a new wing and a remodeling. Imagine if they saw what happened to their "new" school almost 100 years in the future?

Let's start looking at this historic yearbook. Here are some of the ads for businesses from the 1929 Radiator:

Oscar Perry Barber Shop, Sidebottom Brothers printing and engraving, McLeans Furniture and Radio, Mildred Vinton Drew, Pianist, EF Hicks Caterer, Central Co-Operative Bank, Seven Oaks Dairy, Somerville Nash Company, Burditt and Williams Hardware, Somerville Institution for Savings, Summer St. Market, Giroux Dairy, Finkelstein's Lunch (across from the high school), Prospect Furniture, A Govoni Confectionery, and Ben Smith and Sons Dress Shop.

The Winter Hill train station (pictured with the High School in the background) was still up and running in 1929. I may be wrong, but it would seem that a student living in Davis Square could get the train at the Lexington Street station (the station was called Somerville Highlands) and get off right behind the high school ("At its height, Somerville was served by eight passenger rail stations"). When the new station behind the high school is finished, a student in Ball Square can hop



on the Green Line and take it all the way to the high school. Cool!

Boy, our beloved high school has sure seen a lot of changes as it prepared students for life. I'm grateful that I have lots of good memories of Somerville High. My fondest recollections are of the students, the building and grounds (especially the auditorium), and a few great teachers.

Thankfully, I have a brick from the razed section thanks to a friend who was on the project. I have this haunting vision of walking into the high school's main door, walking toward the auditorium and it's gone! Just what I need, more disturbing thoughts in my crazy mind.

The Great Depression and economic

downturn that began in 1929 and lasted until around 1939 was the longest and most severe depression ever. The graduating class of 1929 certainly had their hands full. It must have been a rocky road as they headed out into the world. A war was brewing in Europe. It seems every graduating class had its share of difficulty to deal with.

This year, 2021, is my 1971 graduating classes' fiftieth reunion. The class of 1929 would be celebrating their ninety-second.

If the graduating class of 1929 saw their sparkling new high school demolished in 2021 they would no doubt be sad. But can you imagine if they saw Somerville's brand-new high school? Wow!

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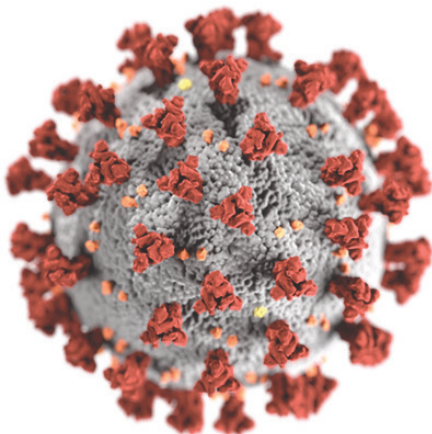
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Somerville to move into modified Phase 4, Step 1 reopening on May 7

With more residents and employees able to be vaccinated and a recent decrease in COVID-19 cases, Somerville will move into a modified Phase 4, Step 1 of the State’s reopening plan starting on Friday, May 7.

What will change in Somerville starting May 7:

- With any additional guidance noted below, all businesses in categories included through the State’s Phase 4, Step 1 as well as houses of worship will be allowed to operate at up to 50% capacity with social distancing and with all sector-specific guidelines followed.
- Included in the above are movie theaters and bingo halls, previously closed in Somerville.
- Event capacity limits at private residences will remain at 10 people indoors and will increase to 25 people outdoors.
- Event capacity limits at public event venues or spaces will increase to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors with approved safety plans for social distancing, masking guidance, and other safety protocols.
- Singing (while masked) and woodwind/brass instrument performances will be allowed outdoors. As per State guidance, greater distancing requirements are required for wind and brass instruments and singing performances including at least 10 feet between performers and performers must be 25 feet from the audience for these performance categories.
- Indoor performances, subject to the 50% business capacity limits or event gathering limits above, will be allowed for all performance types except for singing and woodwind and brass instruments, which remain prohibited indoors until further notice.
- With the approval of the Somerville Licensing Commission, restaurants and bars or breweries can partner to offer outdoor dining with alcoholic beverages. All other regulations must be followed.



Businesses and other venues that wish to increase their capacity to the new limits above must submit revised Health and Safety Plans (HASP) to the Inspectional Services Division. If your business is licensed through CitizenServe, please upload a revised HASP under your existing license in CitizenServe at somervillema.gov/citizenserve. Other businesses and venues should email their revised HASP to isd@somervillema.gov. For information on how to prepare a HASP visit www.somervillema.gov/HASP.

The state is expected to announce additional reopening guidelines this week. The City will review any additional reopening measures to determine which might be adopted in Somerville. The City of Somerville continues to monitor COVID case trends, vaccination rates, and other related data on a daily basis. As more people are vaccinated there is hope for further reopening in the near future. All persons age 16 or older are currently eligible for vaccination. For information on how to schedule an appointment, visit www.somervillema.gov/vaccine or call the statewide helpline at 2-1-1.

“We are making real progress in Massachusetts on reducing COVID-19 cases, and to keep that momentum going as reopening progresses, I strongly urge everyone to keep up the good work. If we all get the vaccine, wear our facemasks, keep our distance in public, stay home and get tested when feeling ill, and wash our hands frequently, we can keep one another safer as we work to drive down COVID-19 cases and strive for a great summer,” said Doug Kress, Director of Health and Human Services.

City issues joint statement on justice for George Floyd

CONT. FROM PG 1

moment in history, that this verdict will clearly mark a turning point toward broader accountability and progress in addressing systemic racism and its deadly consequences within law enforcement -- as well as systemic racism in our society as a whole. We also hope the verdict offers a space for some relief from the trauma that this event and so many others have caused, particularly for our Black colleagues, friends, neighbors, and family members who continue to bear the burden of systemic

racial injustices in communities across our nation. As we contemplate the outcome of this trial and its potential implications for systemic change in our communities, we must also remember that our push for racial justice is not finished and must continue. The fact that there was so much uncertainty regarding the outcome of this very public case up until the verdict was read speaks volumes as to where we are as a nation in this critical work. While this verdict may offer a glimmer

of hope in this moment, we cannot lose sight of the fact that the loss of Black and Brown lives during police encounters and related aggressions and violence against persons of color continue to occur with disturbing regularity. We must recognize the incredible collective trauma that these events cause especially for our youth and in particular persons of color. Our schools are prepared to support students and staff as they return from April break next week in processing the outcome of this trial

and its potential implications in our continuing fight for racial justice. Our city and community also remain steadfastly committed to advancing our efforts to confront and root out racism and bias in all our institutions and structures. As an anti-racist community, we must continue to prioritize our efforts to address systemic racism directly and work together to build a community that values every member and the lived experiences we each bring. Over the next few months, we will

be sharing some of the equity and anti-racism work we have been doing in our schools and in our city, and hope you will join us in our continued push for racial justice.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

City Council President Matthew McLaughlin

School Committee Chair Andre Green

Superintendent of Schools Mary Skipper

Cake4Kids Comes to Boston Area

CONT. FROM PG 1

Somerville’s Winter Hill Community Innovation School is one of the first to get on board. Marah Paley, a clinical social worker at the school, says Cake4Kids is a great idea. “We’re very excited to have to program roll out this Spring and start providing some of our kids with birthday cakes.” She continues, “A lot of kids here will be so happy to have a cake made especially for them – it’s really a wonderful thing.”

Pinnolis’ Boston Chapter is currently recruiting bakers who will be carefully vetted for security and safety protocols. She says, “You do not need to be a professional baker to volunteer. There is also no minimum cake baking requirement for volunteers, which means you can decide to bake 1 cake or 50 cakes, whatever works for your schedule.” She adds, “It’s most important that our bakers put their best skills to

use and have the cake delivered to the office on time.” Pinnolis has been preparing for her role as Boston Chapter ambassador for months. She talks to other chapters weekly who share their experiences. “They hear over and over again from the youth, ‘I can’t believe someone took the time out of their day to make something just for me. I feel so incredibly special, and I don’t often feel that way,’” says Pinnolis.

Volunteer bakers must be at least 18-years-old (or 16, if with a parent volunteer), be a good baker (not necessarily pro-level, but decent with proficient decorating skills) and be able to deliver the decorated cake to a Cake4Kids agency during a specified time window. Spots are filling up fast for the first virtual volunteer baker orientation on May 4. Sign up at <https://www.cake4kids.org/volunteer-form>.



Professional pastry chef Tali Pinnolis, Ambassador Cake4Kids Boston Chapter.

Poplar Street pump station and ArtFarm community meeting

By Alex Reidy

A virtual community meeting to introduce the Poplar Street Pump Station preliminary design and its integration with the ArtFarm project was held on Wednesday, April 14.

What is ArtFarm? According to the City of Somerville’s website, ArtFarm is “a self-sustaining art and urban agriculture laboratory designed to foster community engagement and creativity” and “will serve as a park, urban agriculture site, and arts hub featuring the ArtFarm community center with performance and exhibit spaces.”

It is made up of various components: a greenhouse, a rain garden, a plaza, and the pump

station itself that is in the works to be built with four tenants, to be followed by the concluding construction of the ArtFarm development, Arts/Cultural Entertainment, Community Unity, Environmental Sustainability, and Economic Development. But since work stalled during the pandemic, much work is still needed to be done.

The pump station is of the highest importance and is needed as it connects to most of the major flows in Somerville and would be key to putting a stop flooding. The city has been working to fix these obstacles that are being caused by floods, and one of the major improvements is coming via the MBTA Green line expansion.



Once completed, the integration of a pump station at the ArtFarm complex is expected to alleviate a major portion of the city’s flooding problems.



As they are improving their own drainage, it helps Somerville as well because of funding allocated to the MBTA, a condition of a \$50 million contribution. Objectives of the pump station include discharging stormwater to the Millers River, activate the city’s new drainage connection with the MBTA, protect water quality and, of course, to integrate into the ArtFarm project.

The concept of the underground pump station involves submersible pumps that would flow around 50 million gallons of water a day, and a storage tank that holds around four

million gallons.

The inside of the building would have a debris management system along with odor control and these would all integrate with the shed of the ArtFarm. The infrastructure around the building would also be “green” in that it would try to have as much foliage and grass as possible, even on top of the buildings.

ArtFarm is dedicated to combining both artistic and agricultural forms of entertainment, with sites like the Festival Plaza that could host musical performances, and the Greenhouse and Community Garden.

How will this all integrate with the pump station? Since it will be mostly underground, its presence won’t be invasive and obtrusive and the parts that are above ground will become part of a green space, in which it blends in compatibly with the surrounding plaza and lawn areas.

As it stands, building the pump station would provide a large decrease in flooding after its construction is completed. It is scheduled to start construction very soon, and is expected to take at least three years to complete. More information can be found at <https://voice.somervillema.gov/Poplar-ArtFarm>.

Dorothy’s Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Guilt Free Eggs Florentine

The traditional dish calls for butter and egg yolks for the hollandaise sauce. This sauce is high in cholesterol. I know you’re thinking, no way can this guilt free. But I’m here to tell you, this recipe is a game changer and is absolutely delicious. The avocado hollandaise is creamy, and its richness is so satisfying that you can eat this more often and reap the health benefits of this amazing fruit. High in heart healthy fat, dietary fiber, potassium, along with a good portion of the daily recommended vitamins B-6 and C at 20% and 24% respectively (USDA).

2 English muffins, toasted
4 eggs, poached
4 cups fresh baby spinach
1 teaspoon olive oil
1 medium garlic clove, thinly sliced

Pinch of red pepper flakes, optional
Salt and pepper to taste

For the “hollandaise” you will need the following:

1 avocado
Zest and juice of a lemon, plus 2 tablespoons juice
1/3 cup - 1/2 cup hot tap water
Pinch of salt and pepper
Smoked paprika, optional

Add the olive oil, garlic, and red pepper flakes to a skillet. Over medium low heat, heat up the oil and sauté the garlic for about a minute, then add the spinach. Cook down for about two minutes, then add a pinch of salt and pepper. Drain the excess liquid and put the spinach aside until it’s time to assemble the dish. Toast the English muffins and poach the eggs.

To make the hollandaise, cut and pit the avocado. Scoop out the avocado and put in the blender, or use an



immersion blender. Add the zest and juice of the lemon along with 1/3 cup of hot tap water, and salt and pepper. Blend until smooth and creamy. If it’s really thick, just add a little more water and taste to see if additional seasoning is needed.

To assemble, add the English muffins to a platter or individual serving plates. Equally divide the drained

spinach on top of the muffins creating a well in the center to hold the egg in place. Add the egg and top with the hollandaise and a sprinkle of the paprika. You could also use a bit of parsley for garnish if you like. Serves 2-4 people.

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

Somerville applies pressure on Transportation Dept., addresses water infrastructure renovations

By Joe Creason

The Somerville City Council held a regular meeting on April 22 to review orders of business and hear reports from the Councilor-led committees pertaining to the various sectors of municipal management.

Thursday’s meeting began with a citation submitted by Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clinigan and the mayor, commending the Elizabeth Peabody House on its 125th anniversary. The organization has been a long-standing advocate for education and affordable childcare in the community.

“It’s an important milestone not just for our organization but for the community as a whole, which has supported both our work and mission for so long,” said EPH Board Member Louise Coughlin.

A resolution from City Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo called for the Council to support the I AM bill, a piece of legislation in the works at the Massachusetts State House that would increase access to disposable menstrual products in public schools, homeless shelters and prisons.

“While the public school sys-

tem here in Somerville does provide free menstrual products to students, that is not always the case throughout the Commonwealth,” Strezo said.

An order was submitted declaring the cooperation of the mayor, chief of police, director of SPCD and the City Council in collaboration with community advocates and the state delegation, with the intention of applying maximum pressure on the Massachusetts State Department of Transportation to expedite the implementation of traffic safety improvements.

“The corridor of death is what The Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets is calling the passage of McGrath Highway and Mystic Avenue,” said Ward 5 Councilor Mark Niedergang.

Niedergang recounted an incident from only the past week, where a 74-year-old veteran was inflicted with life threatening injuries after attempting to cross the busy thoroughfare from the Stop & Shop lot to the Foss Park side of McGrath Highway.

According to Niedergang, the Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation had been working with Somerville to put a cross walk in that specific location.

“There are other projects in the Mystic Avenue area, that even if all goes well, are not slated to be completed for another 3 to 4 years,” Niedergang said. “We know people are going to get killed or seriously injured on these roadways in the interim.”

Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott’s report from the Finance Committee highlighted the FY22 Sewer Water Rate Proposal, a policy set in motion to address the expected raise for water utility rates in order to fund much needed infrastructure renovations.

Somerville must proactively tax and raise rates to provide funding for renovations to its water and sewer infrastructure if it is to maintain compliance with state government regulations, according to Scott, who says that if Somerville does not meet regulatory compliance, there is a concern that the state will issue an order of consent and use its authority to set rates for the city.

This could see water and sewer rates rise to a 4.5% affordability threshold. “Here in Somerville, that would mean an average annual rate payment of over \$4,400, which would be nearly a four-fold increase and that’s a situation no one wants to find



The Elizabeth Peabody House was honored with a citation commemorating its 125 years in operation during the latest meeting of the Somerville City Council.

ourselves in,” Scott said.

According to Scott, the city is proposing a 7% increase in rates for water and a 10% increase in rates for sewer. The Sewer and Water Department is also requesting \$100,000 for a pilot project on financial assistance.

The needs-based assistance program would offer direct rebates to the sewer and water bills

of those on low or fixed income.

Contractors working with Comcast and Verizon submitted grant location applications to install conduit along Broadway and several intersecting streets. Installations should take no more than a day and contractors do not foresee the installations blocking multiple lanes of traffic.

Somerville expands free rodent control assistance program, issues guidance to prevent rat activity

The City of Somerville has expanded eligibility requirements for its Residential Rodent Control Assistance Program, nearly doubling the number of residences that qualify and extending access to free rodent control services to more than 90% of residential properties in the city. The Residential Rodent Control Assistance Program offers free weekly rodent control services to eligible residences until rodent activity subsides. City health inspectors survey properties for evidence of rodents and provide educational materials about rodent prevention to owners and tenants, who must agree to take the recommended actions (such as removing outdoor pet food bowls or clearing yard debris) in exchange for outdoor abatement services. Under the city’s new guidelines, any property with three or fewer units is now eligible, whereas in previous years, only owner-occupied properties qualified. For more information about rodent prevention or to sign up for the Residential Rodent Control Assistance Program, visit somervillema.gov/rodentcontrol or call 311 (617-666-3311).

Rat Control and Prevention Tips

While pest control services are an important element of a broader mitigation strategy, baiting alone won’t solve the problem. Rodent activity persists because of human behaviors, so besides making use of the Residential Rodent Control Assistance Program, residents are encouraged to take steps to reduce rodent activity in and around their neighborhoods. Here are some tips to get started:

Know How to Identify Rat Activity

The first step in addressing rat activity is to know when and where it’s happening. There are several key indicators to look for:

- Burrow holes: The entrance holes to underground rat burrows are generally 2 to 4 inches wide with smooth edges, often found under plants or items stored out doors. Burrows usually have more than one entrance, so it’s likely that you will find multiple holes.
- Droppings: Rat droppings are around ½ to ¾ of an inch long with blunt edges. They tend to be found near trash or other food sources.
- Gnaw marks: Rats habitually chew on hard surfaces to file down their teeth, so recent marks from chewing can show you where they’re located.
- Runways: Check walls and grass for signs of runways. Rats run along the same path many times a day, leaving dark track marks along their route.

Remove Food and Water Sources

Like any animal, rats need food and water to survive. Removing their access to these resources can reduce their numbers in your neighborhood.

- Don’t leave water bowls for pets outside overnight, and dump out other sources of standing water.
- Do your best to regularly inspect your property for food that may be accessible to rodents. Common food sources can include bird feeders, pet food, compost, and trash that’s not stored properly.
- Put trash in outdoor barrels as close to your pick-up day as possible. Leaving it outside for multiple nights invites rats.

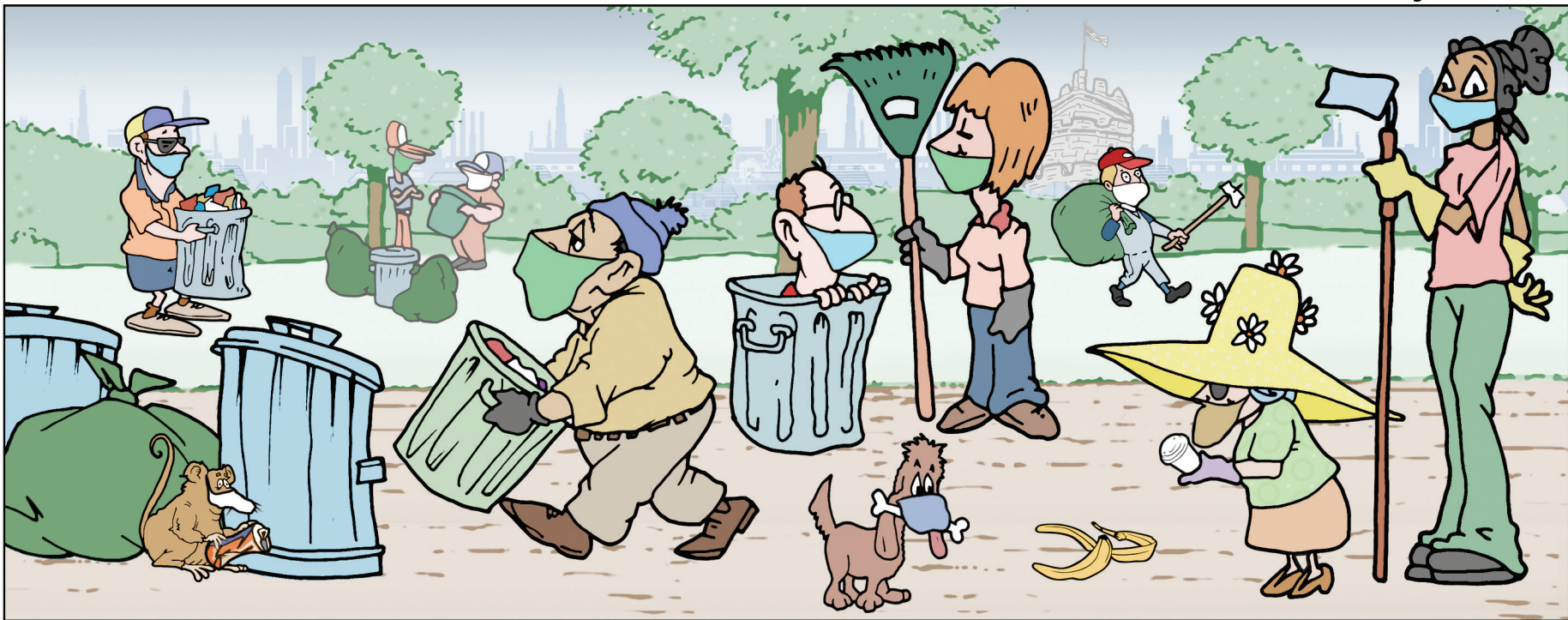
Work With Your Neighbors

Rats don’t obey property lines, so any preventative actions you take will be more effective if others in your neighborhood are doing the same. Talk with your neighbors about what you’ve been seeing and what you’re doing to prevent further rat activity. Remember that in most cases, a combination of environmental factors enables rats to thrive in cities, so multiple prevention strategies may be needed.

COMMENTARY

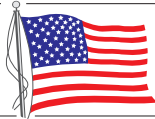
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



The Spring Clean Up brings out the best in us for Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



Community volunteerism is an uplifting thing to observe and, especially, to participate in. When the efforts involved result in making the community a bit cleaner and a more comfortable place to live then it is all to the better.

So it is with the annual Somerville Spring Cleanup held this past weekend as many residents pitched in, picked up, and swept out the old, unwanted refuse and generally celebrated our mutual appreciation of the city we live and work in.

Not only do locals lend their time and elbow grease in doing the actual work involved, but many individuals and business concerns also donate tools and cleaning supplies to help out with the cleanup.

The warm glow of satisfaction with a very worthwhile job well done prevailed, and everyone present had a well-deserved good time working together to make our community a better place to live in.

It is comforting to see that in these times when so many with a cynical view of modern-day society feel that most people are too selfish or lazy to contribute to the common good, such ideas can be very wrong. There are still a lot of generous folks around who are more than willing to give of themselves in order to make a difference.

And now more than ever, as we contend with the stresses and sacrifices we have lived through over the past year and then some, it is especially important that we remember how to pull together to work for a common cause.

To all who stepped up and pitched in, we thank you and salute you. You are a big part of what makes this city great.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Big happy birthday to our good friend over at **Ball Square Café, Mike Moccia**. Happy birthday this week to **Linda Beebe**, who is celebrating this week. We hope she celebrates big time, she deserves it. Also, happy birthday to **Anthony Fraser**, who grew up in East Somerville. **Sal Ferro III** is celebrating this week. He is well known here in Somerville and the son of our photographer, **Claudia**. He comes from a great family and we wish him a great birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Dom Panzino, Chris Lavelli, Joseph DeSousa, Rose Lister, George Sharpe, Charlotte Scanzillo Perkins, Barbara A. Balkwill, G.P. Redmond, Lillian Bove Litchfield, Fred Parker, Eric Pedro Sr. and Johnny Ferola** 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**, 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 [somerville-ma.gov/KensingtonConnector](https://www.somerville-ma.gov/KensingtonConnector) to learn more and register to attend.

Congratulations to the **Winter Hill 7th and 8th graders** whose video **Next Chapter** won the Middle School category of the **2021 Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth, Inc. Public Service Announcement contest**. The contest asked students to reflect themes like restorative justice, empathy, loving engagement, and diversity inspired by the **Black Lives Matter at School** organization. Watch the student Winter Hill Community Innovation School Student video on SPS facebook <https://www.facebook.com/SomervillePublicSchools>.

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 somerlevillema.gov/keepcool.

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

Continued on page 14

Urban Axes, cutting through the pandemic

By Alex Reidy

Axe throwing is quickly being made popular by Urban Axes across the country, and here in Somerville, with a fun business model that caters to the young, the old, the amateur and the expert by providing an entertaining and unique experience like no other.

The employees at the Somerville location all help make axe throwing as memorable an experience as any, and providing it with the charm to keep customers coming back for more.

But like all businesses, Urban Axes has suffered during the pandemic, dropping from 40

employees to 20 in the Somerville location. Their first re-opening was delayed by Mayor Curtatone until September 17, a full 10 weeks longer than similar facilities across Massachusetts were permitted to reopen, due to Somerville's stricter regulations regarding re-openings.

As cases rose again in December, co-owner Matt Paton said he supported a second closure in December of last year, and Urban Axes had already independently reduced their capacity prior to the second shutdown.

Paton has said that he was grateful for the federal, state and local financial support they have received to keep their business



Urban Axes of Somerville has been hanging on while awaiting the further lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.



afloat, but remained frustrated with what he felt was Mayor Curtatone's continued refusal to engage in meaningful discussions with the Somerville business community, while the rest of the Massachusetts reopens following the state's plans.

Currently, Urban Axes is complying with all restrictions set by Somerville, with the city permitting it to increase their capacity this week from 12.5% to 25%, compared to the 50% capacity for their business type across the Commonwealth.

Urban Axes is supporting

their employees that choose to get vaccinated, paying for six hours of time off so they can receive a vaccine. The business is not going to mandate a vaccination to enter, but Paton and his wife Krista (also a co-owner of Urban Axes), believed in COVID-19 vaccination enough that they volunteered for and were part of Cambridge based Moderna's Phase 3 vaccination trial in August of 2020, and are still participating in that trial.

Paton is hoping that by June Somerville will lift restrictions of capacity, as data would sug-

gest that most people would have received their vaccination by then. He says that their league community is the most rewarding part of their businesses, with league members trusting Urban Axes to run safe, distanced and masked events, often being the only social outlet people chose during the very isolating pandemic.

At this time, Urban Axes is looking forward to a good showing of mothers with their families on Mother's Day. You can book online at <https://urbanaxes.com/boston/mothersday>.

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.

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=FcI2eBSS024&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=AAanfwGybTI>

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 Maureen at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov If you would like to become part of our Google Group please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov

LEGAL NOTICES

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

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 18 Irving Street, LLC to CSLF Alamosa, LLC, dated **February 15, 2019** and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 72248, Page 363, as assigned to SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP dated July 22, 2020 and recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 75181, Page 413, and as assigned to Commonwealth Real Estate Holdings, LLC dated March 5, 2021 and recorded with Middlesex Registry of Deeds in Book 77147, Page 397, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at 10:00AM, on May 27, 2021 on the mortgaged premises being known as 18 Irving Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

The land with the buildings thereon situated in Somerville, Middlesex, Massachusetts being numbered 18 on the present numbering of Irving Street and being Lot 74 on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Somerville, Massachusetts belonging to Jesse Simpson, March 6, 1872, Wm. S. Barbour and A. Hodges C.E." Recorded in Middlesex South District Deeds, Books of Plans 21, Plan 44, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHEASTERLY: on said Street, fifty (50) feet;
SOUTHWESTERLY: on Lot 75 on said plan, ninety (90) feet;
NORTHWESTERLY: on Lot 90 on said plan, fifty (50) feet; and
NORTHEASTERLY: on Lot 73 on said plan, ninety (90) feet.

Containing four thousand five hundred (4,500) square feet.

For Grantor's title see deed recorded with said Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 71268, Page 124.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of 18 Irving Street, LLC, dated June 25, 2018, recorded with Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds, Book 71288, Page 124.

The premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, municipal or zoning regulations or requirements, outstanding tax titles, condominium charges, fees, or assessments, municipal or other public or governmental taxes, assessments, outstanding orders of condition or any municipal requirements, and any liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, and the rights of tenants and occupants of the premises, if any there be. No representation is made as to the status of any improvements on the mortgaged premises and the Buyer purchases subject to all requirements related thereto.

The premises are being sold with the express acknowledgment that the Mortgagee makes no representation or warranty as to the presence or absence to any wetlands or environmental issue at all, or related to the septic or well systems, if any, or as to any contaminants or other substances, as noted under M.G.L. C21E or any other Massachusetts Statute, Code or Regulation does exist, the correction thereof will be at the Buyer's sole cost and expense, and shall be separate from the purchase price. The Buyer shall indemnify and hold harmless the Mortgagee from any and all costs, expenses or liability related to any of the aforesaid.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of \$25,000.00 DOLLARS shall be paid by the successful bidder to the Mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 189 Wells Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.

Dated: April 28, 2021

Signed: Commonwealth Real Estate Holdings, LLC

Present Holder of said Mortgage

By its Attorneys,
Barsh and Cohen, P.C.

Neil S. Cohen, Esquire
Attorney for the Mortgagee
189 Wells Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459
(617) 332-4700

4/28/21 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, 4/28/21 The Somerville Times



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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, May 18, 2021** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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 meeting and hearings **will be conducted via remote participation**.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7269387456786956812>

Webinar ID: 848-585-587

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (415) 655-0052

Access Code: 356-472-635

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

DETERMINATIONS OF APPROPRIATENESS (LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTIES)

HPC.ALT 2021.26 – 56 Meacham Road

Applicant: Sun Sasongko & Jackie Nice
Owner: same as applicants
Replace asphalt shingle roof with natural slate roof; replace aluminum gutter with copper gutter

HPC.ALT 2021.29 – 12 Aldersey Street

Applicant: Lara & Vladimir Jaugust
Owner: same as applicants
Remove later covered entry and construct a replica of original

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2021.12 – 60 Medford Street

Applicant: P & P Carrull Realty Trust
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure

DETERMINATIONS OF PREFERABLY PRESERVED (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2021.10 – 25 Appleton Street

Applicant: Kwesi Acquaaah
Owner: 25 Appleton, LLC
Demolish all structures

HPC.DMO 2021.13 – 59 Bow Street

Applicant: 59 Bow St., LLC c/o Elan Sassoon
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.14 – 115 Thurston Street

Applicant: 115 Thurston St., LLC c/o Elan Sassoon
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure

*While City Hall continues to be closed in response to the COVID19 pandemic, case documents reviewed by the HPC are available on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.*

4/28/21 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF SOMERVILLE
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to 24 CFR 91.105(e) (1), the City of Somerville will hold a virtual public hearing on the 2021-2022 One Year Action Plan Draft. The City of Somerville invites community input on priority needs related to affordable housing, community development, and homelessness for grants funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant Program, and the HOME Program.

The Public Hearing will be held virtually at 6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, May 13, 2021** and will be accessible via the following link:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8407239054931209228>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville, at NSalamoun@somervillema.gov. Accommodations for non-English speaking persons are available by contacting (OSPCD) at ospcd@somervillema.gov. All requests for accommodations should be made by the close of business on **Tuesday May 11, 2021**. General questions about the hearing should be directed to the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) at ospcd@somervillema.gov. Written comments will be accepted until Friday May 28, 2021 @ 12:30 p.m. and should be sent via email to ospcd@somervillema.gov.

Joseph A. Curtatone
Mayor

4/28/21 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

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LEGAL NOTICES

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SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
THE SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT
A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S FY2022 BUDGET

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M.
Via the GoToWebinar Online Meeting Platform

Please use the following web address to join the Budget Hearing:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7073544644580386575>

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Andre Green, Chair
Somerville School Committee

Ilana Krepchin, Chair
Finance and Facilities Subcommittee

Mary Skipper
Superintendent of Schools

For questions regarding the Budget Hearing, please contact your School Committee Ward Member:
<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee>
Budget information will be posted on the Somerville Public School website prior to the Budget hearing here:
<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/central-administration/finance-and-facilities>

STATE-WIDE SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM

PUBLIC HEARING

THE SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL
CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING TO
DETERMINE PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL
CHOICE PROGRAM FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021 at 6:15 P.M.

Via the GoToWebinar Online Meeting Platform

Please use the following web address to join the School Choice Public Hearing:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7873005046694499343>

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Ms. Cam's

From on page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Forty | 7. Boat |
| 2. Thomas Gainsborough | 8. The PRI or Institutional Revolutionary Party |
| 3. Google Talk | 9. Four |
| 4. 2,000 | 10. The Philippines |
| 5. The Black Album, Prince | 11. A fish |
| 6. Raspberries | 12. World Health Organization |

NOTICE:

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

Police and fire first birthday caravan

Angelo Busa/McWatters enjoyed a wonderful surprise on his first birthday with a Somerville Fire and Police caravan on Summer St. on Saturday, April 24. Angelo is the son of Jacqueline and Mike Busa. Florence McWatters is the great grandmother and his grandfather Kevin McWatters and Karen McWatters were present to witness the fabulous gesture by the fire and police departments. Angelo is also Grand Nephew of former Alderman Bob McWatters.



To advertise in The Somerville Times call
Bobbie Toner: 857-488-5138

'GREEKOREA' project at the Somerville Museum

Join in on Zoom for a conversation with pianist and composer Mina Cho as she opens a jazz dialogue between Asia Minor and East Asia and to view a documentary about the Project's new album *Greeting the Moon* on Thursday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m.

Cho is a 2020 Somerville Arts Council Somerville Artist of the Month and contemporary music director at Somerville Community Baptist Church, where her husband serves as pastor. Cho is also a friend to the Somerville Museum, musically supporting its projects.

The Somerville Museum is pleased to present a documentary about Cho's *GREEKOREA* project, part of which was filmed at the museum, and a conversation with this wonderful artist.

During a year with little actual travel connecting Boston, Athens and Seoul, the Korean-born pianist and composer Mina Cho has fostered a linear yet expansive musical itinerary of her own.

GREEKOREA, a series of compositions exploring artistic and cultural similarities between the divergent musical styles of East Asia and Asia Minor, bridges Greek and Korean musical traditions largely through the jazz and gospel idioms that first prompted Cho's move to the United States more than a decade ago.

Originally planned as a live performance for May 2020, *GREEKOREA*'s cancellation amid the COVID-19 pandemic spawned virtual recording sessions. Recorded in pandemic conditions in three different countries, with numerous rehearsals and overdubs, the album stands as a testament to the power of organic musical relationships nurtured over many years of collaboration.

Having studied piano since age 5, Cho had often dipped into gospel-style improvisations as a respite from the rigors of the classical repertory. Later, as a freshman theology student at Seoul's Yonsei University, she encountered a gospel chorus singing a setting of Psalm 23 in chapel that compelled her to return to music.

After graduating with a degree in theology in 2005, and inspired by the emotional directness she found in Korea's active gospel and fledgling jazz scene, Cho then applied to Boston's Berklee College of Music. Once in Boston, her musical imagination was further ignited by rhythms from Africa and Latin America, with pianist-composers Fred Hersch and Ben Schwendener serving as role models in personalizing diverse musical inspirations within an intimate compositional voice.



Only after Cho had expanded her interest into other musical cultures – most notably Mediterranean influences, with nearly 10 years of collaboration with Cyprus-born percussionist George Lernis and similarly fruitful exchange with the Epirus-born laouto player Vasilis Kostas – did she pay similar attention to her own musical traditions. Beginning with the gayageum, a traditional Korean zither, and later turning to percussion, Cho's musical studies have encompassed a broad array of Korean idioms.

Each track of *GREEKOREA* finds common ground between east and west, old and new. *Dalmaji* (*Night of the Full Moon*) drapes the pentatonic melody greeting the first full moon of Korea's Lunar New Year in lush jazz-gospel harmonies. In *Mandarin, My Love*, a traditional Greek song finds new life in Korean translation following extended instrumental improvisations. *Milyang Arirang*, a

veritable Korean anthem, unfolds within a juxtaposition of jagged Korean and Mediterranean rhythms.

"Culturally, the two countries have much in common," Cho says. "Greece was under the Ottoman Empire for centuries, and Korea was occupied by Japan from 1910 to 1945. They both had a similar relationship with the west."

And all three cultures, she adds, find similar refuge in music. "In America, people talk about the 'blues.' In Korean music, you have han. The Greeks have rebetiko, which some people actually call 'the Greek blues.' But the Korean concept of han isn't simply about describing these painful struggles but also overcoming them. I think that's what makes it unique. It's about transitioning from darkness to something positive."

Preview videos:
Dalmaji (*Night of the Full Moon*): <https://youtu.be/0lk-SocIr3qY>

Korean drum prelude to *Dalmaji*: <https://youtu.be/Ptbfm-jekmhQ>
Percussion commentary (George Lernis and Insoo Kim): <https://youtu.be/izErUk-T7OC8>
MUSICIANS (The Gugak Jazz Society):
Mina Cho – piano (USA)
Insoo Kim – Korean percussion (janggu, kkwaenggwari, jing, sori-buk) (Korea)
DoYeon Kim – Korean zither (gayageum) (USA)
Nayeon Lee – Korean wind instruments (piri, saengwhang, taepyeongso) (Korea)
Narae Lee – vocals in the style of Pansori (Korea)
George Lernis – drums, Middle Eastern percussion (darbuka, bendir, riq) (USA)
Vasilis Kostas – Greek lute (laouto) (USA/Greece)
Max Ridley – bass
Mina Cho website: <http://www.minachojazz.com>
International Gugak Jazz Institute: <https://www.IGJI.org>



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By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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Bobbie Toner

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On This Day in History

April 28

1635 – Virginia Governor John Harvey is accused of treason and removed from office.

1788 – Maryland becomes the seventh state to ratify the constitution.

1789 – The crew of the HMS Bounty mutinies against Captain William Bligh.

1818 – President James Monroe proclaims naval disarmament on the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain.

1916 – British declare martial law throughout Ireland.

1930 – The first night baseball game is played in Independence, Kansas.

1932 – A yellow fever vaccine for humans is announced.

1946 – The Allies indict Tojo on 55 counts of war crimes.

1967 – Muhammad Ali refuses induction into the U.S. Army and is stripped of his boxing title.

1969 – Charles de Gaulle resigns as president of France.

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Somerville Spring Clean-up 2021

Somerville residents joined Ward Captains, Groundwork Somerville leaders, Main Streets Organizations and city officials in each of the city's seven wards last Saturday to help prepare the city for the spring and summer by weeding open spaces, cleaning up streets and beautifying our community. — Photos by Bobbie Toner



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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.

The state is expected to announce additional reopening guidelines this week. The city will review any additional reopening measures to determine which might be adopted in Somerville. The **City of Somerville** continues to monitor COVID case trends, vaccination rates, and other related data on a daily basis. As more people are vaccinated there is hope for further reopening in the near future. All persons age 16 or older are currently eligible for vaccination. For information on how to schedule an appointment, visit www.somervillema.gov/vaccine or call the statewide helpline at 2-1-1. Remember to mask up and keep gatherings to under ten people: 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.

CHA Somerville Hospital offers free testing at Assembly Row. To make an appointment, call 617-665-2928 (Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). 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, including in the nearby communities of **Chelsea** and **Everett**. For more information, visit the State's website: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test>.

The Somerville Community Preservation Committee is holding its an-

nual **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. 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**, Community Pres-

ervation 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.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Open Studios:

A broad swath of art for the

City of Somerville

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Ball Square resident Marlena Merrin is a songwriter, musical theater writer, poet, and sometime improv actor. You can listen to some of her songs and read about some of her musicals at collegeboundthemusical.com. In her alternate life, under a slightly different name, she designs and analyzes IT systems for security and privacy.



"Not that Good a"

There's a young man I know
Whose brother sold one of the family cars
To fund an extended sojourn
On cocaine

Was the family upset?
Not so much, the young man said
"It wasn't that good a car"

It's been a year since you, Shirley, my mother
Gave up eating and drinking
So as to let the ground swallow you whole

Your escape
From a locked-down rehab facility
From being told what to do
Something you always hated

I was upset
Even though you'd had a long, long slide
Down
Shrinking not just your spine
But also your small treasury of interests

Tinier and tinier
Every year

A year later
I'm still upset
Tears stinging my eyes
Even though you weren't that good a mother

A mother who didn't
Want
To read her daughter's stories
Or hear her songs

A mother who didn't
Acknowledge
That the stories and songs
Even existed

A demented notion
Well before any
Diagnosis of impairment

Oh, Shirley!
(That's what I called you)
You asked me (repeatedly)
In your later years
Whether you were a good mother

There have been worse
Far worse

But really
You weren't that good a mother
And the only one I had

— Marlena Merrin

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

I talked with artist Thea Paneth, of Somerville Open Studios, about the upcoming event that happens on May 1 and 2 of 2021. Open Studios has brought art to the streets of Somerville for over 20 years, and they continue to keep on keeping on, during these challenging times.

Doug Holder: Can you talk a bit about your involvement with Somerville Open Studios?

Thea Paneth: I've been involved with SOS since the beginning. Over the years I've done almost every job! Currently I manage the traditional media publicity.

The great thing about Somerville Open Studios is that the artists and some volunteers who love art come together to organize the event each year. We don't hire an event planner, and while the Somerville Arts Council is always helpful in many ways, we are a separate organization and do our own organizing, unlike some other open studios events.

We are part of the community here in Somerville.

DH: If you had to give a mission statement for Somerville Open Studios, what would that be?

TP: Somerville Open Studios (SOS) is a non-profit organization formed for the purpose of producing an annual open studio and related events in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Through its programming, SOS gives access to the work of visual artists living and working in the city of Somerville. We provide opportunities to view art made within the community; to interact with local artists; and to have access to artists' working spaces. Our goal is to broaden the public's exposure to, and appreciation of, finished works of art as well as the art-making process. This exposure both educates the community and raises awareness of the diverse artistic experience available in Somerville.

Somerville Open Studios is managed by a Board of Directors comprised of participating artists. An Open Studios executive committee is formed each year to organize the event. This committee is assisted by many dedicated volunteers.

DH: This year's event will have a virtual component and a live component. Can you tell us a bit about this?

TP: The virtual event will be from noon to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday May 1 and Sunday May 2 with artists participating at different times

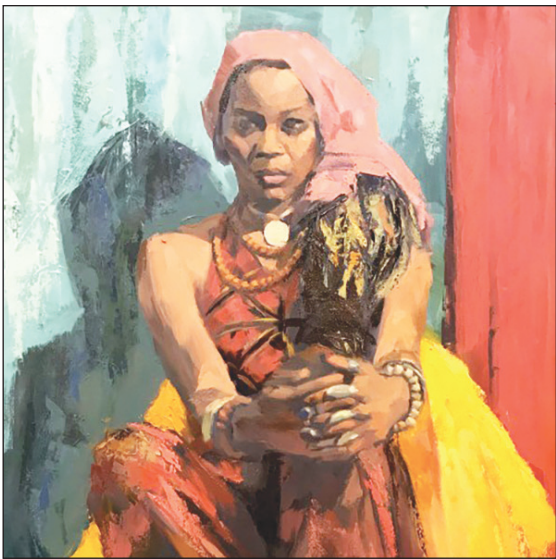
An outdoor event is planned for Saturday, May 1 – rain date, Sunday May 2 – with a number of artists and artists with home studios may be open during the weekend, all this info is on the map at the website for visitors.

The SOS website <http://somervilleopenstudios.org> is updated with all the information and it is the best place to preview artists that the public might be interested in at Exhibits of SOS Artists:

Inside-Out at 1 Davis Square (CVS windows), Somerville now through May 16, 2021

Bow Market at 1 Bow Market Way (Union Square), Somerville through June 27, 2021

Powderhouse Pop-Up Gallery at 862 Broadway, Somerville, check website for dates.



From the Boston Figurative Art Center.

DH: Looking at your list of artists, I see that I have interviewed a number of them over the years. For instance, poet Anna M. Warrock, a noted poet, has an exhibition of her bead jewelry; Stan Eichner, a fine nature photographer, is going to present; The Mudflat Studios, that bastion of pottery, will be exhibiting; Tori Weston, a well-known writer who has a number of fine drawings to display, among many others.

TP: We don't promote any particular artists ourselves, what I can do is help by directing attention to the website of all participating artists who create a profile with their recent works and assure all readers that you will find it worthwhile to peruse this site, you will surely find artists that are interesting to you!

DH: How has Open Studios evolved over the years?

TP: Somerville Open Studios is more than 23 years old, this is the twenty-third event! The organizing committee evolves and changes and the event also changes, for example, there was interest a few years back to hold a fashion show. It was easily incorporated into the overall event. It's been inspiring to see artists jump in and join the fashion show with all kinds of amazing wearable art projects! If a group has an idea and we can incorporate it, it is likely to happen, as long as there is a group of people with the energy to make it happen. Other times, things get dropped, we used to have a film fest associated with SOS, but that seems to have fallen off. It all depends on the people involved and what they want to make happen.

DH: Why should "we" attend?

TP: SOS weekend is the best weekend of the year. One of my visitors said that to me a couple of years ago and I totally agree! If we have good weather, what could be better than walking around the 'ville visiting artists and art exhibits with stops at the great cafes and restaurants around town to refuel? I can't imagine a better, more fun day in Somerville! I truly, deeply hope we are able to hold the full city-wide event next year!

For more information go to <http://www.somerville-openstudios.org>.

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