



When Donna met Helen page 5



Giggles for the good of Rotary page 8



Somerville School Street **High School** Station/Path Entrance Community Path **GLX Gilman Square Station Conceptual Design - For Discussion** Bicycle Storage Purposes Only Subject to Change Alatak fabilat but th Munning Station entrance Medford Street **GLX Gilman Square Station Conceptual Design – For Discussion Purpose Only | Subject to Change** 

Somerville residents were recently provided with an overview of the current status and future plans of the GLX project.

### By Eesha Pendharkar

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) held a public meeting in Somerville on Wednesday of last week to brief attendees about the Green Line Extension (GLX) project. The team responsible for the Green Line Extension provided an update about the overall schedule and the most forthcoming plans. Attendees voiced concerns during the meeting about pre-construction activities and design and execution transparency.

GLX project manager John Dalton summarized the general plans including 7 planned stations on both branches of the extended Green Line, building of a vehicle maintenance facility, and construction of a multi-use community path, and procurement of 24 new green line vehicles. Dalton said that the pilot vehicle arrived in Boston two weeks before the meeting.

"Design and pre-construction work is underway," said GLX Constructors representative Clyde Joseph. "Construction Continued on page 4

## From 'Pussycat' to Olivia Newton-John: Juliana Hatfield lightens the mood

### By Blake Maddux

Whether it has been collaborations with Nada Surf's Matthew Caws in Minor Alps and Paul Westerberg in The I Don't Cares, a reunion with her eponymous trio, or the recording of solo albums, Juliana Hatfield has never lacked an outlet for her ceaseless productivity in the most recent of her three-decade long career.

Last April, in the wake of Donald Trump's assumption of the presidency, Hatfield unveiled *Pussycat*, a trenchant collection that included songs such as *When You're a Star*, *Short-Fingered Man*, and *Kellyanne*.

This coming April 13, American Laundromat



The noble pursuit of Easter Eggs pages 12–13 Records will release Juliana Hatfield Sings Olivia Newton-John, on which Hatfield offers her interpretations of jaunty pop songs like A Little More Love, Physical, and Xanadu.

"It's like a 180-degree turn," Hatfield, contrasting her most recent albums, recently told *The Somerville Times*."It's like a *Continued on page* 7

Juliana Hatfield will be previewing selections from her upcoming release covering songs made popular by Olivia Newton-John at ONCE Ballroom on Friday, April 6.

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This Thursday evening, April 5, the Somerville Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours is being held at Midi-Ci The Neapolitan Pizza Company from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. No cover, free appetizers, excellent networking, business card drawing and cash bar. Sponsored this month by the East Cambridge Savings Bank and hosted by Dana Iacopucci of Cubby Oil & Energy. RSVP with name and affiliation for you and your guest to smackey@somervillechamber.org.

### \*\*\*\*\*

Make your voice heard on the proposed new tax City Hall wants to put into effect. Make sure that the Board of Aldermen and the **Curtatone administration** hears from you at the public hearing on the 1% tax on selling your home here in Somerville tonight, Wednesday, April 4, 6:00 p.m., at City Hall. We hear that this new Board of Aldermen just might find out that they will have awakened some who might disagree with them going for another tax grab. It seems like all the city can do since Joe Curtatone has been elected is not only raise your taxes but find even new ways to tax us, now including if you want to sell your home. The new Board leans very heavily to the left and they want as much money as they can grab from the residents. Show up for the public hearing and let your voices be heard, either way. But we have a suggestion if what the Board wants to do is to help middle income families stay: they can ask the state for more Section 8 housing grants. We think it's too late to save the middle incomers here in Somerville. Soon it will be two different classes of residents, the very poor and the very rich. Again, the middle income population will run from the city because of all the taxes that keep pounding the residents. The City of Cambridge City Council was proposing the same 1% tax on home sales that could also have been 2%, but the Cambridge property owners showed up at public hearings and made their voices heard and the Council voted the proposal down. Maybe the same thing will happen here in Somerville. Again, we think that no longer can voices go silent. Show the administration and the left leaning Board who it is they work for. It's called a transfer tax. Remember, once they vote on a tax affirmatively they Continued on page 11



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### TheSomervilleTimes.com **Comments of the Week**

### **Response to:** A sketch of community need

### DatGruntled says:

In the long run, the only way to keep housing cost under control is to find a way to make rental properties less lucrative.

Rent control is now a thing of the past, so what are we left with?

As long as owners can carve up units and add more bedrooms, families will be pushed out, because how can two working parents, never mind a single one, pay as much as three to five working individuals who are willing to room together.

The idea that we need more multi bedroom units is a joke as families can't afford them. They go to four friends who are just out of school and all working.

Filling Assembly with SROs or Studios would have been better as far as filling the needs most residents seem concerned about.

### Matt C says:

Just some thoughts... Stephanie, I have met you, and I like you - I appreciate your passion and how engaged you are in the community and talking to all sorts of people entertaining all sorts of ideas. While I struggled with many of the principals outlined above I am glad you take the time to communicate them to people. I would happy have any of this conversation with you in person. I would suggest for the future hyperlinking to your data in context. Expecting me to dig for it is unreasonable. -M

### MarketMan says:

Matt: I agree with some of your feedback, but I'm shocked by your shock of \$170-210k income to live in Somerville. Have you seen housing prices recently? How much income do you think a family of 4 needs to afford a \$500-800k mortgage?

### Neighbor says:

Market man. A 500k mortgage is about 2.3k/month 3.9%. If you make 100k your take home including 5% savings claiming two deductions is about 6.2k /month after taxes.

I think it's possible to make these numbers work. You're not vacationing in Bali or diving new a new car. But it's very possible. Now, the hard part to get this house is saving the 100k for the down payment while paying >2k/m in rent.

### MarketMan says:

Neighbor: Yes, the numbers you presented work but you are leaving out other details such as real estate taxes. Also, I said for a family of 4, not a single person or couple with no kids. With kids, it becomes challenging due to child care and other costs. Remember that child care for a single child can cost as much as the 500k mortgage on a monthly basis.

### Jim says:

For the average younger couple w/ kids, tack on a student loan payment of several hundred to maybe 1k/mo and daycare expenses of ~ 1.7k/mo/child and then try to save for a down payment while paying rent. Sisyphus had an easier time pushing the rock uphill.

### Matt C says:

Its all about the choices people make and we need to step up and call out BS like needing to make 200k/yr to move to Somerville. I agree that its not easy, and yes, the majority of my peers don't have the capital or income to get into Somerville, and this change has happened rapidly (in the last 10 years). I am all for smart, transit focused growth that benefits everyone but we will not grow our way out of this. We need a regional plan, and I am happy to see our city be leaders in a coordinated action that improves access to quality, affordable housing. I'm not keen on seeing Somerville be a 4sq mile pioneer in the region where we can't even target the benefits at people who are already part of the community.

#### thesomervilletimes

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### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

### Dear Board of Aldermen,

We are concerned about the proposed transfer tax and the debate taking place around it. Much of the discussion taking place among elected officials seems to start from the conclusion that the tax is a good idea, focusing on the political considerations around how to pass it. There are many good-sounding ideas for what could be done with new tax revenue, but proponents are painting an overly optimistic picture of a future with this tax while dismissing real and substantial concerns about it. Some have even implied that anyone who questions the tax is against supporting those in need, and that maximizing revenue for affordable housing is more important than minimizing hardship on residents.

This is wrong and is a flawed way to approach policy. We urge you to move past the rhetoric and objectively evaluate the full range of considerations surrounding the tax, including the following:

• This tax will cause real hardships. For the average Somerville household, the tax would be between \$5,000 - \$20,000. This could equal at least one month's earnings, and in many cases it would be much more than that. The tax will come out of their life savings that may otherwise be used to support family members or pay for healthcare, education, retirement, or their new home. Those who think this tax is not a big deal because it is "only" 1-2% of a properties sale price are out of touch with the financial reality for most Somerville households.

+ This tax is a barrier to homeownership and would discourage families from settling here. Overwhelmingly, the trend has been that young people move to Somerville and then leave when they have kids and want to purchase a home. A transfer tax has the potential to make this dynamic even worse by making it more costly to become a homeowner. It will encourage some to choose to settle in neighboring towns and cities which have similar housing costs but would not have a transfer tax, undermining the goal of attracting and retaining long term residents and families, which is one of the goals being used to justify the tax.

With the recent rapid appreciation in property values, some say the tax could be easily absorbed by homeowners. But with the cost of property already high, anyone choosing to purchase a home today faces a future with limited potential for appreciation. For an investor or wealthy individual a 1-2% tax may not be significant, but it will be a real consideration for middle class families making the biggest financial decision of their lives. While they may hope to spend the rest of their lives here, they could also be forced to move to take care of a family member or to change jobs; the prospect of being on the hook for tens of thousands of dollars if this were to happen would give anyone real pause. A transfer tax could also inflate property prices by reducing supply of homes on the market. If imposed on sellers, it will create an incentive to rent a property instead of selling in order to avoid paying the tax.

• A transfer tax by itself will help no one. A tax can generate revenue but will not help a single person on its own. Its ability to help Somerville residents depends on how the revenue would be spent. Any new tax, but especially one of this magnitude, should be justified by a detailed plan for how the revenue it generates is going to be used.

• There is no real plan for what to do with the tax revenue. There has been a lot of broad speculation about new housing programs that could be created with revenue from the tax but no firm plans. It is not right to ask Somerville residents to accept this tax without first evaluating the complete range of long term needs in our City and putting in place a plan to accomplish the goals being used to justify it. Proposing a broad new tax should be a last resort, not a first step.

When Somerville voters approved a property tax override to fund the new high school, it was based on a specific proposal and detailed financing plan that allowed people to evaluate whether the additional tax had merit. A prerequisite of any new tax should be an implementation plan, otherwise there is no way to evaluate whether a new tax is justified.

Advocates have said that this tax would be targeted towards helping Somerville residents including preventing displacement, but without a plan and new programs revenue would likely go to fund affordable housing programs which are also open to non-residents. Revenue generated from Somerville residents should go towards helping other Somerville residents in need, not subsidizing the housing of those from other cities and towns. • Housing is a regional issue that needs regional solutions - Somerville cannot bear the burden for regional housing affordability issues on its own. Instead of imposing a new tax unilaterally on those who live within Somerville's 4 square miles, Mayor Curtatone should work with the Metro Mayors Coalition to make sure any new transfer tax is shared by all within Greater Boston's 1,422 square miles.

• We need a broader public debate about spending on affordable housing. Funding dedicated to the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund has already dramatically increased in recent years.

The fund distributed \$2.7 million in its first 20 years, but over the next few years is set to receive more than \$20 million from linkage payments and from the deal between the City, SCC and FRIT to reduce on-site affordable housing in Assembly Row. The Community Preservation Act is also delivering more than \$1 million annually to the fund.

There has been little public debate about how this money is being spent, and we are now told that a transfer tax is the only way to provide targeted assistance to city workers and teachers, create homeownership opportunities, mitigate displacement, and accomplish a host of other goals. The public first deserves a chance for more input on how existing funding is being spent and deserves to know why these goals are not being accomplished with current funding.

During campaign season, many candidates promoted the idea of a transfer tax targeted at "speculators and house flippers". But the transfer tax as currently proposed is clearly going far beyond this. A more limited transfer tax could target "speculators and house flippers" by applying only to properties sold within a five-year period that have not received a residential exemption, which would likely have enjoyed broad public support. This would take regular homeowners out of its crosshairs, whose only fault is having decided to invest in their community by owning their home.

Regardless of how much this is debated, a transfer tax requires approval of a home rule petition by the state legislature to be implemented. The ongoing debate over the tax has the potential to waste an enormous amount of time and create real divisiveness in our community with little prospect of ever actually being implemented. We urge you to let the current transfer tax proposal die and focus on the hard work of addressing the many pressing issues facing Somerville, including actual housing programs and policies that would help Somerville residents.



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Thank you for your consideration,

Tim and Shu Talun Somerville

### **Real estate transfer fee meeting**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Legislative Matters on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at 6:00 PM, in the Aldermanic Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the Order of Alderman Mark Niedergang, Chairman of the Committee, for public input on #204954, a proposed real estate transfer fee.

Go to www.somervillema.gov/transferfee for more information on the proposal.



## One broken window and 65 pills

Police officers were dispatched to a Wallace St. location last Sunday on reports of a possibly drunk male banging on a resident's door.

Upon arrival, the officers reportedly saw a male known to them as Dylan Shallow walking down Wallace St, one house down from residence in question.

An officer stopped Shallow and asked him if he was knocking on the door. Shallow reportedly replied that he had been drinking and he thought it was his friend's house.

The officers then spotted another male coming down the street towards them. An officer approached the man, who told him he was the one who called the police and that he had observed Shallow going in and out of several driveways.

The witness reportedly said

that he saw Shallow go into a certain driveway on Wallace St. and then he heard the sound of glass breaking.

The witness further stated that he then saw Shallow exit the driveway and continue down the street.

An officer went into the driveway and observed a large rock lying in front of a broken basement window. Police were able to wake up the resident of the home, who confirmed to them that the window was not broken prior to the events of that night.

According to police, it did not appear that Shallow had attempted to enter the basement. Police informed Shallow that

he was being placed under arrest for destruction of property for the breaking of the window.

Shallow was handcuffed and upon searching him, he was

found to be in possession of a small bag of marijuana and a bag of pills.

When the pills were removed from his person, Shallow reportedly said that they were his mother's Xanax pills. Shallow was informed that without a prescription he would also be charged with possession of a class E substance. A count of the pills revealed there to be 65 in total.



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### Arrests:

Ryan Melo, of 20 Fellsway West, March 26, 11:03 a.m., arrested at Fellsway West on warrant charges of possession of a class A drug and conspiracy to violate drug law.

Jonathan Machado, of 350

Revere Beach Blvd., Revere, March 27, 5:52 p.m., arrested at Moreland St. on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon. Evan Carpenito, of 4 Woodridge Rd., Maynard, March

28, 11:46 p.m., arrested at College Ave. on charges of witness intimidation and armed robbery.

Jason Escobar, of 11 Lewis St., Everett, March 29, 8:55 p.m., arrested at Broadway on charges of failure to stop or yield, carrying a firearm without a license, carrying a firearm

with ammunition, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Jason Ferguson, of 39 Boylston St., Boston, March 30, 5:36 p.m., arrested at Middlesex Ave. on charges of shoplifting by concealing merchandise, removal of theft prevention device, and receiving stolen property under \$250.

Dylan Shallow, of 55 Ossipee, April 1, 1:01 a.m., arrested at Wallace St. on charges of possession of a class E drug and destruction of property.



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### Public updated on GLX project progress CONT. FROM PG 1

that this spring, pre-construc- ence at the GLX meetings contion activities, site clearing and surveys would be conducted. Joseph showed the audience a rendering of the Gilman Square station adjacent to Somerville High School. "We were able to include all of the additive options requested in the proposal stage, including elevators, canopies and easier access," he said to applause from the audience. Terry McCarthy, deputy program manager, introduced the community working group, consisting of 14 people from Somerville, Medford and Cambridge. McCarthy explained that the group acted as liaisons to residents, working to keeping them informed.

starts early summer." He added who said he was a regular pres- erator Martin Nee responded, "It's too early to tell what the

**Green Line Extension project overview** 

Representative Mike Connolly

gratulated the team for acting upon past concerns and coming up with design and communication solutions to them.

"The two words I have on my mind now are rodents and tress," Connolly said. Rodent control without using glue traps and the environmental deficits caused by felling trees to build the community path were two major concerns echoed by many residents. Johnson addressed these issues by saying that the team was partnering with arborists to oversee tree removal, and that glue traps were just another tool in the toolbox.

Some citizens also had concerns about the exact route of community path. Meeting modfinal design of the community path will be."

A few attendees said that they would like better communication and specific dates for pre-construction plans from GLX moving forward. Gilman square resident Sarah McClellan said that there were still a lot of specifics that were not discussed in the meeting, especially exact construction schedules that directly affected business owners and residents.

"I understand that not everything can be taken care of, and not everyone's concerns can be addressed but I hope that they're going to be transparent and as clear as possible from now on," she said.

### as described in presentations

- 1) Seven light-rail GLX stations
  - Relocated Lechmere Station
  - + 5 on Medford Branch
  - + 1 on Union Square Branch

2) Conforms with all environmental commitments and committed scope elements

3) Includes a multiuse community path (Lowell Street to Cambridge Crossing/Lechmere)

4) Procurement of 24 Green Line light rail vehicles

5) Vehicle Maintenance Facility (VMF)

6) Any future Green Line service to Route 16 and/or Porter Square is not precluded



### When Donna met Helen; a caregiver match success story

### By Nathan Lamb

Recently divorced- with two young children - Donna was going through a difficult period when she decided to become a caregiver with Adult Family Care (AFC) in 1998.

Looking back on that decision to open her home to Helen, a woman with developmental disabilities, Donna said it's been life-changing for both of them. Nearly 20 years later, they're still going strong.

"I've been very lucky," said Donna. "Helen helped me get through a difficult part of my life. I love her."

Donna and Helen were a caregiver match through AFC, which helps people receive the care they need at home through caregiver training and compensation. The program primarily helps family caregivers succeed, but it also matches compassionate people who can open their homes with others who want to live in the community.

In this case, Helen wanted to relocate to a home setting. Her siblings connect-

ed with Donna, who owns a 5-bedroom home and had worked with people with developmental disabilities for years. Helen's family then contacted AFC, which followed up with a rigorous screening process to ensure they were a good match.

As a caregiver through AFC, Donna receives a monthly stipend, as well as support and training from a social worker and nurse. AFC director Jeanne Leyden said they check in monthly, to confirm things are going well and offer support.

"This work can be overwhelming at times!" said Leyden. "So the support and stability from our social workers and nurses has been a tremendous help to Donna over the years."

AFC is a MassHealth-funded program, which is provided at no cost to eligible participants. In order to receive help through AFC, the person receiving care must require assistance with daily living activities, such as ambulating, dressing or eating.

In addition to a safe and comfortable living situation, Donna provides care

Donna and Helen met as a caregiver match through the Adult Family Care program in 1998 and they've been together ever since.

and mentoring, and has worked to help Helen feel a part of the family; Helen knows that she always has an open invitation to whatever Donna is doing. But they also maintain their separate lives and routines. Donna has a job in addition to providing care for Helen, and Helen has attended the same adult day health program for years.

Leyden said it takes a lot of work to make a match sustainable, and she credited Donna and Helen for continually putting in the effort.

"When you have a match, there are always certain challenges," said Leyden. "Donna and Helen are always willing to work out any issues."

Donna confirmed that caring for someone in your own home isn't always easy, and described AFC as a crucial part of a support system that includes Helen's sisters.

"She has an amazing family," said Donna. "Her sisters are great advocates. And AFC is always there if I need them."

Adult Family Care is a non-profit program at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services that supports in-home caregivers across the Greater Boston, North Shore, and Merrimack Valley areas. For more information, visit adultfamilycare. org or call 617-628-2601.

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## Beacon Hill Roll Call

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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: Beacon Hill Roll Call records local senators' votes on roll calls from the week of March 26-30. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABILI-TY (H 2368)

Senate 34-0, approved an amendment allowing the state to award funds for projects involving energy efficiency, sustainability, climate adaptation and resiliency.

Amendment supporters said the bill will create lots of new and rehabilitated housing but the Senate should make sure the housing is well built, energy efficient and will last a long time.

"Massachusetts has been the most energy efficient state in the nation for the past seven years, and it's only right that our low- and moderate-income residents take part in this success as well," said Sen. Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton). "Making it easier for folks of all income levels to embrace new technologies in their homes makes sense not only for our environment, but our economy as well. We need to do all we can to help our housing stock take advantage of a clean energy future."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

### ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

ELECTION-RELATED- COMMITTEE BILLS SENT TO STUDY - The Election Laws Committee shipped several bills off to a "study committee." Most measures that are sent to a study committee are never actually studied and are essentially defeated. Here are some of the bills that were sent to a study committee and will likely be refiled by its sponsors in 2019:

MUST SHOW ID TO VOTE (H 372) - Requires all voters to show identification at their polling places in order to be allowed to vote. Acceptable forms of ID would include any current state or federal government-issued photo ID including a Massachusetts state driver's license or photo identification card and a United States passport. The measure also provides a free or reduced cost photo ID card to indigent voters who cannot afford to pay for one.

### IMPROVE ACCESS TO POLLING LOCATIONS

(H 352) - Creates a Polling Location Accessibility
 Fund, to promote improved involvement in the electoral process by physically-challenged and elderly individuals. The program would help cities and towns pay all or part of any costs to improve the physical condition of polling locations that may have obstacles to access for elderly and physically-challenged voters.
 ALLOW VOTER REGISTRATION ON ELEC-TION DAY (H 3554) - Allows Massachusetts voters to register and vote on Election Day. Under current law, voters must be registered at least 20 days before an elec-

days before it.

FALSE ADS (H 365) – Provides that any candidate or Political Action Committee that lies in a political ad forfeit all their campaign funds to the Massachusetts Treasury.

NONE OF THE ABOVE (H 2106) – Requires each ballot in Massachusetts elections to include an option to vote for "None of the Above."

**QUOTABLE QUOTES** - Special Facebook Edition

Here are the state's six constitutional officers and the number of followers each one has on Facebook as of noon on March 29, 2018. Some of these officials have more than one Facebook account. The number of followers for each person represents the total number of followers in all his or her accounts.

145,713 — Gov. Charlie Baker 82,082 — Attorney General Maura Healey 71,474 — Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito 4,363 — Treasurer Deb Goldberg 661 — Auditor Suzanne Bump

628 — Sec. of State Bill Galvin

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION? Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of March 26-30, the House met for a total of two hours and 53 minutes while the Senate met for a total of five hours

**\$1.8 BILLION HOUSING PACKAGE (S 2368)** Senate 34-0, approved a bill funding many programs to

construct, preserve and rehabilitate affordable housing in the Bay State. The package is a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds.

Provisions include \$600 million for the renovation, remodeling, repair and improvement of existing public housing; \$400 million for the development and preservation of affordable and mixed income housing for households whose incomes are less than 110 per cent of the national median income; \$60 million for disabled persons and seniors to renovate and modify their homes; \$65 million for housing for individuals with mental illness or intellectual disabilities; \$100 million for the development of alternative forms of rental and ownership housing, including housing for people in recovery from substance use disorder; and \$45 million for grants to non-profits for early education and out-of-school time program facilities that serve low income children.

Tax incentives include extending the Community Investment Tax Credit from December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2025 for taxpayers who make cash contributions to community partners investing in economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income house-holds; increasing from \$50 million to \$55 million the total annual amount that the state is allowed to give as a Massachusetts historic rehabilitation tax credit; providing an additional \$5 million per year to the Massachusetts low-income housing tax credit program for projects that preserve and improve existing state or federally assisted housing; and increasing the credit to clean up contaminated sites known as brownfields.

"Our affordable housing shortage has placed the commonwealth's financial health at risk," said Sen. Joseph Boncore (D-Winthrop), chair of the Committee on Housing. "The housing bond bill is the first step toward ensuring Massachusetts develops enough affordable housing to support both its workforce and its economic future."

"The housing bond bill we passed today reflects our commitment to providing housing that is affordable to the vital and diverse workforce that is fueling the commonwealth's economic growth," said Sen. John Keenan (D-Quincy).

"The high cost of housing across Massachusetts strains family incomes and local businesses," said Senate Ways and Means chair Sen. Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "These investments are an important step to create more affordable, livable communities, support a growing, healthy economy and expand access to quality housing for everyone."

The House approved a different version of the package on January 24. A House-Senate conference committee will likely work out a compromise bill.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$1.8 million housing package.)

Thurs. March 29

REPEAL EARLY VOTING LAW (H 362) – Repeals the Early Voting Law that allows voters to cast Fri. March 30 their ballots before Election Day. The system was first used in the November 8, 2016 election. Early voting begins 10 business days before an election and ends two Bob Katzen we House 11:00 a.m. to 1:44 p.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 1:48 p.m.

> No House session No Senate session

No House session No Senate session

House 11:01 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Senate 11:10 a.m. to 1:37 p.m.

> No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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tion in order to be eligible to vote in it.

### APRIL 4, 2018 7 The Somerville Times From 'Pussycat' to Olivia Newton-John: Juliana Hatfield lightens the mood CONT. FROM PG 1

pendulum swing to the complete other side."

Adding to the abundance of new Juliana Hatfield product currently on the market was last month's reissuance of her solo debut, Hey Babe, on vinyl in recognition of its 25th anniversary.

Hatfield's website indicates that she will not be touring behind Juliana Hatfield Sings Olivia Newton-John. However, the Maine-born and Duxbury-raised musician will treat her fellow Boston-area denizens to a performance at ONCE Ballroom this Friday.

She spoke by phone to The Somerville Times in advance of the show.

The Somerville Times: Have you always wanted to record an album of Olivia Newton-John songs?

Juliana Hatfield: No, I never really thought about it until just before I did it. It was just an idea that popped into my head last year at some point, and I acted on it immediately. I've always loved Olivia Newton-John and I'm very familiar with a lot of her material, so it made sense for me to do this album.

TST: Do you think that anything specific caused it to occur to you when it did?

JH: I think the timing was significant just because I've been feeling like it's kind of a dark, confusing time in history, and I think that I wanted to do something that was positive instead of negative. And I think of her music as being a very positive force in the world. So something positive and kind of escapist. I wanted to escape into something beautiful.

TST: Is there very much overlap between your fans and those of Newton-John?

JH: I'm learning that there is a little bit of overlap. Once people heard that I was doing this, a lot of people were expressing their excitement. People that I never knew were Olivia Newton-John fans are kind of coming out of the woodwork to tell me that they love Olivia Newton-John, fans of mine.

TST: Were all of the songs on Pussycat written after Donald Trump won the 2016 election? JH: I seem to remember that the election had not happened yet. I think I was writing about it during the run-up to the election. I might have started writing it before the election and then kept working on it after.

**TST:** Were you expecting him to win?

JH: I don't know what I was expecting. I mean, it was shocking when he won. I mean, I was shocked, but at the same time I wasn't surprised, because at that point he had gotten away with so much and people were letting him off the hook for so much horrible speech and behavior that I knew that it was a possibility. But it was kind of shocking that so many people would let that happen.

TST: Would you have released the album even if he had not been elected?

JH: That's a good question, because it seems like maybe it would not have been as relevant if he had not won. But he's still a pig. It's not just a record about him. It was inspired by current events, but not just one man, you know. It's about sexism, misogyny, harassment. It's kind of an all-around protest record against hypocrisy, abuse, sexism, [expletive deleted], all kind of stuff.

TST: Was it a #MeToo movement album?

JH: When I wrote it, that hashtag didn't even exist. For me it was just my own disgust, anger, confusion, disappointment. It was just me trying to fight back against things that I thought were destructive and unjust attitudes. I've always made protest music. Usually I throw a couple of protest songs on every album, but this was just more of them. It was a whole album of them. But it wasn't that different than anything I've ever done. It was just a little bit more topical, I guess. I wasn't trying to jump on any bandwagon. It was just a very visceral, personal reaction to what was going on at the time.

TST: Given how his presidency is going, is it possible that you will write a sequel to *Pussycat*?

JH: I wouldn't want to. That's why I did this Olivia Newton-John record. I want to get away from that negativity. I don't even want to listen to Pussycat. It was really just like vomiting. I got it out of my system and now I just want to move on, forward toward something nicer like Olivia Newton-John. Something more positive, less ugly. I hope that I won't have to make another record like that anytime soon. I don't want to go back and revisit that ugliness, no.

TST: That said, will you still be performing songs from the album at ONCE?

JH: Yeah, we're going to do a few songs that are not so current events-focused. Like the song Wonder Why, which is more about nostalgia. And maybe a song or two that are less about current events but are just more vague or personal.

TST: Will you be highlighting Sings Olivia Newton-John and Hey Babe in equal quantities?

JH: There will be more Olivia Newton-John songs than Hey Babe songs. We'll probably just do two or three from Hey Babe, and then a bunch from the Olivia Newton-John record.

TST: It has been 10 years since When I Grow Up: A Memoir was published. Do you plan to write another book?

JH: Well, I'm always writing, and I think at some point I'll try to get another book together, but nothing is really taking shape yet as a book. But I'm definitely writing all the time. I'll make another book at some point, but it's not really happening yet. I've actually written a couple books since my last book came out, but I didn't want to publish them.

Juliana Hatfield with Abbie Barrett. Friday, April 6. Doors at 8, show at 9. ONCE Ballroom, 156 Highland Ave., Somerville.

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Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
24 Dane Avenue	7 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	146	\$549,900	\$610,000
62 Fairfax Street	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Colonial	31	\$569,900	\$550,000
22 Wellington Ave	8 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Other	110	\$599,999	\$550,000
5 Webster St	8 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	103	\$729,000	\$600,000
35 Corinthian Rd	7 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Other	8	\$999,000	\$1,210,52
Recent Condominiums Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:				
Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price

375 Canal Street 0:711	4 room, 2 bed, 2f Uh bath Mid-Rise	33	\$884,000	\$949,000
48 Morrison Avenue U:48	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath 2/3 Family	3	\$999,000	\$1,010,000
5-7 Pearson Road U:2	7 room, 4 bed, 3f 1h bath 2/3 Family	58	\$1,029,000	\$1,010,000
60 Clyde St U:8	6 room, 2 bed, 3f 1h bath Townhouse	9	\$1,050,000	\$1,126,000
375 Canal Street U:1117	5 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Mid-Rise	41	\$1,099,900	\$1,099,900
30 Teele Ave U:2	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath 2/3 Family	188	\$1,149,900	\$1,145,000
375 Canal Street U:PH117	5 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Mid-Rise	65	\$1,225,600	\$1,225,600
375 Canal Street U:1010	5 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Mid-Rise	54	\$1,307,900	\$1,352,900

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

Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
28-28A Sterling St	2 unit, 10 total room, 4 total bedroom 2 Family	23	\$940,000	\$1,000,000
127 Hillsdale	2 unit, 13 total room, 4 total bedroom 2 Family	5	\$989,000	\$1,001,000
7 Webster St	2 unit, 11 total room, 3 total bedroom 2 Family	103	\$999,000	\$900,000
91 Pearson Rd	2 unit, 11 total room, 7 total bedroom 2 Family	93	\$1,185,000	\$1,100,000
32 Ivaloo St	2 unit, 10 total room, 6 total bedroom 2 Family	9	\$1,195,000	\$1,280,000
94 Conwell Ave	3 unit, 15 total room, 6 total bedroom 3 Family	46	\$1,300,000	\$1,150,000
17-19 Wheeler St	3 unit, 17 total room, 11 total bedroom 3 Family	38	\$1,495,000	\$1,595,000

### Somerville Rotary Giggles Comedy Night

Last week, a full room at Giggles Comedy Club in Saugus hosted a wonderful night of fun with lots of professional comedians, many prizes offered and a bunch of money raised by the club.

The funds raised by the club go to many local Somerville charities, especially to the Somerville Rotary Scholarship Foundation. The local Rotary club here in Somerville meets every Tuesday at the Holiday Inn on Washington Street. If you are interested in joining and being part of a worldwide organization that has been active in Somerville for many years, comprised of many local businesses and charities, go online at www.somervillerotary.org for further information on how you can be part of a great group of local businesses and charities. — Donald Norton











### The Somerville Seafarers By Bob (Monty) Doherty

In 1614, British Captain John Smith, Admiral of New England, was the first European explorer to map the Northeast coast including what is now our city. At that time, the area now known as Somerville was an island.



She had salt water in her veins. Her tidal borders were made up of what was later to be known as the Miller's River, Tannery Brook, the Alewife Brook, the Mystic River and the Charles River. Smith was considered the godfather of English names. He named the River Charles in honor of His Royal Highness, Charles, Prince of Wales. In 1629 Charlestown was named for the same man, after he was crowned Charles I, King of England. The Indian name for the Charles River was Massachusetts, which means blue hills.

Somerville's nautical history and its environs go way back. It is believed that Vikings explored the Charles and Mystic shores from the year 1000 to 1004, five hundred years before Columbus.

• In 1621, Pilgrim Captain Myles Standish was the first European to sail up the coast from Plymouth



and to explore what is now Somerville.

• In 1630, John Winthrop on his flagship Arbella was the Admiral of the 11ship fleet carrying approximately 1,000 Puritans to Charlestown.

On July 4, 1631, Governor Winthrop launched the first ship built in Massachusetts and christened her "The Blessing of the Bay." Its dock was near today's entrance to the now Assembly Row. His son John Jr., later Governor of Connecticut, sailed the Blessing as a trader and afterwards armed it against pirates as the first Coast Guard ship.
In 1639, as part of Charlestown, Somerville was honorably purchased from the Pawtucket Indians for twenty-one coats, three bushels of corn, and nineteen fathoms of wampum, or 114' of oyster-shell bead currency. The American Revolution produced Continued on page 20



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### ONCE Somerville presents Musicians Against Gun Violence



Some of Boston's finest musicians are getting together to raise money for Everytown for Gun Safety on Thursday, April 12, at ONCE Ballroom. Featured performers include Today Junior, Bruvs, The Furniture, Dutch Tulips, C8music.

State Rep. Mike Connolly, who serves parts of Somerville and Cambridge in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, will provide a brief update on local efforts to make our state's gun laws even stronger, including last year's adoption of legislation to ban bump stocks, and this year's push to adopt legislation that would allow for Extreme Risk Protective Orders, which would allow family members and law enforcement to petition to temporarily remove guns from a dangerous individual.

All proceeds will be donated to their efforts to end gun violence and build safer communities.

Tickets \$10. Doors: 7:00 p.m. / Show: 8:00 p.m.

### Patriot's Day Ceremonies on April 16

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 1 Alderman Matt Mc-Laughlin, and the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission invite all residents and community members to the city's annual Patriot's Day celebration, to be held at Foss Park on Monday, April 16, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Co-sponsored by the Preservation Commission, Historic Somerville, the Somerville Museum, and East Somerville Main Streets, the day's events will include Colonial games, light refreshments, live music by the Somerville High School band, and a visit from "Paul Revere" on horseback on his historic ride from Boston to Lexington through Somerville.

The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. with music, games and refreshments, followed by a brief speaking program and poetry

## Somerville divestment home rule petition arrives at MA Legislature

The city of Somerville has submitted a home rule petition to the state legislature to fight back against regulatory opposition that blocked it from divesting the city's pension system from the fossil fuel industry.

This move comes after the Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the home rule petition at its February 22 meeting with a 10-0 vote. The petition was then submitted to the Massachusetts House of Representatives under docket #HD.4700, and Rep. Denise Provost has taken the lead on the bill.

"Institutional investors all over the world are taking action to prevent the loss of assets sunk into obsolete fossil fuels," Provost said. "Our laws now require reducing carbon emissions, and new technologies are making renewable energy less expensive. It's time to embrace the clean future of energy and free ourselves from its dirty past."

Provost originally suggested that the Somerville Retirement Board draft a home rule petition as a response to opposition from the state Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, which claimed that the board could not restrict investments from fossil fuels without a state law directing it to do so. At a Somerville Finance Committee meeting,



### PERAC's conclusions.

"After a thorough evaluation of PERAC's opinion with the Retirement Board's outside counsel, we concluded that PERAC's legal interpretation was unfounded," Nosnik told the committee. Nosnik added that the home rule petition would allow the Somerville retirement system to divest in accordance with its fiduciary obligation.

"Somerville's city government and community at large are fully supportive of divestment," FFS member Sean Donaghy said. "The city has done its due diligence on this topic and found that divestment is the best way to protect Somerville pensioners from losses due to a dirty, collapsing industry."

Divestment from the fossil fuel industry has been a priority

calling for divestment since his 2014 inaugural address, and the Board of Aldermen passed a nonbinding resolution in support of divestment that year after Fossil Free Somerville led a successful petition drive. The SRB has researched the issue since then, interviewing experts on climate change, new technology and their effects on the fossil fuel industry.

— Fossil Free Somerville



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read by Somerville youth, and the arrival of Paul Revere. Children will receive a Colonial Times Passport and are invited to participate in various Colonial-era games such as hoop rolling, whirly gigs, and Jacob's ladder. Children who complete each of the six stations will receive a small prize. Volunteers will be dressed in traditional Colonial attire and attendees are encouraged to do the same.

### Volunteers still needed for Colonial Fair

Event organizers are seeking adults and high school students to help publicize and execute the Colonial Fair. Volunteers are needed in several areas, including: community outreach, working with youth to create drawings about the event and our community in Colonial times, youths' reading short poems on the podium, and helping with the Colonial Passports. All volunteers will be asked to dress in Colonial era clothing.

For more information or to volunteer, contact SHPC Director Brandon Wilson at 617-625-6600 ext. 2532, or Historic Somerville at admin@historicsomerville.org, or 917-572-8780. SRB member Alex Nosnik not- in Somerville for years. Mayed that the SRB disagreed with or Joseph Curtatone has been

### Annual Somerville rabies vaccine clinic

The City of Somerville Health & Human Services Department, and Somerville Animal Control will host the city's annual rabies clinic on Saturday, April 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., in the yard at the Department of Public Works, 1 Franey Rd. Enter gate to the right of the main building and follow signs for the Rabies Clinic. Vaccinations and on-site licenses for dogs will be available at the clinic. The vaccine is \$10, and a dog license is \$20 for spayed and neutered dogs with proof and \$30 for all other dogs. Prior vaccination records are not required and all vaccinations will be valid for one year. All Somerville residents are required to license their dogs and a current rabies vaccine is required to obtain a license. Dogs must be leashed and cats must be in carriers in order to access the clinic. For more info please contact the Health & Human Services Department at 617-625-6600 ext. 4300.

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## COMMENTARY

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

## Data Download with Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone



By Joseph A. Curtatone

Taking a closer look at notable city data – and interesting numbers.

254 residential accounts participating in Somerville Community Choice Electricity with 100 percent renewable energy: In July 2017, the City launched the Somerville Community Choice Electricity bulk buying program with a goal of increasing access to renewable energy and stabilizing energy costs. Of the more than 21,000 participating accounts, 254 residential accounts - along with 19 small commercial and industrial accounts - have chosen the option of 100 percent green, renewable energy.

and the more than 22,000 accounts with the standard 5 percent green energy designation, Somerville customers have avoided approximately 3 million pounds of carbon emissions in just eight months.

If you've been hesitant to make the switch to 100 percent green energy option due to cost, it's lower than you may think. Using available data since the program's installation (and making projections for the remaining few months), it's estimated that the 100 percent green energy option will end up costing residential accounts only an additional nearly \$50 for the entire first year of the program. Residential accounts with the standard 5 percent green energy product are anticipated to save about \$65 for the first year.

For more information on Somerville Community Choice Electricity, visit http://bit.ly/ SomervilleCEEE or join the City and Mass Energy for the Clean Energy at Home Event on April 23, during Sustaina-Thanks to those participants ville Week. Event information is available at http://bit.ly/ GreenEnergyHome.

Up to 6 minutes of saved time

on peak-hour bus trips: The re-

gion's MBTA bus routes handle

approximately 325,000 board-

ings each day (more than the

Red Line and Orange Line rail

systems at 280,000 and 200,000

daily boardings, respectively).

We know people depend on

buses to get to work, the grocery

store, health care appointments,

and a variety of other things, so

working with the T to increase

efficiency and reliability is an

important component of our

Last year we took a big step

toward that goal when Prospect

Street was converted back to

two-way traffic and the City's

first priority bus lane was creat-

ed shortly after on the block be-

tween Somerville Avenue and

Webster Avenue. By designat-

ing a bus lane on a busy street,

we're helping provide better run

times for mass transit (early

data from MBTA staff indi-

cated up to six minutes being

shaved off of some trips), giving

our residents better choices to

mobility goals.

get around and helping reduce the City's carbon footprint at the same time.

191 potholes filled since March 27: It's no secret that after cold, snowy winters when roads have to be continuously salted and plowed, they're not in the best shape (and that's putting it lightly). That's why in addition to responding to 311 requests, our DPW crews have been out proactively identifying pothole work that needs to be done. As of Tuesday, April 3, 191 internally generated work orders for pothole repairs have been completed in just the past seven days. Again, that's just the number of potholes filled proactively. That doesn't take into account the others that have been diligently addressed by DPW in response to requests registered via 311. So keep those reports coming, and help us ensure our roads are ready for the warmer weather.

Nearly 100 high school student participants the 2017 Mayor's Summer Jobs Program: The goal of the Summer Jobs Program is to provide opportunities for youths in Somerville to work within the community while not in school during the summer months so that they can gain work experience and knowledge about the public and private sectors. In summer 2017, nearly 100 high school students participated in the program and gained essential employment experience. Applications are now available for this year's Summer Jobs Program and are due no later than April 20, 2018. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/ MayorsSummerJobs.

Data-based decision making is at the core of how the City of Somerville develops policy and sets priorities. Every day we check the latest 311 stats, and throughout the week we meet for in-depth review of departmental data and city trends. The monthly Data Download column shares some of the data we've been reviewing recently, as well as interesting updates. To see more Somerville Data, visit the online Somerville Data Farm at www.somervillema. gov/datafarm.

## Paying for the beloved community



By William C. Shelton

I can't count the number of people that I care about who have been priced out of our city. I suppose I could tell you some of their stories to add "human interest" to this column. But if you've been here even a few years, you can provide your own list. We should add a suffix to the City's promotional tag line: "Somerville is a great place to live, work, play, and raise a family" if you can afford it. Many people who have spent their lives here can't, or are barely hanging on. As the Cub Scout den mother, neighborhood peacemaker, church deacon, little league coach, community artist, school volunteer, and local merchant who gave credit to trusted neighbors are displaced, we are all diminished.

In this housing market, working families can't outbid childless affluent professionals or adult millennials who share rent expenses. So the proportion of children in our population declined for two decades, while that of millennials is now more than double the nation's.

The Centers for Disease Control reports that when people are displaced from their communities, they "typically have shorter life expectancy; higher cancer rates; more birth defects; greater infant mortality; and higher incidence of asthma, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease."

living in rent-controlled apartments bidding up Somerville rents. The trends were implicit in the data.

Those same data made clear and make clear – that no amount of new housing production that our small city can realistically accommodate will equilibrate supply and demand at a lower price point. Housing market forces are regional.

Comprehensive data analysis provided the criteria by which those of us on Mayor Capuano's 1998 Affordable Housing Task Force tested our assumptions and evaluated our policy proposals. We included realtors, landlords, tenants, housing advocates, a developer, a banker, and a first-term alderman named Bill White. We deliberated for a year. The truth that emerged was that, over the long term, the only way to keep Somerville a place for people of all income levels would be to permanently remove some portion of our housing stock from the inflationary spiral. Even if we were to buy and hold homes at then-current market prices, they would become "affordable"

as the market continued its vertigo-inducing escalation.

This, of course, would require substantial capital. So I proposed a transfer tax and an anti-speculation tax as sources, and the Task Force adopted these proposals. But we issued our report a month after Mike Capuano was elected to Congress, and the transfer tax was never acted on.

Chris Mirakian at the Warren Group tells me that over the twenty years since the Task Force began its work, the median sale price of a Somerville home has increased by 402%, from \$184,000 in 1997 to \$740,000 last year. While breathtaking, these figures still understate the true amount of inflation, because so many homes have been condominiumized into smaller units. If a 1% transfer tax had been implemented in 1998, by now we would have obtained about \$105 million in revenues. Leveraged with debt and state and federal subsidies, this would have invested over \$1 billion in keeping Somerville housing permanently affordable. Failing to seize this opportunity then, is no excuse for failing to do so now. On Wednesday evening the Board of Aldermen will hold a public hearing on instituting a transfer tax, a measure that already exists in all but thirteen states, and in three Massachusetts jurisdictions. Live-free-orcheap New Hampshire imposes a 1.5% transfer tax.

I understand why those who advocate for it prefer to use the more euphemistic term, "transfer fee." But let's be honest. Fees are usually fixed amounts, while taxes vary with what is being taxed. Taxes are what we agree to pay for things that benefit us all, but which none of us can obtain by ourselves. For me, holding on to Somerville's soul fits that description. I also understand why so many homeowners feel ground down by continually increasing property taxes, seemingly arbitrary water surcharges, and a Community Preservation Act surcharge that gets spent on things different from what was presented when it was on the ballot. What I do not understand is why some people whose property values have been appreciating at ten percent Continued on page 21

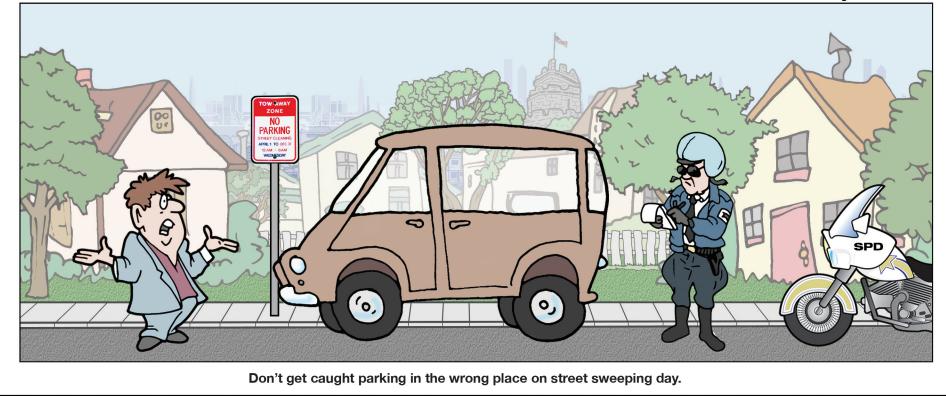
We who remain here are harmed as well. We may have trendy new restaurants, if we can afford them. But we are increasingly surrounded by more homogenous and transient strangers. And as the fabric of community unravels, we are lonelier and less secure.

I was no prophet to anticipate this trend thirty years ago when rents began escalating. Nor to predict in a 1996 article that the vote to end rent control in Boston, Brookline, and Cambridge would result in homebuyers who had accumulated savings by

## COMMENTARY

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

### **Illustrated by Jim Clark**



## **Our View Of The Times**

A sure fact of life in our city is that our cars just aren't allowed to stay put. Whether due to snow emergencies in the winter or street cleaning and maintenance in the balmier seasons, we are so often called upon to do the city's bidding when it comes to getting our vehicles – and our wallets – out of harm's way.

It's a relatively small price to pay, how-

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

will never do away with it. And aren't you upset that the sales tax was increased so that now the city of Somerville gets a part of the sales tax directly? Ask yourself how much more in taxes you want to pay.

\*\*\*\*\* Last week we mentioned that because the Board subcommittee didn't do their job on appointments with the police cadets instead of confirming them to the full Board in time, they stooped to asking political questions, so the Board had to call an emergency meeting. Well, we heard that meeting was supposed to be at 12 noon because certain members couldn't attend in the evening because of Passover. Someone must have realized that Good Friday is also a Christian holiday and is supposed to be observed from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. It's one of the most celebrated of Christian holidays. So they postponed the meeting to 4:00 p.m. and guess what? Five of the alderman didn't show up. Were some of them on that subcommittee? Who sets the time frame? If the meeting had to be done prior to Monday so that the cadets could start their training, why not have the meeting Saturday? Since they are now getting paid 41K a year for a part time job, why not avoid offending anyever, when one considers the alternatives. We wouldn't want our residential and commercial areas to be littered with road refuse. Let's not even think what that might do to help boost rodent populations in our already challenged neighborhoods. It's just a matter of keeping up with the schedule and being there to move the vehicles when we need to. The

city will do their part.

So, just as a reminder for those whose memories may be a bit fuzzy on the official procedures, or for those who may be new to the area, here is how it goes, according to the city:

"On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. Community members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the street sweeping schedule in areas where they park."

Not so hard, really, and an easy way to contribute to the beauty and health of our beloved city.

one and have the meeting on Saturday?

By the way, here we go again. Newstalk has been a part of the paper since its beginning. It's basically a rumor column, as well as sharing information on events here in the city. It doesn't have anyone's name on it. Many individuals throughout the city and at various city departments send us information and some of it is just rumors, so we print it. Every once in a while new people move into the city and read our paper but can't figure out what a rumor column is. First of all, we are only a community paper. We only print local Somerville items. We have always encouraged residents to write letters or op-ed pieces sharing their opinions, and we also hear tips on what is happening around the city. Any citizen of Somerville who wants to write a piece or send us a tip on something that is going on can call in or write. We would be happy to look at it. We have several people who write pieces with different opinions and we once again always encourage anyone else to do so. We don't judge! \*\*\*\*\* Another Giggles Comedy Night is coming up, this time for the Masonic Lodge on Highland Avenue. Specifically, the Building Association is having its 6th

Annual Giggles Comedy Night at Giggles on Rte. 1 in Saugus on Wednesday April 25 at 6:30 p.m. Lots of laughs with 3-4 professional comedians, over 23 gift baskets specially made for the event, and a great time for all. Only \$25 per ticket for all the pizza you can eat and all the laughs you can stand. It's not a tax deductible night but a funable night. Tickets at the door or email Donald Norton at donaldfnorton@gmail.com.

\*\*\*\*

a year, can't it? But our sources confirm that the mayor is activity looking.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speaking of city unions, how come we can buy so many new vehicles, create huge pay raises for city department heads and appointees, and many of the city unions have still been working for several years without a contract. So why are the new aldermen not demanding that the city negotiate in good faith a new contract for the many hard working city employees that deserve it? What surprises us is the fact that several unions backed different candidates for office and it's now April and we don't see any pressure from the on the mayor to get something done. Maybe the Board is being offered a new pay raise. It's terrible that the Board is not asking questions on why there has been no pay raise.

So, we had 1 or 2 inches of snow – maybe a dusting – on the first day of the month. No snow emergency called day before? No banning of cars day before? And no school cancelling the day before? What's this city coming to? Or maybe **DPW Commissioner Stan Koty** was on another vacation cruise. Doesn't matter, he can't use the two-way in the DPW office as he's barred from it by the union.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

A rumor we're hearing is that **Mayor Joe Curtatone** is calling around various businesses or institutions looking for jobs. It's no surprise, he has told different people he's not going to run for re-election. We also hear several names of some that might be thinking about running for mayor, leaving some wards here open for local races. Of course, a lot can happen in

#### \*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday **Sue Pye**, of the famous Pye family from Somerville. A great lady and we hope she has a wonderful birthday. Happy birthday to **Tyler Hart**, of the famous Harts. Happily married and we know he must be celebrating a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Pat Scrima**, a great guy and former resident who used to *Continued on page 17* 

# Community Easter Egg Hunt

A free and simple Easter egg hunt took place at the Connexion Community Easter Egg Hunt in East Somerville's Chuckie Harris Park last Saturday afternoon, where there was tons of fun and plenty of eggs.





















### APRIL 4, 2018 13

### The Somerville Times —

















Photos by Claudia Ferro





## **SPORTS**

## **Somerville Girls Basketball celebration**



Somerville Pride and Somerville High Girls Basketball celebrated their season with a banquet at the City Club Tuesday night. T-shirts and awards were given out. Senior Varsity girls were presented with special gifts of a watch and a workout suit from their coach Sheila Freitas-Haley. – Photos by Bobbie Toner



mixture, hodgepodge

1. What is the only US state capital that doesn't have a McDonald's?

2. What musician is sometimes referred to as the fifth Beatle?

3. What is the main ingredient in the Indian dish Biryani?

4. Where is Prague located?

France race?

7. What is another name for a Myosotis flowering plant?

8. Who was the author of the novel Doctor Zhivago?

9. When was YouTube created?

10. What does POD stand for in the publishing business?



5. What part of the cannabis plant has the highest concentration of THC?

6. Who wears the yellow jersey in the Tour de

11. What is sushi usually wrapped in?

12. Which band made the albums *Degüello* and Tejas? Answers on page 17

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

### www.somervillema.com www.medfordma.com





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### **LEGAL NOTICES**

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



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

**MICHAEL F. GLAVIN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE

**OF PUBLIC HEARING** 

A public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the Zoning Board of Appeals on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA

\*\*\* Cases are sometimes postponed to later dates. To sign up for emails to inform you of a change of hearing date for a project near you, please use the URL associated with your address of interest that appears at the end of this legal notification.\*\*\*

76 School Street (ZBA 2018-34): Applicant/Owner, Summer Living, LLC, seeks a Special Permit under SZO §7.3 and §7.11.2.b to perform a special residential conversation to convert a portion (approximately 1,593 square feet) of the previously approved (ZBA 2016-55) office space into a third dwelling unit. RA Zone. Ward 3.

11 Preston Road (ZBA 2018-22): Applicant/Owner, K&K Development, Inc., seeks a Special Permit under Section §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming structure with alterations that include constructing dormers, finishing the basement, and enclosing an existing side first level porch. RB Zone. Ward 2.

26 Glendale Avenue (ZBA 2018-37): Applicant, Matthew Patrick, and Owners, Joseph L. Cyr and Patricia M. Cyr, seek a Special Permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming structure by constructing a dormer and finishing a portion of the basement. RB Zone. Ward 7.

42 East Albion Street (ZBA 2018-24): Applicant/Owner, Anthony Griseto, seeks a Special Permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming structure by enlarging the roof and extending it over the front porch and constructing two dormers. RA Zone. Ward 4.

76 School St: http://eepurl.com/dqftaD

11 Preston Rd: http://eepurl.com/dqftvn

26 Glendale Ave.: http://eepurl.com/dqfupX

42 East Albion St.: http://eepurl.com/dqfuE5

Submittals may be viewed in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30pm www.somervillema.gov/planningandzoning.

As cases may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending a meeting. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Dawn Pereira, Administrative Assistant As published in The Somerville Times on 4/4/18 & 4/11/18

4/4/18 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE** PURCHASING DEPARTMENT IFB 18-49

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

**Prospect Hill Park Construction** 



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

**MICHAEL F. GLAVIN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 6:40 p.m. at the Visiting Nurses Association, 259 Lowell Street, in the Community Room on the 3rd Floor to hold public hearings on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16-7-28.

### **DETERMINATIONS OF APPROPRIATENESS**

HPC 2018.015 – 9-11 Campbell Park Applicant: Eugene Mirman & Kathryn Westfall-Tharp Alter front entry; add dormers, alter rear windows and doors.

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

HPC 2018.017 – 10 Oak Street Applicant: 10 Oak Street, LLC HPC 2018.022 – 161 Broadway

Applicant: Somerville Realty Ventures, LLC HPC 2018.024 – 14 Pearl Street

Applicant: Adragna Dedic, LLC

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

HPC 2018.011 - 24 Dane Avenue

Applicant: 24 Dane Ave, LLC

HPC 2018.012 - 217 Somerville Avenue Applicant: George Moussallem

HPC 2018.013 - 108 Gilman Street Applicant: Bonnie McCarthy

All applications summarized above are available to the public on the third floor of City Hall at 93 Highland Avenue (Monday - Wednesday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.; and Friday 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.). Cases may be continued to a later date; therefore, please check the agenda on the City website or call (617) 625-6600 x2500 to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-noticed but will be listed on the agenda, posted 48 hours in advance. Interested persons may provide comments to the Historic Preservation Commission at the public hearing, by e-mail to historic@ somervillema.gov, by fax to (617) 625-0722, or by mail addressed to the Historic Preservation Commission, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 received before close of business on the day of the meeting.

3/28/18, 4/4/18 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts** The Trial Court **Middlesex Probate and Family Court** 208 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA. 02141 (617) 768- 5800

**CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT** 

Docket No. MI16P4974EA **MIDDLESEX** Division

Estate of:

Mary T. Barry

Date of Death: 06/03/2016 A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by

David W Barry Reading MA of

requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** 



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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE **OF PUBLIC HEARING** 

A public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the Planning Board on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

\*\*\* Cases are sometimes postponed to later dates. To sign up for emails to inform you of a change of hearing date for a project near you, please use the url associated with your address of interest that appears at the end of this legal notification.\*\*\*

374 Somerville Avenue (PB 2017-16): Applicant and Owner, 374 Somerville Ave, LLC, seeks Design and Site Plan Review (DSPR) approval under SZO §6.1.22 to construct an addition on top of and in the rear of the existing structure. Retail space will remain and a live/work unit will be added to the first floor, the second floor will have three dwelling units, and a fifth dwelling unit will occupy the third and fourth floor. A Special Permit under SZO §9.13 is also being sought for parking relief. CCD-55 zone. Ward 2. \*\*\*\*\*

374 Somerville Avenue: http://eepurl.com/di5oqT

Submittals may be viewed in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30 pm; and Fri, 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Staff reports, plans and Board decisions, when completed, are posted online at https:// www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning.

As cases may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov

Attest: Kevin Prior, Chairman

As published in The Somerville Times on 4/4/18 & 4/11/18

4/4/18 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts** The Trial Court **Middlesex Probate and Family Court** 208 Cambridge Street Cambridge, MA. 02141 (617) 768- 5800

**CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT** 

MIDDLESEX Division

Docket No. MI16P4133EA

OR

Estate of: Vincent G. Moy

Date of Death: 07/25/2016

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by

Walter E. Lander of Portland

requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

#### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/07/2018.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file

Bid packages for may be obtained online at https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing or may be picked up at the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, First Floor, Somerville, MA 02143 beginning on Wednesday April 4th, 2018

Sealed bids will be received until Wednesday April 18th at 11:00am. Late bids will not be considered. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Michael Richards at 617-625-6600 x 3403, or email mrichards@somervillema.gov for information and the bid package.

> Michael Richards **Assistant Purchasing Director**

4/4/18 The Somerville Times

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the Atrium, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:00PM on the application of Somerville Urban Axes Boston LLC d/b/a Urban Axes, 2 Union Sq., Somerville, MA for an All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License, Common Victualler License, Entertainment by Devices and Open before Noon on Sunday Licenses.

> For the Commission Andrew Upton John J. McKenna

Attest: Lori Batzek Administrative Assistant

4/4/18 The Somerville Times

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/26/2018.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you

Witness, Hon. Edward F. Donnelly, Jr., First Justice of this Court.

Tara E. De Cristofaro Register of Probate

4/4/18 The Somerville Times

Date: March 26, 2018

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the Atrium, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:00PM on the application of Somerville Dakzen Corp d/b/a Dakzen, 195 Elm St., Somerville, MA for an Entertainment by Devices License.

> For the Commission Andrew Upton John J. McKenna

Attest: Lori Batzek **Administrative Assistant** 

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you

Witness, Hon. Edward F. Donnelly, Jr., First Justice of this Court.

Tara E. De Cristofaro **Register of Probate** 

Date: March 28, 2018 4/4/18 The Somerville Times

A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the Atrium, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:00PM on the application of Somerville the Jungle Club LLC, 66 Union Sq. Plaza, Somerville, MA for an All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License, Common Victualler License and Entertainment by Devices, Performers and Patrons.

> For the Commission Andrew Upton John J. McKenna

Attest: Lori Batzek **Administrative Assistant** 

4/4/18 The Somerville Times

4/4/18 The Somerville Times

#### LEGAL NOTICES Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the Atrium, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:00PM on the application of Somerville Rincon Mexicano, 99 Broadway, Somerville, MA for an Alteration of Premises, Outdoor Patio. For the Commission Andrew Upton John J. McKenna CITY OF SOMERVILLE **CITY OF SOMERVILLE** Attest: Lori Batzek **OFFICE OF CITY CLERK OFFICE OF CITY CLERK** Administrative Assistant **BOARD OF ALDERMEN BOARD OF ALDERMEN** 4/4/18 The Somerville Times There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Com-There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen's Committee on Licenses and Permits on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 6:00 PM, mittee on Licenses and Permits on Tuesday, April 17, 2018, at 6:00 PM, A hearing to all persons interested will be given by the Somerville in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avin the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Ave-Licensing Commission on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the Atrium, Tufts enue, on the petition of Metropolitan Pipe and Supply Company for nue, on the petition of Internap Corporation for a Flammables License Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at 6:00PM on a Flammables License at 30 Inner Belt Road for the storage of 1,215 at 50 Inner Belt Road for the storage of 9,600 gallons of flammables, the application of Somerville the Poke for Me LLC d/b/a Pokeworks, gallons of flammables, with operations Monday through Friday, 6:30 with operations 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. 261 Elm St., Somerville, MA for an All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License AM to 4:30 PM. and Sunday Hours. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD. For the Commission JOHN J. LONG JOHN J. LONG Andrew Upton **CITY CLERK** John J. McKenna **CITY CLERK** 4/4/18 The Somerville Times Attest: Lori Batzek 4/4/18 The Somerville Times **Administrative Assistant** 4/4/18 The Somerville Times TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISMENTS From on page 14 Ms. Cam's IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, Nellie's Wild Flowers When you want something unique CONTACT US No **BY 12 PM MONDAY** JOYCE MCKENZIE 72 Holland Street PH: 617.666.4010 Answers 617.625.9453 FAX: 617.628.0422 a 1. Montpelier, Vermont 7. Forget-me-nots 2. Pete Best Somerville High School College and Career Day 8. Boris Pasternak 3. Rice 9. In 2005, by three for-Somerville High School hosts the 2018 College and Career Day event on Saturday, April 7th, 9:45am to 4. The Czech Republic mer PayPal employees

1:00pm, offering information about college and career planning for every grade level. This event is for students in grades 9-12 and their families. Guests will have an opportunity to hear advice from admissions counselors, find out about job training programs, learn how to pay for college and how to get scholarships, get tips on finding the right college for you, hear about a range of popular career fields, and more. Snacks, interpreters, and childcare will be provided. Families are encouraged to attend.

Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/collegecareerday for more details including the day's agenda.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 11

5. The buds of the female

6. The rider who is the

overall leader of the race

after each of the 20 stages

varietv

10. Print on demand

11. Edible seaweed

12. ZZ Top

work down at **ISD**. We hope he has a great birthday. Finally, to **Joe Cassaro Sr.**, we hope he has a great birthday as well. To all the others we might have missed, we wish you a happy birthday.

\*\*\*\*\*\*

On Friday, April 20, the Dave Martini and Nick Peters Scholarship Fund is having A Night with Jim Plunkett. The event is being held at the Dante Club, 5 Dante Terrace off Craigie Street here in Somerville. It's a great time and lots of fun. Tickets are \$40, and include well-known local singer Jim Plunkett, plus a 50/50 auction, lots of raffles, and a buffet dinner. For tickets, please contact: Janet7345@yahoo.com or you can purchase tickets at the Eventbrite page, www.eventbrite.com/e/dave-nicvkscholarship-fundraiser-with-jim-plunkett-tickes-44716590526 py birthday to **Rosalee Zammuto**, who is also well-known and still lives here in the city. Rosalee is noted for the wonderful pictures she takes for the **Somer***ville News Weekly* (not to be confused with us). We wish Rosalee a very nice birthday. Thank you, **Bob**, for letting us know! We think we are covered now. If we missed anyone, let us know.

We heard that some of the new **Board** of Alderman members were yelling and screaming at various city department heads recently at their subcommittee meetings and being very disrespectful. Some of us remember that in the days of Mayor Capuano if that happened to any of his department heads he wouldn't allow them to appear before any of the BOA's subcommittee meeting to be mistreated and abused. We guess Mayor Joe isn't aware of this or doesn't care so much, since he is allowing it. We thought that the job of the aldermen was to accept or reject the mayor's appointments, accept or reject the budget and some other minor items. We won't mention names of those aldermen in question, but we hear that the subcommittee meetings are taped. We also heard that some alderman might want to check and make sure the microphones and cameras in the committee room are not on, just saying! We heard some very special conversations happening after the meetings are adjourned, and maybe some alderman might not want to have their words slip out.

### \*\*\*\*\*\*

Our own congressman and former mayor Mike Capuano held a fundraiser recently in Boston and well over 200 people attended. We hear he raised over \$100K for this one event. Congressman Mike is a good guy, but he has competition this year. He will be looking to wake up that army of his that he had back when he first ran. Hundreds of volunteers. We here at The Times didn't get an invitation, but we had spies there and a few of them and gave us an accurate account. Note: Mayor Joe Curtatone wasn't present! \*\*\*\*\* The Somerville Garden Club presents Gardening to Attract Native Bees, April

pollinator gardens in Somerville and Medford in part to support urban bees and to raise awareness about their importance. All Somerville Garden Club meetings are free and open to the public. Meetings are held at the **Tufts Administration Building**, (**TAB**), 167 Holland Street, second floor, wheelchair accessible. Parking is available, and the building is a ten-minute walk from the Davis Square MBTA stop. For additional information please visit www.somervillegardenclub.org.

#### \*\*\*\*\*

Last week it was pointed out that we missed a couple of birthdays, and we mentioned a couple of names. Well, again we forgot a couple and were reminded that two others celebrated their birthdays. Happy birthday to **Ricky Lewis**, celebrating a week or so ago. Ricky, who currently lives in Florida, was originally from East Somerville. He reads our paper all the time. A big hap-

### Gardening to Attract Native Bees, April 11, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Nick Dorian, a first-year Ph.D. student in the Crone Lab at Tufts University, is an ecologist interested in bee biology and conservation, plant-pollinator interactions, and modeling the population dynamics and movement of insects. Nick also has a passion for gardening and has planted

El Sistema Somerville, the daily after school music program for Somerville Public Schools, will be having a Gala Fundraiser Concert on Friday, April 13, 8:00 p.m., at the East Somerville Community School auditorium. The goal for this fundraiser is to raise money to support the costs of music instrument repairs at El Sistema. Their total instrument repair costs will exceed \$4,000 this year, and these donations will help us continue to provide high quality instruments to students in need who could not otherwise afford them. \$10 per person. Students and siblings free. Tickets available from the El Sistema office, ESCS Room 151, Monday - Friday between 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

### •••• VILLENS ON THE TOWN ••••

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH Wednesday|April 4

**Central Library** Wilson reading tutoring 9 a.m.-11 a.m.|79 Highland Ave

East Branch Library Preschool Storytime! 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

**Central Library** Somerville Positive Forces 1 p.m.-3 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

#### Thursday April 5

Central Library Preschool: Storytime for 3 to 5 year olds 10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m. TELL (Teen Library Leaders) Meeting 3 p.m.- 5 p.m./79 Highland Ave

West Branch Library Preschool Storytime 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|40 College Ave Lego Club! 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.|40 College Ave

**Friday** | **April 6 Central Library** Preschool: Storytime for 2 year olds 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m.|79 Highland Ave

**East Branch Library** Fun Friday Sing-Along with The Music Man! 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|115 Broadway

Saturday | April 7 Central Library Yoga for Kids with Janine 3 p.m.-4 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Monday | April 9 Central Library Sing Along w/ Matt 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|79 Highland Ave

West Branch Library Preschool Storytime 6p.m.-6:30 p.m.|40 College Ave

### Tuesday|April 10

Central Library Homeschool Reading Group for Ages 14-16 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Somerville High School Anime Club 2:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.]79 Highland Ave

West Branch Library Puppet Performance 11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|40 College Ave

### Wednesday April 11

**Central Library** Wilson reading tutoring 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Teen Game Day 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

East Branch Library PreK Puppet Story Time! 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|115 Broadway

MUSIC ARTS Wednesday April 4 Sally O'Brien's Bar

Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131 ONCE Lounge & Ballroom Casey Neill & The Norway Rats Golden Oak 8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. Verdegree|8 p.m. 14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory Wiretap Wednesday Open Stage 7 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

### Thursday|April 5

Sally O'Brien's BYO Bluegrass with Dave Rizzuti grassy Thursdays|7:30 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Baerd, Strangers By Accident |7 p.m. Scattershots|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge 345 Somerville Ave

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar** 65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's Krush Faktory(Dub Down) 10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road Broccoli Samurai (Jam) 8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom Après Le Déluge: The Buddy Cole Monologues|7:15 p.m. Scott Thompson Das Mortal|8:15 p.m. Andre Obin 156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. Alison Keslow Trio 9 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory Boston New Music Initiative: Dramatic Tensions 8 p.m./Performance Hall AniMAtic Boston 7 p.m./Café |191 Highland Ave

**The Rockwell** Derek Gripper 7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

#### Friday|April 6

Sally O'Brien's Busted Jug |6 p.m. Sand Machine, Face Guitars, Crazy Hearse \$10 cover |9 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

**The Burren** Backroom Series with Tom Bianchi The Dunwells with Special Guest Aaron Shadwell|7 p.m. Fightin Fridays |10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge 345 Somerville Ave

Orleans Restaurant and Bar DJ starting at 10 p.m. 65 Holland St|617-591-2100 The Rockwell

Sh!t-Faced Shakespeare: The Taming of the Shrew|7 p.m. The Oregon Fail: You Have Died of Comedy!|9:30 p.m. 255 Elm St

Arts at the Armory 2018 Sibling Connections Gala 6:30 p.m.|Performance Hall Journeys in Sound Presents: Loïca & Mestizados : Contemporary Songs w/ South American Roots 8 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave Saturday| April 7

Sally O'Brien's Stan Martin Band|6 p.m. Tad Overbaugh & Late Arrivals, Murphy & The Mess, The Ramp Ups \$10 cover|9 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589 The Burren

Jeff Jam Family Dance Party!|4 p.m. Carla Ryder & the Blue Ribbons|7 p.m.

Cover Up!|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896 P.A.'s Lounge

345 Somerville Ave

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar** Karaoke 65 Holland St

Bull McCabe's

Monkeys with Crayons 10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Casey's Entertainment every Saturday 173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

**Thunder Road** Ghosts Of Jupiter with Special Guests: Matthew Stubbs & The Antiguas 8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom Après Le Déluge: The Buddy Cole Monologues|7:15 p.m. Scott Thompson 156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. Seraphina James 8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory Somerville Homeless Coalition: Under the Roof 6:30 p.m.|Performance Hall Somerville Songwriter Sessions 7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave The Rockwell

Shlt-Faced Shakespeare: The Taming of the Shrew|7 p.m. 255 Elm St

### Sunday April 8

Sally O'Brien's Bar The Natural Wonders 4:30 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Beatles Brunch 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Backroom series with Tom Bianchi|7 p.m.

Carlin Tripp: "The Shape of the Is- 150 Highland

8:30 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. The Promise Is Hope + Three at Home 2 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory Sunday Afternoon Rager of Poetry n' Song 4 p.m.|Café Brew Haha 7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

The Rockwell 7th Annual CARAs 12:30 p.m.|255 Elm St

### Monday April 9

Sally O'Brien's Bar Shawn Carter's Cheapshots Comedy |7 p.m. Marley Monday with The Duppy Conquerors reggae|10 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Back Room: Stump Trivia|8:30 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge 345 Somerville Ave

Bull McCabe's Pub Stump! Team Trivia 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road Anna Rose, Andrea Nardello (Singer Songwriter)

8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave ONCE Lounge & Ballroom Doug MacDonald Band 8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. Board Game Bonanza 6:30 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory Queer Tango 6:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

The Rockwell Smoke And Shadows 8 p.m.|255 Elm St

### Tuesday|April 10

Sally O'Brien's Bar SYM Tuesdays 8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Front Room Jason Anick and the Swingers Swing/ Jazz|8:30 p.m. Open Mic Night with Aaron Yang|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896 PA's Lounge

345 Somerville Ave Bull McCabe's Pub The Ghetto People Band 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen First Tuesday of the Month|Spelling Bee Night hosted by Victor and Nicole of Egoart. The fun starts at 10:00p.m.

150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Backroom Series with Brian O'Donovan (of "A Celtic Sojourn" on WGBH)|7:30 p.m. Comedy Night with Arty P.|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**P.A.'s Lounge** 345 Somerville Ave

Orleans Restaurant and Bar 65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's Pub The A-Beez 10 p.m.]366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road Bearly Dead – Wednesday Night Grateful Dead Residency 8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

**Highland Kitchen** 150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom The Moth: True Stories Told Live 8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. Mike and Mike Present: Open Mic 8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory Been Out Here Teen Open Mic 7 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

### CLASSES AND GROUPS Wednesday April 4

**Central Library** Somerville Entrepreneur Meetup 6 p.m.-7 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

### Thursday|April 5

**Central Library** Yoga at the Library 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

West Branch Library Learn English at the Library 6 p.m.-8 p.m.|40 College Ave

East Branch Library Drop In Knitting 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|115 Broadway

First Church Somerville Debtors Anonymous- a 12 Step program for people with problems with money and debt. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|89 College Ave (Upstairs Parlor). For more info call: 781-762-6629

Somerville Winter Farmers Market

9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Arts at the Ar-

Somerville Writers and Poets meet

9 a.m.-12 p.m Au Bon Pain 18-48

Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon

### Saturday|April 7

**Bagel Bards** 

Holland St

mory|191 Highland Ave

weekly to discuss their work

3589

#### The Burren

Backroom Series with Brian O'Donovan (of "A Celtic Sojourn" on WGBH)|7:30 p.m. Dana Lyn and Kyle Sanna with Be Off|7:30 p.m. Comedy Night with Arty P.|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge 345 Somerville Ave

Orleans Restaurant and Bar 65 Holland St|617-591-2100

**Bull McCabe's Pub** The Nephrok Allstar 10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

#### **Thunder Road**

Bearly Dead – Wednesday Night Grateful Dead Residency 8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

**Highland Kitchen** 

Bull McCabe's Ali McGuirk First Fridays 9:30 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Joshua Tree DJ McRiddleton 256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Casey's Entertainment every Friday 173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

#### Thunder Road

Call Of Booty p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

#### ONCE Lounge & Ballroom

Après Le Déluge: The Buddy Cole Monologues|7:15 p.m. Scott Thompson Juliana Hatfield|9 p.m. Abbie Barrett 156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. Florie Namir|8 p.m. 14 Tyler Street land" EP Release, with special guests: Jenee Halstead & Matt Borrello|7:30 p.m. 247 Elm Strootl617,776,6896

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA'S Lounge 345 Somerville Ave

Bull McCabe's Pub Dub Apocalypse 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen

Sunday Brunch Live Country & Bluegrass Sunday Night Live Music 150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Orleans Restaurant and Bar Game Night 65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Thunder Road 379 Somerville Ave

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom Ladies Rock Camp Boston April 2018 Showcase PJ Ryan's

Pub Quiz 10 p.m.|239 Holland St.|617-625-8200

#### Thunder Road

Comedy Storm Hosted By Ben Quick and Alex Giampapa (Comedy) 8 p.m|379 Somerville Ave

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom

Simpsons Trivia|7 p.m. Heavy Metal Tuesday|8 p.m. 156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co Indie Trivia 8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory Artist Residency 101: Finding Your Creative Haven 6:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Wednesday April 11 Sally O'Brien's Bar 7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street Unity Church of God Enter upstairs, meeting is in basement

#### Monday April 9

Sunday April 8

**Family Groups** 

Central Library SMEA E BOARD 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Creative Drama Workshop 4 p.m.-5 p.m. Boston Guitar Orchestra Hosts Open Rehearsal 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club 7 p.m.- 8 p.m.]79 Highland Ave

**East Branch Library** Learn English at the Library 6 p.m.-8 p.m.|115 Broadway

### Tuesday April 10

**Central Library** Learn English at the Library 6 p.m.-8 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

### PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

### SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Welcome to our centers. Everyone 55+ is encouraged to join us for fitness, culture, films, lunch and Bingo. Our centers are open to everyone from Somerville and surrounding communities. Check out our calendar and give a call with any questions or to make a reservation. 617-625-6600 ext. 2300. Stay for lunch and receive free transportation.

### **CENTER LOCATIONS, TIMES & SCHEDULES**

Holland Street Senior Center: located at 167 Holland Street (between Davis Square and Teele Square) Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300

**Cross Street Center:** located at 165 Broadway (East Somerville)

Mondays & Tuesdays - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursdays - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 617-625-6600, Ext. 2335 Fax: 617-625-1414

**Ralph and Jenny Center:** located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn)

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 617- 666-5223

Main Office: located at 167 Holland Street (between Davis Square and Teele Square.) Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300 Fax: 617-625-0688 TTY: 866-808-4851

#### **ONGOING PROGRAMS**

Join the SCOA's email group – The email group is for Somerville Council on Aging Seniors and/or Caregivers who are interested in the latest information on resources, events, programming, etc., in and around the Somerville area. Use the link https://groups.google. com/group/somerville-council-on-aging - If you have any questions or need help joining please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

**Silver Alert Program** – The Somerville Council on Aging with the Somerville Police Department have implemented a program to take a proactive approach towards protecting some of Somerville's most vulnerable citizens who suffer with serious cognitive impairments that put them at risk for wandering and getting lost. The Silver Alert Program is designed to collect specific information about a potential missing person, along with photo identification. This confidential information will be kept on file for immediate use in the event a loved one is reported missing. Please contact the SCOA at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 for additional information or to register.

**Free Groceries Every Month?** – You may be eligible for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program! CSFP is a once a month food distribution for individuals 60 years of age or older. You may be eligible to receive two free bags of food once a month containing healthy shelf stable products. Proof of identity and age are all that is required to apply. Must apply beforehand. Pick up at the Ralph & Jenny Center, 9 New Washington Street on the 4th Thursday of every month unless otherwise specified. For more information or to apply please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 – applications are available at the front desk of our Holland Street Center.

**Conversations of the Heart** – Mondays (see dates

cleverly crafted shadow puppets. Lunch and Bingo following the performance. If you require additional information, have any questions or want to reserve your spot please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**History Through The Beatles** – Thursday, April 19 at our Holland Street Center starting at 12:00 p.m. Fran Hart of the 4EverFab group will be performing acoustic based songs of The Beatles along with a video slide show. Lunch at 11:30 a.m. and Bingo immediately following the performance. If you require additional information, have any questions or want to reserve your spot please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Gatlinburg, TN & Ashville, NC – April 22 – 28 – 7 days – 6 nights \$909 per person double or \$1204 per person single – price includes transportation, lodging, 6 hotel breakfasts and 6 hotel dinners, Biltmore Estates with wine tasting, Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede, Hatfield & McCoy Dinner show, Ripley's Aquarium and so much more. For additional information or to reserve your spot please contact Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Older American's Month Celebration – Tuesday, May 1 – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn located at 30 Washington Street. \$10 – limited seating and transportation. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please contact Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Nutrition Fair – Thursday, May 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. There will be health screening, food demos, healthy eating tips, recipes, giveaways and more. Join us for a healthy lunch and bingo after. RSVP is a must. If you have any questions, require additional information or want to reserve your spot please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Finger Lakes Region** – Monday, May 7th to Friday, May 11th – 5 days and 4 nights - \$989 per person double or \$1389 per person single – includes transportation, lodging, 4 breakfast, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, 1 winery, 2 casinos and so much more. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please contact Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Mother's Day Special Lunch & Bingo** – Monday, May 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. \$5 fee includes lunch, coffee and dessert. Limited seating and transportation. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please contact Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

### LGBTQ EVENTS:

**LBT Women Fit-4-Life** - Fitness Class is Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 P.M. \$10 a month fee - scholarships available & it just might be covered under your insurance. We have available slots and would love to have you. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our Health & Wellness Coordinator, Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2315.

LGBTQ Lunch: Come, relax, enjoy lunch and talk with your peers. Scheduled lunch dates for 2018 are April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 14 and December 12.

### HOLLAND STREET GROUP INFORMATION

**The Moonlighters** – aka Somerville's Swinging Singing Seniors. Mondays, 10 -11 a.m.

**Book Club** – Meets the third Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. t o 11:30 a.m. This group self-facilitates. Group members choose both fiction and non-fiction

weeks. This group is co-facilitated by Natasha Naim and Marina Colonas. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2317.

**Gardening Club** – Meets the second Monday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. and running for an hour most times. Principal Master Gardener, Vilma Sullivan, facilitates this group. A different topic each month ranging from gardening tips & secrets to inexpensive "greenhouses." If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300. This group does not meet in January and February.

**Golden Gals: a.k.a. Women's Group** - Meets the last Tuesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilities this group. A fun, safe, social group to discuss women's issues and growing older. Next date: December 26th - For more information, please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318.

#### **CROSS STREET GROUP INFORMATION**

**English Conversation** – Meets every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday beginning at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator and Sandy Francis, Cross Street Center Volunteer, work together to facilitate this group. No books, no tests, no stress – just a great group of older adults from all over the world who help each other to listen, speak and learn English. Continue conversation throughout a healthy lunch. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Arts & Crafts – Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month starting January 11th - from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join us in a relaxing atmosphere as we learn about a wide range of arts & crafts from weaving to watercolor pencils. Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator facilitates this group. Must call a week in advance if you plan on attending. This is necessary to ensure we have enough material for everyone. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

**Social Service Drop In** – The 3rd Thursday of every month Social Workers, Ashley Speliotis and Natasha Naim will be taking turns and having a Drop-in Social Service hour from 11:00 a.m. to noon at the Cross Street Center. They will be available to address any of your Social Service needs. Stop by or if you need additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335

#### **RALPH & JENNY GROUP INFORMATION**

Knitting Blankets – Every Tuesday & Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Join us as we knit blankets for babies. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Judy at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

### WEEKLY EXERCISE AND NUTRITION CLASS SCHED-ULE (Please cut out and save)

Monday: Keep Moving Walking Club\*\* - 9:15 a.m. (H) / Tai Chi – 11:30 a.m. (H) / Fit-4-Life Group C - 1:00 p.m. (H)

**Tuesday:** Strengthening - 9:15 a.m. - \$3 per class (H) / Fit-4-Life - 11:15 a.m. (C) / Bike Club - 12:15 p.m. (H)

Wednesdays: Fit-4-Life - Group A (exercise) - 8:45 a.m. / Group B (nutrition) - 9 a.m./ Group B (exercise) -10:00 a.m. (H) / Group C (nutrition) - noon (H) / Group C (exercise) - 1:00 p.m. (H) / Zumba 4 All - 5:15 p.m. - \$3/class (H)

below) from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. When you experience a loss; whether it is a loved one, a place of employment or even a change in your life, don't process these feelings along; come join our group where we process difficult emotions together in a safe and welcoming environment. For more information or questions please contact Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317. Refreshments will be served. Future dates: Mar. 19, Apr. 2 and May 7.

**Friendly Caller Program** – Do you know someone who could benefit from a friendly call? Maybe you are feeling isolated and want someone to talk to – or you just want someone to listen. Please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 to sign up for our "Friendly Caller" Program.

Winds for All –Tuesday mornings – 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. \$10 per class – A music immersion class for those who have never played a woodwind instrument. To reserve your spot or for additional info please call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321. Magpie Puppets – Thursday, April 5 at our Holland Street Center starting at 11:15 a.m. Shadow Songs and Stories bring favorite songs and stories to life with titles on a quarterly basis. Books are available on reserve at the Central Branch of the Somerville Library. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional info call 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

**Caregiver Support Group** – Meets the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. Are you caring for a parent, relative, spouse or close friend? Feeling isolated or overwhelmed? You are not alone! Come share your experience and practical support. Open to all and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional info please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2318.

**Current Events Group** – Meets every Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Our Social Worker, Natasha Naim, facilitates this group. Join a group of your peers to discuss current events. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2317.

**De-cluttering support group** - If you have concerns around your clutter, this group may be for you. This closed group meets both in spring and fall for 6-8 Thursdays: Yoga - 9:00 a.m. (H) / Fit-4-Life - 11:15 a.m. (C) / LBT Fit-4-Life, 6:00 p.m. (H)

**Fridays:** Fit-4-Life - Group A - 8:45 a.m. (H) / Fit-4-Life - Group B - 10:00 a.m. (H) /Group A (nutrition) 10:00 a.m. (H)

Adventure Group - Please call for details

\*All Fit-4-Life classes are \$10 per month and require pre-registration

\*\* Keep Moving Walking Club is on hiatus until the Spring

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

We have a Facebook page. Check us out at www.facebook.com/somervilleCOA.

**You can receive our monthly newsletter** that is always filled with useful and important information. For a \$5.00 yearly fee you can receive it via the U.S. Postal service or a free version can be sent electronically. Please contact Connie at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 to sign up.

### Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 8

many maritime names that would touch Somerville. Foremost was General George Washington who, after organizing the Colonial Army here, raised its first flag. He also established Washington's Navy, a fleet of successful Colonial privateers. Paul Revere not only carried out his historic ride through Somerville, coming close to being captured, but he also became a major supplier of copper for American ships. His foundry copper-clad the hull of the U.S.S. Constitution and cast its bell. The bell was shot away while battling the British ship H.M.S. Guerriere. This was the War of 1812 battle that earned the Constitution the nickname, Old Ironsides. It is said that the corner of Somerville Avenue and Bow Street was once called Guerriere Square.

Somerville's Alderman Daniel Stillson was the inventor of the wrench that bears his name. As a sailor on the deck of his ship, he witnessed the famous Civil War battle of the C.S.S. Virginia verses the U.S.S. Monitor, nicknamed the "cheese-box on a raft."

On December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan attacked the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, launching America into World War II.

In 1950, Winter Hills' U.S.S. Baltimore VFW Post 9995 was chartered, and unfortunately was destroyed in a three-alarm fire in 1976. It honored the Quincy-built heavy cruiser, which sailed from her homeport of Boston on Bunker Hill Day, June 17, 1943. This heavy cruiser went on to earn nine Pacific theater Battle Stars in WW II. For over a month in the summer of 1944, she was top-secret host to President Franklin Roosevelt where he, Admiral Chester Nimitz, and General Douglas MacArthur drew up battle plans for the rest of the war.

What seemed a legion of Somerville men and women joined the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines including the city's Mayor John M. Lynch. He resigned to serve in the Navy becoming a Lieutenant Commander. Somerville's 1942 Centennial birthday celebrations were cancelled because all eyes, ears, and hearts were put into the war effort. Some of these "greatest generation" heroes who touched Somerville were:

• Admiral Ralph Christie of Belmont Street was the commander of submarines in The Seventh Fleet. He was the highest-ranking flag officer to engage in actual submarine wartime patrols.

• Admiral Alfred Pride of 105 Hudson Street was the first man to land a helicopter on an aircraft carrier, and one of the earliest to land an airplane on a carrier deck. He was considered the most knowledgeable man in the world on aircraft operations.

• Lieutenant John F. Kennedy was commander of the patrol torpedo boat, P.T. 109, and a representative of Somerville in Congress before becoming the 35th President of the United States.

• Joseph Reilly was a veteran World War II sailor who served on the Battle Ship U.S.S. Massachusetts throughout the war and helped save her from being scuttled at the war's end by helping create Battleship Cove, a non-profit maritime museum in Fall River. He was a 24-year veteran of the Somerville Fire Department before losing his life at a fire on June 10, 1974. He is memorialized on the battleship Massachusetts.

• Marine Corps Sergeant Henry Hansen died in battle on Iwo Jima. It was ten days after he and his squad raised the flags on Mount Suribachi.



### What's on Somerville Neighborhood News

#ICYMI with *Somerville Neighborhood News*: GLX Update and Women Shaping the Future of Somerville

*Somerville Neighborhood News (SNN)* is a hyper-local news service created to inform and foster community. In a media landscape that increasingly blurs the notion of "local" interest to extend beyond even state lines, SNN brings sharp focus to covering the people, issues and events in this diverse and vibrant community.



### **GLX Project Construction Meeting**

After decades of planning, the Green Line Extension Project is ready to begin construction and held a public meeting to share the latest design ideas.



### Women Shaping the Future in Somerville

On March 26, members of the community gathered at Somerville High School to honor the work of the Somerville Commission for Women and female leaders in the community.

The full videos and past *SNN* segments are available online at somervilleneighborhoodnews.org. *Somerville Neighborhood News* is a community journalism news service of Somerville Media Center and its volunteers and staff. If you have any questions, local stories that you would like covered, or are interested in getting involved, email news@somervillemedia.org. In the meantime, enjoy the latest segments from *Somerville Neighborhood News*.

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

and speak to the Assignment Editor

### BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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### Paying for the beloved community CONT. FROM PG 10

per year are unwilling to give just one percent to the community that created that added value. They will realize a windfall through no effort of their own beyond breathing. Is it too much to ask for them to contribute a small fraction of their good fortune so that others may continue to breathe here?

I am certain that the large majority of Somerville voters

would say "No." And I would happily see this proven through a ballot measure.

In the meantime, I would advocate two modifications of the proposal currently before the Board. It includes an exemption for those of us who have owned and occupied our homes for more than twenty years. But having enjoyed, on average, a 402%+ increase in our home values, we are the most able to give to the community that has given so much to us. I believe that the only exemption should be for sellers who are realizing a capital loss.

And asking sellers who will enjoy a windfall to pay the transfer tax is more just than taxing buyers who are struggling to purchase a home in this inflated market. The argument that 100% of the tax would eventually be included in the sales price is one of those that makes theoretical sense in econ class, but never seems to be fully realized when it encounters the real market's price elasticity of demand, and externalities. With or without these modifications, this policy is long overdue. Without a financing source of this magnitude, affordable housing efforts will remain feeble, benefitting a few households who fall within a narrow income-distribution range. And we will complete our transition to being a city of the affluent, punctuated by small enclaves of poor folks in public housing, and devoid of the diversity, cultural riches, and bonds of community that made Somerville so attractive in the first place.

### **SCATV** Channel 3 Schedule

SCATV is part of Somerville Media Center, home to Boston Free Radio, Somerville Neighborhood News and SMC Youth Media!

Join SMC today to make your own TV or Radio Production, learn skills like editing and field production and sign up for special media making workshops and classes for youth and adults! somervillemedia.org DW Focus on Europe 10:00am Both Sides of the Bars Wednesday, April 4 9:00pm The Beantown Beatdown 5:00pm 5:30pm 10:00pm Both Sides of the Bars 10:30pm The Chatman Booth SOM ARTS 12:00am Free Speech TV 6:00pm 10:30pm Beyond Boston Beyond the Badge TUTV 11:00am 6:00am SCATV Community Bulletin Board DIWHY the show 11:00pm 6:30pm Hello Neighbor 11:30am DW conflict Zone 7:00am Wide Angle 7:00pm Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer 12:00pm The Thom Hartmann Show DW In Good Shape 7:30am Friday, April 6 SOM ARTS 7:30pm 1:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News

1:30pm DW Global 3000 2:00pm Science 360 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 4:00pm DW Euromaxx 4:30pm NASA TV Tele Galaxie 5:00pm 6:00pm SMC youth Media 6:30pm The Kamla Show 7:00pm LIVE - The Yellow Jacket Lady SMC Presents 7:30pm 8:00pm (LIVE) Somerville Overcoming Addiction Dedilhando au Saudade 9:00pm 10:00pm Donnie steubins 11:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party Tuesday, April 10 12:00am Free Speech TV 6:00am SCATV Community Bulletin Board 7:00am

DW Euromaxx **Esoteric Science** Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) The Chef's Table Series SMC Roundtable DW In Good Shape DW Tomorrow Today Beyond the Badge The Thom Hartmann Show Words on Film Somerville Overcoming Addiction Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) Perils for Pedestrians Teen Empowerment: Youth Matters Media Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer What's New Massachusetts? SCOUTV **Beyond Boston** Somerville Neighborhood News Greater Somerville Dead Air Live The Yellow Jacket Lady SMC Presents Public Access Bovz SCATV Secret Stash Box House Productions Presents SMC Member Submissions

Somerville Neighborhood News Henry Parker Presents Nossa Gente e Costumes **DIWHY The Show** SCATV Secret Stash Ojo Rojo Sunday, April 8 Flotilla SCATV Secret Stash Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party Free Speech TV NASA TV Nossa Gentes e Costumes SCATV Secret Stash NASA TV Nossa Gentes e Costumes Tele Magazine Tele Kreyo Art and Ideas DW Conflict Zone The Chef's Table Series 7:30am 8:00am Somerville Neighborhood News 9:00am Effort Pour Christ 10:00am Teen Empowerment: Youth Matters Media 10:30am StartUp TV Boston 11:00am African Television Network 11:30am Dedilhando a Saudade 12:00pm SMC Member Submissions 1:00pm **Reeling Review** 2:00pm The Grandstanders 3:00pm The Real Estate Answers Show 4:00pm Gay USA 4:30pm New England Pride TV 5:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News 5:30pm Words on Film 6:00pm The Boston Medium TUTV 6:30pm Box House Productions Presents 7:00pm SCATV Secret Stash 7:30pm 8:00pm Monday, April 9 9:00pm Free Speech TV SCATV Community Bulletin Board 9:30pm Perils for Pedestrians 10:00pm 10:30pm Going Postal 11:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 11:30pm 9:00am The Stephanie Miller Show

12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 8:00pm 1:00am Free Speech TV 8:30pm SCATV Community Bulletin Board 6:00am 9:00pm 7:00am The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV) 10:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 8:00am 11:00pm 9:00am Perils for Pedestrians 11:30pm Cambridge Calendar 9:30am NASA TV 10:00am SOM ARTS 11:00am 12:00am 11:30am SOM ARTS DW Tomorrow Today 1:00am 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show 2:00am 1:00pm The Yellow Jacket Lady 3:00am Physicians focus NASA TV 6:00am 1:30pm 2:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News 7:00am Going Postal 2:30pm The World Fusion Show 8:00am 3:00pm Democracy Now 6:00am 4:00pm Gay USA 7:00am 5:00pm The Chatman Booth 8:00am What's New in Massachusetts? 5:30pm 9:00am 6:00pm The Boston Medium 10:00am 6:30pm The Real Estate Answers Show 10:30am (LIVE) Fallon's Daily Toast Ojo Rojo 7:00pm 11:00am 8:00pm The Grandstanders 12:00pm 8:30pm Greater Somerville 12:30pm 9:00pm SOM Arts 1:30pm 9:30pm Cambridge Calendar 2:00pm 3:00pm 4:00pm 10:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party Totally Working Out 11:00pm Totally Working Out 11:30pm 5:00pm 5:30pm Saturday, April 7 6:00pm 12:00am **DIWHY The Show** 6:30pm SCATV Secret Stash Hour 1:00am 7:00pm Free Speech TV 2:00am 8:00pm 5:00am Effort Pour Christ 8:30pm Art and Ideas 6:00am SCATV Community Bulletin Board 9:00pm 10:00pm 7:00am Tele Magazine Democracy Now SMC Youth Media 8:00am 10:30pm 9:00am 11:00pm 9:30am Somerville Storytellers 11:30pm 10:00am Dead Air Live The Struggle 11:00am Haitian Poetry in 3 Languages Telegalaxie 12:00pm 12:00am 1:00pm African Television Network 6:00am 2:00pm The Beantown Beatdown 7:00am 7:30am 3:00pm Democracy Now! 4:00pm The World Fusion Show 8:00am What's New Massachusetts?

#### 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) DW Global 3000 9:00am Both Sides of the Bars 9:30am Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer 10:00am 10:30am Somerville Storytellers 11:00am Fallon's Daily Toast 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show 1:00pm Health is Wealth 1:30pm Green Card Voices 2:00pm 2:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 4:00pm 5:00pm Physicians Focus 5:30pm 6:00pm Haitian Poetry in 3 languages 7:00pm **Donnie Steubins** 8:00pm LIVE: Somerville Pundits LIVE: Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 8:30pm 9:30pm SMC Member Submissions 10:00pm Duck Village Stage Series 10:30pm SCATV Secret Stash 11:00pm Thursday, April 5 12:00am SCATV Secret Stash 1:00am Free Speech TV SCATV Community Bulletin Board 6:00am 7:00am Perils for Pedestrians 7:30am DW Focus on Europe 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) DW Tomorrow Today 9:00am 9:30am Hello Neiahbor 10:00am The Kamla Show 10:30am Somerville Pundits 11:00am 11:30am The Real Estate Answers Show 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show The Somerville Line 1:00pm 3:00pm Democracy Now! 4:00pm SMC Roundtable 4:30pm 5:00pm 6:00pm Words on Film Somerville Neighborhood News 6:30pm Greater Somerville 7:00pm LIVE - The Boston Medium 7:30pm Somerville Pundits Startup TV Boston 8:00pm 4:30pm

#### 'Y TV 22 (Comcast) 13 (RCN) **Schedule** СП

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Monday, April 9

Sunday, April 8

Wednesday, April 4		9:30am	SomerViva em Português
8:30am	Sit & Be Fit Fibromyalgia Workout	11:30am	Aldermen at Work - Wil Mbah
9:00am	Aldermen at Work - Wil Mbah	12:00pm	Legislative Matters Committee
9:30am	Greek Independence Day Celebration	6:30pm	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte
11:30am	Women's History Month Celebration	7:00pm	Middlesex County Update
12:00pm	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	7:30pm	Raising Families "Special Needs Education"
6:00pm	Legislative Matters Committee	8:00pm	Women's History Month Celebration
1	y, April 5	8:20pm	HeatSmart CoolSmart
12:00am	BOA Land Use Committee	8:30pm	Greek Independence Day Celebration
8:30am	Congressional Update	9:33pm	Chamber of Commerce Breakfast
9:00am	Aldermen at Work - Wil Mbah	11:00pm	SomerViva em Português
11:30am Congressional Update		Saturday	/, April 7
12:00pm	5 1	12:00am	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2018
12:30pm		1:03am	Rally Point
1:33pm	Talking Business	1:32am	Kevin Dua- MA History Teacher of the Year
2:00pm	Raising Families "Special Needs Education"	3:00am	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte
2:30pm	SomerViva em Português	9:00am	Sit & Be Fit Diabetes Workout
6:00pm	BOA Legislative Matters Committee	9:30am	Congressional Update
11:00pm	5	11:30am	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte
I '	5 1	12:00pm	Rally Point
Friday, A		12:30pm	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2018
12:00am	Senior Circuit	1:33pm	Talking Business
12:30am	Women's History Month Celebration	2:00pm	Chamber of Commerce Breakfast
1:00am	Greek Independence Day Celebration	6:30pm	School Committee Meeting - 4.2.18
2:30am	The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism	10:00pm	SomerViva em Portugues
8:30am	Talking Business	10:31pm	Congressional Update
9:00am	Middlesex County Update		

### Educational TV 15 Schedule

Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	12:30pm	Greek Independence Day Celebration
pril 8	1:33pm	Talking Business
Senior Circuit	2:00pm	SomerViva en Espanol
SomerViva em Portugues	2:30pm	Middlesex County Update
Aldermen at Work - Wil Mbah	3:00pm	BOA Land Use Committee
BOA Land Use Committee	6:30pm	BOA Legislative Matters Committee
Sit & Be Fit Balance & Fall Prevention	Tuesday,	April 10
SomerViva em Portugues	12:00am	<ul> <li>Women's History Month Celebration</li> </ul>
Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte	12:30am	Raising Families "Special Needs Education"
SomerViva en Espanol	1:00am	Aldermen at Work - Wil Mbah
Senior Circuit	1:30am	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2018
Congressional Update	8:30am	Seriously Somerville w/Jimmy Del Ponte
Aldermen at Work - Wil Mbah	9:00am	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2018
Legislative Matters Committee	11:30am	SomerViva em Portugues
Middlesex County Update	12:01pm	Senior Circuit
Senior Circuit	12:30pm	Rally Point
SomerViva en Espanol	1:00pm	BOA Legislative Matters Committee
Aldermen at Work - Wil Mbah	6:30pm	Congressional Update
BOA Land Use Committee	7:00pm	Senior Circuit
April 9	7:30pm	Greek Independence Day Celebration
Senior Circuit	8:33pm	First Flag Raising at Prospect Hill 2018
School Committee Meeting - 4.2.18	10:00pm	Kevin Dua- MA History Teacher of the Year
Middlesex County Update	Wednesd	ay, April 11
Chamber of Commerce Breakfast	12:00am	Senior Circuit
Congressional Update	12:30am	MLK Jr. Day Celebration
Women's History Month Celebration	2:00am	SomerViva em Portugues

#### Wednesday, April 4

9:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Gloucester
11:00am	SHS Boys Basketball vs Salem
1:00pm	WSNS Winter Concert 2018
2:00pm	Argenziano School Winter Concert
3:00pm	Our Schools, Our City
3:35pm	SHS FOOTBALL 2017
4:05pm	El Sistema Spring Concert
5:00pm	SHS Girls Basketball vs Gloucester
7:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball vs Salem
9:00pm	WSNS Winter Concert 2018
10:00pm	Argenziano School Winter Concert
11:00pm	Our Schools, Our City
11:30pm	SHS FOOTBALL 2017
Thursday, A	pril 5
12:00am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett
1:30am	WSNS Winter Concert 2018
9:00am	SHS Boys Basketball @ Woburn
10:30am	Healey School Winter Concert
11:30am	WSNS Winter Concert 2018
12:30pm	Somerville Recreation Activities Fair
1:00pm	SHS Hockey vs Revere
2:30pm	Our Schools, Our City
3:00pm	All-City Beginners' Concert
4:00pm	SHS Hockey v Lynn C.
5:30pm	Our Schools, Our City
6:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball @ Woburn
7:30pm	Healey School Winter Concert
8:30pm	SHS Student Health Survey 2018

	10:00pm	
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ockey vs Latin Academy he Qtr. Awards - WSNS Qtr. - Kennedy School tr. - Argenziano School Public Domain Theater Somerville Schoolsters School Winter Concert City Beginners' Concert Basketball v Winthrop SHS FOOTBALL 2017 WSNS Winter Concert Sistema Spring Concert Somerville Schoolsters School Winter Concert City Beginners' Concert Basketball v Winthrop SHS FOOTBALL 2017 WSNS Winter Concert ockey vs Latin Academy Hockey vs Swampscott Public Domain Theater Sistema Spring Concert

SHS Hockey vs Revere

9:00pm 9:30pm 12:00am 1:45am 3:30am 9:00am 10:30am 11:00am 12:00pm 1:00pm 2:30pm 3:00pm 4:00pm 5:00pm 6:30pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:30pm 11:00pm SHS FOOTBALL 2017 12:00am Our Schools, Our City 2:00am SHS Football vs CRLS 2:30am SHS Boys Basketball vs Salem 9:00am

k with	MA History Teacher of the Year
	El Sistema Spring Concert
	SHS FOOTBALL 2017
	Our Schools, Our City
	SHS Football vs CRLS

#### Sunday, April 8

Tal

SHS Boys Basketball vs Salem Talk with MA History Teacher of the Year Chris Herren Speaks to SHS SHS Girls Basketball vs Beverly Our Schools, Our City Healey School Winter Concert All-City Beginners' Concert SHS Boys Basketball v Winthrop SHS FOOTBALL 2017 WSNS Winter Concert El Sistema Spring Concert SHS Girls Basketball vs Beverly Our Schools, Our City Healey School Winter Concert All-City Beginners' Concert SHS Boys Basketball v Winthrop SHS FOOTBALL 2017 WSNS Winter Concert

#### Monday, April 9

Harlem Wizards v Somerville Schoolsters SHS FOOTBALL 2017 Argenziano School MLK Concert Our Schools, Our City

Student of the Qtr. Awards - WHCS
SHS Girls Basketball vs Gloucester
SHS Boys Basketball vs Salem
Argenziano School MLK Concert
The Bilingual Brain Symposium
SHS Hockey vs Cambridge
Student of the Qtr Argenziano School
Student of the Qtr. Awards - WHCS
SHS Girls Basketball vs Gloucester
SHS Boys Basketball vs Salem
SHS BOYS HOOPS 2017-18

#### Tuesday, April 10

9:30am

10:00am

12:00pm

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12:00am	SHS BOYS HOOPS 2017-18
12:30am	SHS FOOTBALL 2017
9:00am	El Sistema Spring Concert
10:00am	Harlem Wizards v Somerville Schoolsters
12:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball @ Woburn
1:30pm	SHS BOYS HOOPS 2017-18
2:00pm	SHS FOOTBALL 2017
3:00pm	Talk with MA History Teacher of the Year
4:30pm	Argenziano School MLK Concert
5:30pm	Our Schools, Our City
6:00pm	El Sistema Spring Concert
7:00pm	Harlem Wizards v Somerville Schoolsters
9:00pm	SHS Boys Basketball @ Woburn
10:30pm	SHS BOYS HOOPS 2017-18
11:00pm	SHS GIRLS HOOPS 2017-18
11:30pm	SHS FOOTBALL 2017
12:00am	SHS GIRLS HOOPS 2017-18
12:30am	SHS Girls Basketball vs Beverly

### APRIL 4, 2018 23



## **Unquiet Vigil** New and Selected Poems

Off the Shelf correspondent Dennis Daly recently made a pilgrim- as part of a brotherhood. In his case, faith and brotherhood age to the wilds of Kentucky and met a monk. The monk writes poetry. Dennis reviews poetry. Here is the result:

Unquiet Vigil New and Selected Poems By Paul Quenon Paraclete Press www.paracletepress.com ISBN 978-1-61261-560-8 171 Pages

Review by Dennis Daly

Paraclete Press is a publisher of Christian books, music and DVD's from Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox and Jewish perspectives and traditions.

Out of great silence and temporal restraint comes an exquisite rush of words and, in turn, transcendental passion. Paul Quenon, in his latest book, Unquiet Vigil, belies the conventional understanding of repetitive monastic rituals, mystic self-abnegation, and meandering walls that delimit (at least metaphorically) wandering monks from worldly desires and ambitions. Quenon's words soar with freedom's exhilarating ardor, sustained by the fearlessness of his faith and the innate disposition of his environment, an unusual combination. Or, perhaps not. His poetry does not filter; it simply records quiet rhythms and perceives the essential forms of nature in compelling ways.

Born in West Virginia coal country, Quenon entered Our Lady of Gethsemani Trappist monastery, near Bardstown Kentucky, in 1958 at the age of seventeen. His novice master, spiritual advisor, and poetry mentor was the renowned Thomas Merton. For the last twenty or so years the monastery has supported Quenon's artistic endeavors (he has published five previous books of poetry and produced some extraordinary photography).

Opening with coy flirtation, the collection draws the reader in with a potent dynamic, a mini morality play entitled Gone Missing. Poetry solicits the poet. At the same time the poet seeks his poems-to-be through the forest of life, using his senses, following tell-tale signs. Does the quest enable the art? Consider these personified lines,

... I am a poem without a poet. He has gone missing for weeks and my house is empty. Suffer me awhile, or go, and if you meet him he with the distant look and shambling gait tell him the hearth is cooling down.

I won't know a thing for days, He takes to a walk-about And never pays me notice. What kind of life is that?

Yet I've never expected different-I'm glad he just comes back at all.

Quenon at his best conjures up natural images after internalizing them into a spiritual duality of connection and timelessness. The meditations that result are breathtaking descriptions of the human heart, a calming existentialism of sorts. Here's a selection from Quenon's piece entitled Transpiration in which the poet melds "white ranges of cumulus" with the "leafy hoards crowding below" into a single awe-inducing process, both metaphysical and natural,

are inseparable. Quenon, in the heart of the poem, introduces the concept's universality by alluding to ancient Sri Lankan Buddhist sculptures,

Two stone Buddhas at Polonnaruwa, the one awake, standing, the other lies asleep.

Both, when you are jerked clear Out of the habitual, Half-tied vision of things Are one Buddha Asleep and awake.

In his poem Restless Silence, Quenon discovers anew many of the questions that emanate from observational and audacious simplicity. Both poet and object engage in a kind of silent dialogue, a dialogue on nature, humanity's mutability, and alienation. The poet elegantly concludes this way,

A pigeon leaves a tree for another tree.

I can hear the sun grazing the dusty grass, until a breeze interrupts briefly then settles for ... a something ...

Was it here already and gone? Or was it only here so I would come and wait?

Why this sadness when, yielding to restlessness, I rise and abandon what never knows abandonment?

Just for its title alone, Confessions of a Dead-Beat Monk, would be my favorite poem in the collection. However, the piece offers quite a bit more. As the poet describes the routine and sameness of a monk's life, excitement sneaks in. Words such as prodigious, bitter, sweet, gold, treasure, secret, and enigma appear. Even humdrum chores are punctuated by exclamation points. Quenon, sly and skillful poet that he is, turns the piece into a celebration of monkhood and a lingering celebration at that. The piece begins thusly,

Of course, I've sat the same bench brushing off flies and thoughts, how many years? What winters of silence and summer variations,

what prodigious mockingbirds I've heard! And that kitchen job! Broccoli and spuds on Mondays, rice twice a week, and Oh,

toasted cheese sandwiches, Fridays! This diet of psalms, fifty and hundred, runs ever on from bitter to sweet ...

### Mark Stevick is a professor of Creative Writing at Gordon College in Wenham, MA.



### Just Drive

On a given night at ten in summer

yrıca

**SOMERVILLE** 

edited by Doug Holder

I am driving someone or other's car

through wet turns in Essex, Manchester,

half expecting the road to disappear.

My window is open like the windows

in the lamp-lit houses I pass

where someone stands at a dark bureau

arranging or emptying a vase.

The night air is a radio tuned

to a voice out of Rome or Boston,

but the signal is weak, or it's turned

down too low, like someone left it on.

Strapped in behind the pull of the engine

and the high beams, I begin to hope

my lane will lift up over the ocean,

right off the scale of any map.

But the moon's tank is half empty

in the gaps where the overlooks are.

These roads all lead back to my driveway.

I'll leave those borrowed keys in the car.

— Mark Stevick

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to: Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu Two solemn masses, two summer throngs Breathing one sunlit worship.

Two transfigurations: Vapor heaving updrafts to evanesce into light; Groundwater exhaling into wind through roiling foliage.

Transubstantiation—that's all Of you and me. We vanish into light-

Erwin Schrodinger's famous thought experiment, Schrodinger's Cat, testing quantum physics takes center stage in Quenon's poem The Un-Named Cat Merton. The source of the piece is an unpublished photograph showing a dead Thomas Merton being prepared for burial. The poet observes the scene through a sub-atomic indeterminacy perspective. Here the quantum world becomes the spiritual world metaphorically (or not metaphorically). Observation determines reality. The subject of the camera is both dead and alive. Of course Merton still does live through his books, his faith, and

Quenon's delicately phrased poem, Mountain Climb, goes way beyond the obvious metaphor into a meditational understanding of self and its concomitant contentment. He notes, perceptively, the constant change inherent in sameness. As his dream-time vision fades, he commits to memory what he can, and that is enough. The poet reminisces,

I have been here before, explored alone the route that only I know. It is familiar though changed always familiar, though never twice the same. I have the energy to take the long irregular climb.

I arrive at the summit totally alone. Something absolute grips my senses. I all but breathe it in.

Breathing in Brother Paul Quenon's poems rewards with revelation after revelation. This soul-shaking writer turns solitude into wonderment. Quenon, unlike most poets, is not much of a self-promoter. Too bad. He deserves a much wider audience. Think world-wide. Get his book. Spread the word.





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