VOL. 11 NO. 14

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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City holds Community Safety Meeting addressing concerns over gunfire incidents



City officials met with the public recently to discuss gunfire incidents and other threats to the public safety.

By The Times Staff

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, Somerville Chief of Police Charles Femino, and Director of the Department of Racial and Social Justice Denise Molina Capers invited community members to a Community Safety Meeting on Tuesday, March 28, at the Healey School Cafeteria.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the March 21 gunfire incident in Winter Hill, with cars and storefronts damaged by stray bullets in Somerville, and gun activity in Somerville in general. An overview on understanding violence-related trauma and where to find mental health resources were also be provided.

Mayor Ballantyne opened the meeting by saying that this is gun violence within the city is unacceptable. "We've lost one in five years, Continued on page 4

Artist Brad Casler featured at Arts at the Armory ROOTED Café

Somerville's Arts at the Armory is hosting an exhibition by Brad Casler at its ROOTED Café now through April 29.

Casler is a native Bostonian who has spent the majority of his life living in Boston. He is an abstract expressionist artist who draws upon the flavors, smells, sights, and events of his own experiences to assemble an artwork that moves both mind and spirit.

As Casler's life pivots, so does the texture of how he visualizes his surroundings and the world. As he describes, "this push and pull of my desires allow me to feel the flow of the paints."

Join in for a reception with the artist on April 15 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143-1515. Learn more at artsatthearmory.org.



Brad Casler's exhibition at Arts at the Armory's ROOTED Café runs through Aprol 29.





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The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

Happy Easter and Passover this week to all who celebrate. May the holidays bring joy and fun to families, friends and everyone who gathers together to observe the occasions.

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen invite you to a virtual meeting on Monday, April 10, at 6:00 p.m. to learn about construction progress and to get an overview of what's planned for this spring and summer. To learn more and register, visit somervillema.gov/springhill.

Connexion and East Somerville Main Streets will be hosting their annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 8, at 1:00 p.m. in Chuckie Harris Park, Cross Street E. Stop by or some Easter fun.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Big happy birthday to **Steve Mac**. We hope Steve enjoys his day. Happy birthday to **Sissy McWatters-Ankenbauer** who is celebrating this week. We hope she had a great day too. Happy birthday to **Bruce Rollins II**, who also celebrates this week. We hope he enjoys his day as well. Happy birthday to our good friend **Ida Fasano**. We're wishing her a great day as well. She is probably in Florida enjoying the nice weather. Happy birthday to **Chris Pedersen**. We hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to **Linda Rock Coutoumas**, who is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to **Cheryl Constantine** Leatham, who is also celebrating. We hope she is Continued on page 7

The Somerville Times

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 5 – April 11 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
••	Wednesday April 5	Rain	46°/41°	35%	32%	ENE 14 mph
••	Thursday April 6	Rain	71°/44°	70%	62%	SW 16 mph
	Friday April 7	Partly Cloudy	58°/36°	1%	1%	WNW 19 mph
*	Saturday April 8	Sunny	55°/34°	0%	1%	NW 11 mph
*	Sunday April 9	Sunny	59°/44°	2%	1%	WSW 13 mph
	Monday April 10	Partly Cloudy	64°/45°	16%	12%	SSW 14 mph
•••	Tuesday April 11	Rain	58°/45°	50%	39%	E 14 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Saving 'Ducky the Bruce'

Steve Keenan says:

Patrick, Beverly, and Olga are my heroes. God bless all of you for your compassinate act.

Response to: Obituary: John M. Crowley

A neighbor says:

John was my neighbor and was such a warm and welcoming presence on the street. I enjoyed his stories about growing up in Somerville and his enthusiasm and care for the next generation of children in the neighborhood. John, you are remembered fondly and will be missed!

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Community Conversation: Youth with CJ

These discussions will be facilitated by local Cultural Ambassadors in addition to city staff serving as advisors. These conversations will address the question: How can we help arts and culture thrive in Somerville?

To learn more or to register, visit the Somerville Cultural Capacity Plan page on the Somerville Arts Council website, somervilleartscouncil.org/culturalcapacity/conversations or contact Somerville Arts Council Director Gregory Jenkins via phone: 617-625-6600 ext. 2985 or email gjenkins@somervillema.gov.

Wednesday, April 5, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Somerville Media Center, 90 Union Square, Somerville , MA 02143.

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

Hump Day



So, what do you think about all the speed humps throughout the city? Did you go over one by accident too fast and everything in the car lifts up in the air and

crashes back down? I did that once. Those humps are popping up all over the place. I asked my Somerville social friends for their opinions. Each new comment is in quotes.

"I think it's insane. I can see near schools but on side streets. I think Somerville let in a lot of, how do I say this nicely, fragile needy people. Funny how we grew up there, didn't have speed bumps, didn't have bike lanes bus lanes, no we had brains and knew how to use them."

"They may very well calm traffic and prevent pedestrian injuries, however, as a firefighter here for 36 years I'd be more apt to worry about having the trucks slow down to go over these while I'm hanging out a window waiting to be rescued."

"I have one in front of my house every time a car goes over it up in air and slams to ground it sounds like someone crashed their car into my house. Talk about noise pollution. Called and complained. No one cares about lifelong citizens."

"Some of the streets are a complete disgrace. They dig holes everywhere and never fix them. The speed bumps are another problem that is ridiculous for drivers. The city has become a horrible place to try to get through. I'm sick of it. I was born here and I have never seen a more disgraceful time for Somerville."

"As mentioned in an earlier post, slowed emergency vehicle response time is, I'm guessing here, an unintended consequence. Once the insurance companies learn of this slowed response time they will be looking to increase their rates."

Say and feel as you may, Somerville is growing in leaps and bounds and humps. Hang on and go for the ride.



Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1



699 Broadway Ave, Somerville, MA 02144







By lim Clark

Can't get any privacy in here

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to an Assembly Row place of business last week on reports of a man masturbating.

Upon arrival, the officers were met by the store manager, who directed them to the dressing room

area, and to a stall around the corner where the defendant was.

The officers then found a man sitting down with his pants partially below his waist. Protruding from his pants, they observed the defendant's erect penis.

The officers confronted the man, later identified as Joshua Sperling, of Cambridge, and he rapidly raised his pants, covering his penis.

The officers spoke with the store employee that discovered Sperling,

who stated that as she was walking through the dressing room she observed a door open for one of the stalls. When she looked inside, she observed Sperling "completely exposed, masturbating."

The store employee stated that

she was "shocked" and said, "Oh, sorry" and walked away.

Sperling was then placed under arrest on a charge of lewd, wanton and lascivious conduct and taken to the Police Station for booking.

Help Keep Somerville Safe! Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210 Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine

Troopers arrest two men wth firearm, narcotics

Shortly before 8:00 p.m. last-Trooper Beau Thursday, Schlichting, assigned to State Police-Medford, was stationary observing traffic at the intersection of Memorial Road and Canal Lane in Somerville. At that time he observed a black Honda Civic with illegal window tint pass his location. An electronic inquiry of the vehicle's license plate revealed it was being sought by the Somerville Police Department regarding an incident that occurred approximately three weeks earlier. Trooper Schlichting entered traffic, activated his blue lights, and stopped the vehicle on River Road.

Upon exiting his cruiser he approached the Honda and observed two occupants. The operator and passenger, lat-

er identified as David Ortiz, 21, of Somerville, and Naftali Flores, 21, of Medford, respectively, were initially uncooperative with the Trooper. Trooper Richard Ferrino and a Somerville Police Officer both arrived on scene to assist. After a short investigation, Trooper Ferrino located a .45 cal Glock pistol, loaded with 13 rounds of ammunition, inside of a fanny pack on the floorboard of the driver's seat. Trooper Ferrino also located several baggies containing a substance suspected to be cocaine inside of the fanny pack. Neither man is licensed to possess firearms.

At this point a full search of the vehicle was conducted. During the search Troopers located another 9mm Glock, loaded with 16 rounds of ammunition, along with several large vacuum sealed packages of marijuana and scales commonly used in the distribution of narcotics. Both men were transported to the Medford Barracks where they were booked pending arraignment at Somerville District Court on the following charges:

David Ortiz

- 1. Illegal Possession of a Firearm;
- 2. Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device;
- Large Capacity;
- 4. Carrying a Loaded Firearm;
- 5. Possession of Ammunition
- 7. Possession of a Firearm in Commission of a Felony
- 8. Possession of a Class C Drug with Intent to Distribute;
- 9. Possession of a Class D Drug

- 3. Improper Storage of a Firearm,
- without FID Card;
- 6. Trafficking Cocaine;



with Intent to Distribute;

- 10. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law; and
- 11. Illegal Window Tint

Naftali Flores

- 1. Illegal Possession of a Firearm;
- 2. Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device;
- 4. Possession of a Class D Drug

with Intent to Distribute;

3. Possession of a Class C Drug

- with Intent to Distribute; 5. Conspiracy to Violate Drug
- 6. Failure to Wear Seatbelt.

Law; and

— Mass State Police

City holds Community Safety Meeting addressing concerns over qunfire incidents CONT. FROM PG 1

and 11 hurt during gun violence," the mayor said.

Police Chief Femino spoke saying, "At the present time our crime is still lower than other districts around us even though it has increased. There were 49 confirmed shootings of approximately 325 rounds, 30 were charged and 40 firearms recovered since 2020."

Concerning the March 21

gunfire, Femino said, "Investigations have been going 24 hours a day including with Cambridge, Boston, Everett, and Malden. The surrounding cities are also dealing with these gang related problems of which everyone is collaborating to discover information."

Femino also spoke about how Wards 1 and 4 are seeing more gun violence than any other part of Somerville and provided contact information for anyone who has information to share.

A Riverside Trauma Center representative spoke regarding practicing self-care after traumatic events, talking to children when scary things happen, and presenting how to join the Anti-Violence Working Group.

One issue brought up con-

cerned why police were pulled from school buildings. Members of the public seemed interested in why and would like to see them back in the schools).

Currently, police report to the schools only when the Superintendent requests their presence or feels it is necessary. It is up to the Superintendent to send out notices of situations within any buildings unless police are requested to do so. On Tuesdays, Chief Femino and his staff discuss discovered issues along with talking with the Superintendent regarding issues.

Towards the end of the meeting there were several interactions between officials and members of the audience, including questions and answers, with most leaving the meeting feeling uncertain.

SCES expanding Hospital-to-Home partnership with Cambridge Health Alliance

By Nathan Lamb

Returning home after a hospital stay can be tricky, but Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is expanding a program dedicated to helping older adults navigate that transition.

The move comes after SCES was included in a \$3 million statewide round of grants from the Healey Administration to augment hospital-to-home partnerships between health care providers and Aging Service Access Points, such as SCES.

SCES Chief Program Officer Annie Fowler said the grant will fund dedicated hospital-to-home liaisons to help with discharge planning at the Cambridge and Everett Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) hospitals.

"Our Hospital to Home partnership has had a great track record of success, and this grant will allow us to build on that foundation by providing a community-based-services perspective earlier in the discharge process," said Fowler.

The SCES Hospital to Home Community Care Transitions (H2H) program was established in 2012 as part of a nationwide pilot to reduce avoidable hospital readmissions. By connecting older adults with services and providing support during their transition back home, the pilot reduced re-admissions by 30% in 2015, making it one of the top performing programs in the country.

SCES H2H currently provides three Community Care Coordinators, who provide support for CHA patients during discharge by assessing in-home needs, coordinating services, and providing follow-up support.

SCES CEO Marta Corvelo said the expansion is great news for older adults and thanked the Healey Administration for recognizing that elder services are uniquely positioned to address in-home and environmental conditions that directly impact patient outcomes.

"By helping us expand this program, the Healey Administration is supporting an innovative partnership that improves public health in our community," said Corvelo. "We are grateful for





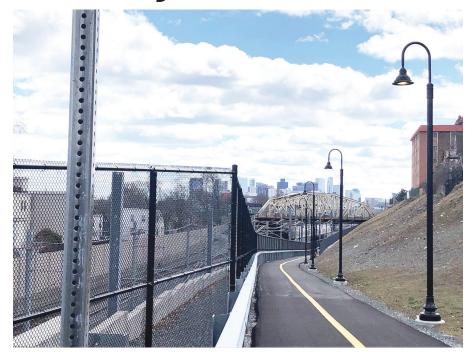
their support and look forward to highlighting the positive impacts of this initiative."

The two-year, \$300,000 grant is a joint effort with Mystic Valley Elder Services (MVES), which will provide the designated liaison at Everett Hospital. MVES previously collaborated with SCES on the H2H pilot project in 2012.

"We are delighted to deepen our partnership with Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services with this grant, which allows patients with multiple care needs to be discharged with additional

home services," said Eleni Carr, chief care integration officer at Cambridge Health Alliance. "With this emphasis on the pre-discharge planning for at-risk patients, we hope to reduce the need for out-of-home placement which has become exceedingly difficult in the post-pandemic environment, causing discharge delays and other systemic challenges. I am grateful for the creative collaboration that brings Mystic Valley Elder Services into this arrangement so that our planned model can be employed at both CHA Continued on page 11

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



View of Boston from the School St Bridge.

— Photo by Denise Provost

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Lottery Applications available online starting on April 3rd, 2023: www.jotform.com/SEBHousing/union346

*50% and 80% Rents are not based on each applicant's income (unless they already have a Section 8 voucher or similar). Minimum income for 50% AMI units is for households who do not already have a Section 8 voucher or similar subsidy.

Rent for 110% units DOES change based on household income.

** All utilities are electric, Tenants are responsible for paying all utilities including water and sewer. There are NO parking spots at this building. Tenants with cars will need to make arrangements for street parking.

Seven (7) 50% AMI Apartments Studio 1 DA \$29,448* 1 427-458 sqft 1 5 \$1,075 1 BR 1 DA \$31,560* 1 503-546 sqft 1 2 \$1,095 Seven (7) 80% AMI Apartments Studio 1 HI \$49,101 1 384-531 sqft 1 6 \$1,418 1 BR N/A \$49,101 1 531 sqft 1 1 \$1,464											
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Income Limits (Income Limits are GROSS Income)							
No. of people in your househ	old Max Income for	Max and Minimum	Max and Minimum				
	50 % AMI units	Income: 80% AMI units	Income: 110% AMI unit				
1	\$49,100	\$49,101 to \$78,300	\$78,301 to \$107,954				
2	\$56,100	\$56,101 to \$89,500	\$89,501 to \$123,376				

Applications will be available at the conclusion of the first Info Session and online here: www.jotform.com/SEBHousing/union346

The first Info Session will be held on April 10, 2023 at 6:00pm via Zoom and the second Info Session will be held on April 24th at 6:00pm via Zoom. Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595, Passcode: 088159 or via conference call: 646-558-8656, Access Code: 81893177595#)

Application Deadline: application must be completed and delivered by 2 pm on May 4th, 2023 The Lottery will be held on May 31, 2023 at 6 pm

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to 346Union@sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900 (x1) and leave a message.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings, should contact the ADA Coordinator, Adrienne Pomeroy, at 617-625-6600 x2259 or



apomeroy@somervillema.gov.

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. Beacon Hill Roll Call (A"Yes" vote is for the \$350 million package.) records local senators' votes on the only roll call from the week of March 27-31. There were no roll calls in the House last week

\$350 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (S 2375)

Senate 40-0, approved a bill that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state. The \$350 million package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes \$150 million to pay for bus lane improvements, improvement of public transit, electric vehicles and other state transportation projects. The House has approved a different version and the Senate version now goes to the House for consideration.

Supporters said the funding, known as Chapter 90 funding, will help cities and towns make their streets and bridges safer for all drivers and will improve the state's public transportation system. They noted the money is relied on every year by local communities.

"This legislation will maintain and improve our state's infrastructure, ensure that residents have safe and reliable transportation options and support sustainable, regionally equitable economic development in communities across the commonwealth," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

"Our transportation system is the backbone of our commonwealth, connecting us to our jobs, families and communities," said Sen. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation. "This investment is not just an investment in infrastructure, but an investment in the future of our commonwealth, enabling our cities and towns to make the necessary improvements to promote efficient and safe travel for all."

Geoff Beckwith, the executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, is one of the biggest advocates for more Chapter 90 funding above the \$200 mil-

"We are grateful that the Senate has moved so quickly on this important legislation," said Beckwith. "Cities and towns are anxious to begin the road construction season, and are waiting for this necessary infusion of funds. Communities are facing huge cost pressures as they seek to maintain 30,000 miles of local roads, so we hope the Legislature can send the best bill possible to the governor as soon as possible, as a first step in investing in the massive infrastructure needs at the local level."

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

\$388.6 MILLION FISCAL 2023 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (H 3548) - Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a \$388.6 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget. Provisions include \$65 million for free school meals; \$130 million to keep expanded nutrition assistance in place for a few more months; \$2 million for the reimbursement of SNAP benefits for victims of benefit theft; \$250,000 for a free abortion-related legal hotline; \$45 million for emergency shelter assistance; \$40 million to support affordable housing for immigrants and refugees; and \$2 million for the Boston branch of the NAACP for costs of some programs to be included in its 114th National NAACP Conference taking place in Boston in 2023.

Other provisions keep some pandemic-era programs, set to expire, in place including allowing restaurants to sell beer, wine and cocktails for take-out; expanding outdoor dining; and extending the authority, set to expire in a few weeks, for public bodies, agencies and commissions to hold their meetings remotely.

"I'm proud that the first major bill signed into law by our administration dedicates crucial resources to help Massachusetts families access safe and secure housing, keep food on the table and pay for childcare," said Gov. Healey. "Additionally, this bill supports our health care workforce, crucial housing and economic development programs like MassWork and our efforts to compete for federal fund-

"This supplemental budget injects urgently needed funds into programs that support Massachusetts families and drive housing and economic development across our state," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "It also takes important steps to educate the public on their options around reproductive health care, extends accessibility and flexibility for public meetings, protects access to clean water and bolsters broadband infrastructure."

HEARING ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMEND-MENTS - The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on

several proposed amendments filed by representatives and senators to amend the state constitution.

Any proposed constitutional amendment sponsored by legislators needs the votes of a majority of the 200-member Legislature in the 2023 to 2024 session and the same in the 2025 to 2026 session in order to appear on the November 2026 ballot for voters to decide. None of these

proposals have yet been approved.

EMINENT DOMAIN (H 83) - Would prohibit private property from being taken by the government for private commercial enterprise, economic development or any other private use without the consent of the owner. A similar measure was originally filed in 2005 as a response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that allows communities to seize private homes and businesses solely for commercial purposes. The ruling also allows states to establish laws prohibiting the practice.

"The right to own property is a basic principle of the commonwealth and it is one that I feel strongly should be upheld," said the proposal's sponsor House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "The government should never have the power to make value judgments with respect to private property. This proposed amendment would protect property owners by explicitly affirming that economic development and private commercial uses do not constitute acceptable public uses for the purpose of eminent domain takings in the commonwealth."

CHANGE MANDATORY RETIREMENT AGE FOR JUDGES (H 36) - Would change the mandatory retirement age for judges from 70 years old to 75 years

"In recent years we have seen an increased need to bring judges back to the bench after their mandatory retirement age," said sponsor Rep. Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham). "This proposal would allow them to stay on the bench and provide the court with their years of experience."

HIS OR HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

(S 10) - Would amend the part of the state constitution that creates the title "His Excellency" for the governor and lieutenant governor. The proposal would add "Her Excellency" as a possibility.

"[The bill] is one of a several bills filed to clean up language in our constitution that privileges male gender by using male pronouns to refer to office holders," said sponsor Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont). "I'm hopeful that the Judiciary Committee will report out a consolidated bill that makes all the necessary corrections."

OATH OF OFFICE (H 33) - Would amend a current section of the constitution that gives Quakers the option to change the oath a person must take upon taking office from the current: "I do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the commonwealth of Massachusetts and will support the constitution thereof. So help me God." Currently Quakers are allowed to change the word "swear" to "affirm" and the words Continued on page 11

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Happy spring holidays, Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



If there's one universal certainty among most – if not all – people, we surely enjoy the transition from the cold, gloomy atmosphere of winter to the explosion of life and natural beauty as the months of spring unfold.

Hallmarks of this special time include the religious holidays that many of us celebrate, such as Easter, for those of the Christian faith, and the rites of Passover practiced by those of the Jewish faith. Likewise, the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr begins later this month.

Whatever one's faith — or lack of religious belief — we can all pretty much agree that the old-fashioned traditions we have known our lives can bring us closer together, as long as we embrace them in the spirit of goodwill and community involvement.

One doesn't have to necessarily have re-

ligious convictions to enjoy watching the young ones having a ball at a neighborhood Easter egg hunt.

History tells us that the custom of the Easter egg hunt has its origins dating back to the late 16th century, when the Protestant reformer Martin Luther organized egg hunts for his congregation. Easter eggs and the egg hunt became more popular in mainstream England in the late 19th

and early 20th centuries as society began to change. The tradition continued on through the present day, and it looks as though it will go on into the future.

This has become a tradition that the religious and secular alike can enjoy either participating in or simply observing.

And hey, if nothing else there are those great after-Easter candy blowout sales at your local pharmacy. Just don't overdo it.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

having a great day. We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends such as Patricia O'Leary Shanahan, Carolyn Ryan, Jeanine Jenks Farley and Linda Camiel Butler, who are all celebrating this week. To all the others we may have missed and, yes, we must admit there are a few more out there. We sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Somerville

Public Schools, and Somerville's early childhood community invite Somerville parents, children and educators to celebrate the Week of the Young Child from April 10 to 14, including the One

Somerville, Every Child celebration on the Somerville High School concourse (81 Highland Avenue) from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The Week of the Young Child was designated by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families. The One Somerville, Every Child celebration will begin with a proclamation by Mayor Ballantyne advocating for young children, and include family friendly music, food, and activities.

formation and answering questions about upcoming bus and crosswalk improvements on East Broadway. Learn more about the project and other in-person and virtual engagement opportunities at somervillema.gov/eastbroadway. On April 11, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., city staff will be tabling at the corner of Everett Avenue and Cross Street (near East Somerville Community School) to share information and answering questions about upcoming bus and crosswalk improvements on East Broadway.

Help celebrate Paul Revere's famous ride from Boston to Lexington and Somer-

ville's revolutionary history by volunteering to be a part of Somerville's Patriot's Day festivities. The city is seeking volunteers to help publicize and support activities at the Colonial Fair on Monday, April 17, at Foss Park, which follows a reenactment of Revere's ride. Both adults and Somerville students are welcome to sign up. For more information or to volunteer, contact Historic Events and Education Coordinator Brandon Wilson via bwilson@somervillema.gov or 617-776-3938.

Stop by Lyndell's Bakery, 720 Broadway, April 14 - 16, for a half Continued on page 12

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's lio #869 Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous

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

mixture, hodgepodge

- 7. What is another name for a Myosotis flowering plant?
- 2. What musician was once a member of The Beatles?
- 8. Who was the author of the novel Doctor Zhivago?
- 3. What is the main ingredient in the Indian dish Biryani?
- 9. When was You-Tube created?
- 4. Where is Prague located?
- 10. What does POD stand for in the publishing business?
- 5. What part of the cannabis plant has the highest concentration of THC?
- 11. What is sushi usually wrapped in?
- 6. Who wears the yellow jersey in the Tour de France race?

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12. Which band made the albums Degüello and Tejas?

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The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- 1. Honey is the only food that does not spoil.
- 2. Barbie and Ken broke up in 2004, but are back together now.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD ANATOMY 101

ACROSS

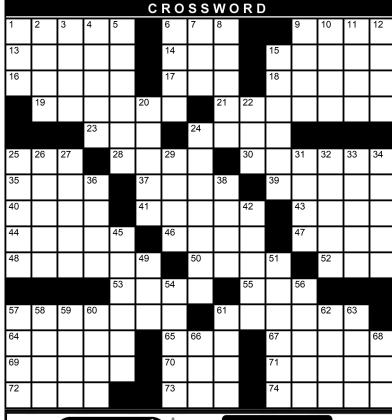
- 1. Emir, alt. sp.
- 6. Comic book cry
- 9. One of 27 in hand
- 13. Dhaka, formerly
- 14. Half man, half goat
- 15. Pressure ulcers, e.g.
- 16. Type of wrap
- 17. Old fashioned "before"
- 18. Do like ivy
- 19. Smooth, skeletal or cardiac
- 21. "Gray's _
- 23. Gardener's tool
- 24. Detected by olfactory system
- 25. Acronym-named sandwich
- 28. Sore throat voice
- 30. Retires from military service
- 35. Steak option
- 37. Place at angle
- 39. Double, in French
- 40. Certain apple's namesake
- 41. Fork pokers
- 43. Heavy metal's Quiet _
- 44. Pelvis bone
- 46. Hardened keratin plate
- 47. Wedding promise?
- 48. Mandela
- 50. Part of eye, not flower
- 52. Tokyo, formerly
- 53. Alpine transport
- 55. Cuckoo
- 57. Vein to "go for"
- 61. Cell body, axon and dendrite
- 64. Use the other side of pencil
- 65. Caviar alternative
- 67. Mafia's top dogs
- 69. "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men

gang aft ___

- 70. Fuss
- 71. Modern correspondence
- 72. Opposite of want
- 73. Japanese currency
- 74. Pep gathering

DOWN

- 1. Annoying pop-ups
- 2. "Yes, _
- 3. Beige





- © StatePoint Media
- 4. E-wallet content
- 5. Resentment
- 6. Musketeer's sword
- 7. Smallest bones location
- 8. Work the dough
- 9. Diamond in a cutting tool
- 10. "Wonderfilled" cookie
- 11. a.k.a. Indian Lilac
- 12. Grammy of sports
- 15. Like a Haunted Mansion visitor?
- 20. Minimum
- 22. Endorsement
- 24. Alfresco
- 25. It contains cerebellum and parietal
- 26. Big Dipper shape
- 27. Hiker's path
- 29. Largest organ
- 31. Fogginess 32. Speak one's mind

- 33. AB+ or B-
- 34. Vigorous fight
- 36. Outback birds
- 38. Dam-like structure
- 42. Snail trail
- 45. Like certain Cr. e
- 49. Giannis' league
- 51. Cup holder
- 54. Orderly arrangement
- 56. Popular movie genre
- 57. J in B. J. King
- 58. Serve as motive
- 59. Em's and Dorothy's last name
- 60. CPO, in auto industry
- 61. Glowing gas
- 62. Iridescent gem
- 63. Byproduct of wool combing
- 66. Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem
- 68. Canny
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

COMMENTARY

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

Pass the HOMES Act:

How open eviction records impact survivors of domestic violence

Every day, members of our community are asked to make an almost impossible choice: Remain in an unsafe relationship, or leave at the risk of losing their housing? Domestic violence survivors are already at an increased risk for housing instability and eviction. In the midst of our affordable housing crisis, open access to these records is further narrowing survivors' housing options. The Community Action Agency of Somerville and RESPOND are two of the many organizations in Somerville that see firsthand the relationship between housing instability, eviction, and domestic violence. For that reason, we support the passage of the HOMES Act, and urge our legislators to help lessen the barriers to housing access that exist for domestic violence survivors.

Because of the private nature of domestic violence, it's easily overlooked in the conversation around housing instability. In reality, survivors face some of the most complex and challenging housing dilemmas amongst any members of our community. Women who face intimate partner violence are four times more likely to experience housing instability. In a one-day survey of 48 domestic violence programs in Massachusetts, services were provided to 2,302 survivors. Of those 2,000+ people helped in one day, 56% received support for housing support and advocacy. However, these programs are struggling to keep up with an ever-growing demand for affordable housing. In that same oneday period, 57% of all unmet requests for support were for housing and emergency shelter.

There's a cyclical relationship between domestic violence and housing insecurity, and eviction intensifies this cycle. For many, housing instability is a result of financial abuse. Abusers might take complete control over their partner's finances. They may force them to pay for rent or utilities for the entire family, or spend excessively and run up high credit card debts. They might also cause their victims to miss work, or to be fired as a result of abuse or harassment at their workplace, making it even harder for survivors to afford rent, let alone moving costs and expenses. They may claim to pay rent, hide the proof of nonpayment, and then surprise their victims with an unexpected eviction notice. Repeated calls to police can often result in landlords evicting tenants experiencing abuse. These are some of the many reasons that survivors may already face higher barriers to housing access.

"Most of the survivors RE-SPOND works with are evicted because of the actions of their abuser," Victoria Helberg, RE-SPOND CEO, shares. "That eviction becomes a way their abuser maintains control even after the relationship is over. Finding safe, affordable housing in Greater Boston is already such a struggle, and an eviction is a huge set-back for families that makes it so hard for them to rebuild after abuse."

With an eviction on their record, finding housing may become significantly more difficult. Automatic tenant screening tools advise landlords against accepting tenants with eviction records, even if the case was dismissed, there was no wrongdoing on the part of the tenant, or the record was from an eviction filed decades ago. As a result, many people are forced to move

into worse conditions than their previous homes. Single mothers, particularly women of color, are significantly more likely to face eviction, meaning that their children are also facing moves to new neighborhoods, oftentimes into school districts with less funding. When children are named in eviction filings, those records cross over into adulthood, creating generations of families facing barriers to housing.

"The clients our housing advocates work with all are in crisis, fearful of being out on the street, forced to share intimate details of their lives and finances with our staff, who are strangers to them," says David Gibbs, CAAS' Executive Director. "When intimate partner violence is a factor, we have to be extra careful to protect our clients' privacy; it's literally a matter of life and death. Passing the HOMES Act would be a huge step toward reducing the danger these clients face and affording them the same rights and dignities that most of us take for granted in our day to day lives."

Affordable housing is becoming more and more scarce in Somerville. Fewer affordable units mean that survivors have fewer viable housing options and a higher likelihood of rejection. Every survivor has different factors to consider and different needs to be met, which is precisely why our systems need to give them the flexibility to make the right choices for themselves and their families. While there's no single solution to ensure housing stability for domestic violence survivors, passing the HOMES Act would mean that we can at least increase survivors' ability to find safe, affordable, and sustainable housing.

Continued on page 10

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #276

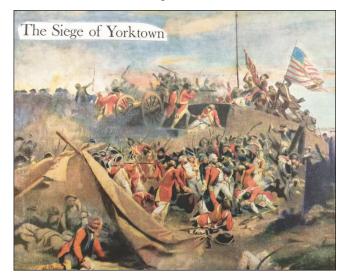
Daniel vs. the Lions

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

On October 17, 1781, General George Washington's combined 17,000-man Colonial and French Army, along with a French Naval Fleet, ended the month-long siege of Yorktown, Virginia. This battle, one of the most important of the American Revolution, effectively ended the war. One month later in a letter to French General Lafayette, Washington stated, "It follows then as certain as that night succeeds the day, that without a decisive naval force, we can do nothing definitive, and with it everything honorable and glorious."



Yorktown wasn't Washington's first siege. His first was the Siege of Boston six years earlier, and the quote was probably in his mind at that time, but with the situation reversed. At that hour, he needed a Navy to cut off British supplies; but because he didn't have one, he created his own small fleet with willing and able volunteers.



One true local patriot was Daniel Waters. When General Washington called upon him, he was a seafaring master mariner from Union Square's Bow Street in Charlestown/Somerville. After the attack on the Powder House on September 1, 1774, he trained as a Continued on page 11

LEGAL NOTICES

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



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT KATJANA BALLANTYNE MAYOR

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on $\underline{\text{Tuesday, April 18, 2023}}$ at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 - 7-28.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to historic@somer llema.gov

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2168444068226542933

Webinar ID: 482-751-595

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (562) 247-8422 Access Code: 602-086-014

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING

Determinations of Historic Significance (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2023.05 - 23 Glenwood Road

Applicant: Grace Spellenberg Revocable Living Trust

Owner: Same as Applicant

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of

Determinations of Preferably Preserved (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2022.49 – 80 Professor's Row

Applicant: Kappa Chapter of Zeta Psi Corporation

Owner: Same as Applicant

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75

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

3/29/23, 4/5/23 The Somerville Times

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Pass the HOMES Act

CONT. FROM PG 9

The Community Action Agency of Somerville helps local families and individuals achieve financial security while working to eliminate the root causes of economic injustice.

RESPOND partners with individuals, families and communities to end the serious public health issue of domestic violence through prevention, intervention and education services that promote safe, healthy relationships.



PLANNING BOARD

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a virtual public hearing on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available by using the registration link once the meeting has concluded

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5533221228743851360 411-547-203

Webinar ID:

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (914) 614-3221 Access code: 205-856-480

The Planning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A

and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

1 McGrath Highway Somerbridge Hotel, LLC proposes to develop a six (6) story General Building and establish a Hotel use in the High Rise (HR) district, and requests relief from façade build out requirements, which requires a Hardship Variance.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

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

4/5/23 The Somerville Times



ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3471240002966207326

Webinar ID: 605-179-139

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (914) 614-3221 Access code: 292-170-820

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

 $\textbf{1 McGrath Highway} \quad \text{Somerbridge Hotel, LLC proposes to develop a six}$ (6) story General Building and establish a Hotel use in the High Rise (HR) district, and requests relief from façade build out requirements, which requires a Hardship Variance.

SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

30 Memorial Road Somerville, Massachusetts 02145 Telephone (617) 625-1152 Fax (617) 628-7057

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

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

4/5/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

Real Property Valuation Software and Consulting Services

The RFP package may be obtained online at

ww.somervillema.gov/procurement or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <u>htt</u> ww.somervillema.gov/BidExpress on or after: Wednesday, April 5th, 2023. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: 2:00 pm, Wednesday, April 26th,

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

Please email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang Senior Procurement Manager 617-625-6600 x3400

4/5/23 The Somerville Times



(herein after the "Authority") to solicit proposals for the lease of available rooftop and penthouse space. These spaces are available for the installation and operation of communication facilities. These facilities are not limited to, Cellular Telephone, Personal Communication Systems, Paging, Land Mobile Radio, and Internet Antenna's. The lease of these spaces will be on a nonexclusive basis.

Request for Proposals-Rooftop Antennas

This Request for Proposal is issued by the Somerville Housing Authority

2. PREMISES TO BE LEASED

The Authority has rooftop and penthouse space for lease at 114 Highland Avenue in Somerville, MA. Included in the RFP package is a layout of the roof at this site. Specific locations on the roof or penthouse for installation of equipment will be viewed in the field and negotiated as such.

3. LEASE TERM

Lease Terms are negotiable.

4. LEASE RATES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULES

The monthly rent is subject to negotiation as is the yearly escalator.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Respondent must have been in business for at least five years.
- Respondents must supply a list of references complete with Names of Owners and locations of other sites where they B. currently lease rooftop space for antenna equipment.
- Respondents must supply a monthly rental rate for proposed installed equipment, an annual escalator and a length of lease.
- D. Respondents must include in their bid a full description of antenna equipment to be installed including space mounting requirements.

6. RFP Packages are available by email from ryanc@sha-web.org as of April 5th, 2023at 11:00 AM.

RFP's will be received by email to ryanc@sha-web.org by May 24th, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

4/5/23 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, **CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY** PHONE: 857-488-5138

LEGAL NOTICES

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



CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES (PCS) DEPARTMENT

DISPARITY STUDY SERVICES FOR MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS IN MA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) #23-54

The City of Somerville and Town of Brookline are seeking a qualified consulting team to conduct a multijurisdictional disparity study. In the spirit of their shared values to improve and advance racial, social and gender equity in their communities and across jurisdictions, Brookline and Somerville (the "jurisdictions") are partnering to pursue a **joint disparity study**. The primary purpose of a disparity study is to determine if and the extent to which discrimination and barriers exist for small disadvantaged businesses resulting in a quantifiable, statistically significant variance of availability versus utilization of such businesses in government purchasing.

The overarching goal of the jurisdictions is to create a sustainable and equitable contracting environment that is scalable across the jurisdictions and removes barriers of entry for small disadvantaged businesses.

Qualified consultants will meet the requirements outlined in M.G.L. c. 30B and as outlined in the RFP available on the jurisdictions' websites as of **April 5, 2023** at:

https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/procurement-and-contracting-services and https://www.brooklinema.gov/417/Purchasing-Division. See also https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/33100/home.

The deadline for submission of proposals is <u>May 1, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.</u> The jurisdictions reserve the right to reject any or all proposals.

Angela M. Allen Chief Procurement Officer City of Somerville 617-625-6600 x3400

David Geanakakis Chief Procurement Officer Town of Brookline

4/5/23 The Somerville Times

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

Minuteman along with others in Watertown and Malden. He also fought during the Battle of Lexington and Concord

After the Battle of Bunker Hill and during the Siege of English troops in Boston, Waters helped prepare a cannon defense of Malden. He also directed a floating battery in the Charles River off Cobble Hill's shore. It was after the evacuation of the British that Waters first entered into the lions' den.

On January 20, 1776, Washington first appointed Waters to captain the schooner, Lee. After putting to sea that spring, he captured two enemy supply vessels. In early June, with assistance from the ship Warren, he impressed the General by capturing the first British transport of the war. This ship had ninety-four of the elite Black Watch infantry soldiers and others on board. He also captured its powder ship and a high-ranking General who was also aboard the transport. While commanding the Lee, he actively helped disrupt the arrival of the British Lions' supplies to Boston and New York. His ac-



tions were shared with five other Washington's Navy raiders.

At the recommendation of Washington, he was appointed a captain in the Continental Navy on March 15, 1777. Four months later, he and his ship Fox surrendered to a superior British force. After a year in prison, he was part of an exchange which put him back at sea. Captain Waters was involved in many battles and sailed on multiple ships. To prevent its capture, he had to destroy one of them ... the ship General Putnam.

Waters most famous engagement happened on Christmas Day, 1779. While captain of the Boston Privateer Thorn, he defeated two enemy ships of equal strength and with larger crews. Captain Waters was wounded during this two-hour battle which killed and injured eighteen of his crew. Future President John Adams wrote of this engagement, "There has not been a more memorable action this war."

The Navy's USS Waters (DD 115) was named in his honor.

Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

"So help me God" with "under the pains and penalties of perjury." The amendment would give that same option to anyone, not just Quakers.

"The state constitution only allows people of Quaker faith to have the option of affirming their oath," said sponsor Rep. Mindy Domb (D-Amherst). "The amendment would remove the Quaker eligibility [only] for this option. Federal officials, including the President, a U.S. Representative and a U.S. Senator all have the opportunity to choose to swear or affirm their oaths of office."

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 27-31, the House met for a total of two hours and seven minutes while the Senate met for a total of four hours and five minutes.

Mon. March 27

House 11:01 a.m. to 11:31 a.m.
Senate 11:35 a.m. to 1:18 p.m.

Tues. March 28

No House session
No Senate session
No Senate session
No Senate session
Thurs. March 30

House 11:03 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.
Senate 11:10 a.m. to 1:32 p.m.

Fri. March 31

No House session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

No Senate session

SCES expanding Hosptalto-Home partnership with Cambridge Health Alliance

CONT. FROM PG 5

Cambridge and Everett Hospitals."

In announcing the statewide round of Hospital to Home grants, the Healey Administration said its goals are supporting successful transitions back home and easing strains on hospital capacity.

"As hospitals continue to face strain due to workforce shortages, it is critical that we find new ways to better serve patients in their homes and communities," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Kate Walsh. "Through these partnerships, hospitals and local ASAPs will collaborate to better meet individual patient needs in home and community-based settings, improving health outcomes and alleviating pressure on hospital resources and staff."

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older adults in Somerville and Cambridge. For free advice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving or disability, contact our Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601, email info@eldercare.org, or visit our website eldercare.org.

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

moon in loving memory of Officer Sean Collier. Proceeds will go to the SAPD (Somerville Auxiliary Police Dept.)
Sean Collier Memorial Scholarship.
Grab a friend and stop by for a treat, and maybe even win some raffle prizes.

How can we help arts and culture thrive in Somerville? The city and Somerville Arts Council have launched the next phase of the Cultural Capacity Plan that features a series of community conversations with interest and identity groups facilitated by local cultural advisors to explore how best to expand Somerville's cultural capacity. To see the full schedule and register to attend, visit https://somervilleartscouncil.org/culturalcapacity/conversations. For additional accommodations, please contact Adrienne Pomeroy at 617-625-6600 x 2059 or apomeroy@somervillema.gov.

On Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., East Somerville will be holding their Spring Clean Up. Meet at the East Somerville Library, 115 Broadway, for coffee and pastries from Ola Cafe, and then help beautify the neighborhood.

Applications are now open for the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program. Through this annual program, the City of Somerville hires teenage participants to work in the Parks and Recreation Department, Somerville Public Libraries, and other

city offices as well as local businesses. Applicants must be Somerville residents, at least 14 years of age, and enrolled in high school. Summer jobs require approximately 20 hours per week for six weeks starting in July, though actual schedules will vary by employer. Some jobs require an orientation before the program begins. Apply online at somervillema.gov/summerjobs, or pick up a printed application in the Human Resources Department at City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue. Applications are due by Friday, April 28, at 12:30 p.m. Applicants will be interviewed the week of May 8. For more information, contact summerjobs@somervillema.gov, or call 311.

Visit Aeronaut, 14 Tyler St. on April 19 at 6:00 p.m. or zoom in to April's Streetwise Talk to hear an update on the Community Path extension that should be open any day now. Friends of the Community Path Co-President Lynn Weissman, Alan Moore and Transportation Planner Viola Augustin will be presenting a history and the latest news. For Zoom info visit bit.ly/3ORnXHn.

Somerville residents can once again drop off household hazardous waste at the DPW yard on designated days. Drop offs are accepted on the first Saturday of each month, April through November, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the DPW yard (1 Franey Rd.). Ac-

cepted materials include motor oil, aerosol paint, household cleaning chemicals, rechargeable batteries, and more. Proof of residence such as a driver's license or utility bill is required. Waste materials should be placed in sturdy boxes and not in loose or plastic bags. Residents can learn more about other accepted items by visiting somervillema.gov/trash or calling 311 (617-666-3311).

Street sweeping not only keeps our streets clean, but is essential for reduced flooding by preventing clogged street drains. The 2023 season began on Monday, April 3, and continues through December 31. A reminder to: Check signs in your neighborhood for sweeping days. Get familiar with the street sweeping schedule in areas where you park. Visit somervillema.gov/sweeping for a full schedule and to sign up for complimentary street sweeping reminders by text, email, or phone. For more information on street sweeping procedures, visit parksomerville.com.

Somerville Recreation summer program registration is now open. Visit their website to learn more. https://somervillema.myrec.com/info/default.aspx

Somerville PorchFest 2023 will take place on Saturday, May 13 (rain date May 14) from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Perhaps you've sat on your porch and over-

heard a neighbor strumming guitar on another porch? Porchfest takes this idea and multiplies it. This is not a festival per se but rather a community event where Somervillians share their love of playing and listening to music ... from their porch, driveways, yards, etc. Registration is now open: https://somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest.

The Somerville Public Library in partnership with the St. Mark Community Education Program is offering a free, 10-week U.S. Citizenship Preparation class. The class will prepare students for the citizenship interview including the 100 civics questions, the reading and writing sections, and interview questions based on the N-400 application. The class will be held in-person at the Central Library (79 Highland Avenue) on 10 Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. from March 4 to May 6. Requirements: Basic level of English and 5 years as a U.S. permanent resident (green card holder) or 3 years, if married to a U.S. citizen. Visit https:// www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/ellcitizenship to register.

Don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a digital edition of our paper, go directly online to our website over to the right side and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.

Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner





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Bobbie Toner
857-488-5138

On This Day in Kistery April 5

1559 – Philip II of Spain and Henry II of France sign the peace of Cateau-Cambresis, ending a long series of wars between the Hapsburg and Valois dynasties.

1860 - The Pony Express connects St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California.

1862 - Slavery is abolished in Washington, D.C.

1882 – The American outlaw Jesse James is shot in the back and killed by his cousin, Bob Ford.

1910 - Alaska's Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in North America is climbed.

 $1920-F.\,Scott$ Fitzgerald and Zelda Sayre are married at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

1936 - Bruno Hauptmann, killer of the Lindbergh baby, is executed.

1944 – The U.S. Supreme Court rules that black citizens are eligible to vote in all elections, including primaries.

1972 - Charlie Chaplin returns to the United States after a twenty-year absence.

COMMENTARY

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

Somerville Planning Board to vote April 6 on development at 200 McGrath Highway

From any perspective, US2 is the wrong developer to be building on the 200 McGrath Highway (Glass Stop) site.

Somerville welcomes commercial development in its transformational zones, the administration needs to be more selective in the choices it makes for who does the building. The latest purchase by US2 of the 200 McGrath Highway site (across from the Target parking lot) is an example of how not to choose a developer. Indeed, US2 is the wrong developer to build on the 3.1-acre former Glass Stop and Pat's Towing site for five significant reasons.

From the perspective of seizing the Life Science space needs of companies wanting to be close to the Bio Lab hub of Massachusetts in Kendall Square, the fact that US2 is three years behind in their schedule to build out their Life Science buildings in Union Square should be of concern to the city. There are four more buildings designated for Life Science use in US2's Mas-

ter Plan approved by the city. Does the city really want to wait while US2 works on them one at a time? Waiting for US2 means waiting for a developer who hasn't proved that it can attract Life Science companies to its first building now under construction at 10 Prospect Street.

From the perspective of increasing commercial tax revenue at a quicker pace, it would make more sense for the city to permit Union Square Development One LLC which owns the block across Somerville Avenue from the Somerville Media Center to move ahead with their plan for Life Science. The city should confront US2's opposition to Union Square One Development LLC's plans and thereby expedite additional commercial tax revenue to the city.

From the perspective of the city's Jobs Creation and Retention Trust Fund Board's mission and goals, US2's purchase of the property now occupied by Royal Hospitality Services, Green Cab, and Green City Growers

does not further the creation or the retention of Somerville jobs. Both the purchase and the proposed re-use of the property will displace over 500 union and working-class jobs. Furthermore, US2's failure to make best efforts to hire Somerville residents on their construction sites runs counter to the workforce development goals of the city. This failure also breaks the resident job commitment in the Covenant that US2 signed with the city.

From the perspective of Somerville's plan to respond to the climate crisis, US2's failure to commit to the city's connectivity goals by helping to finance the pedestrian/bike bridge from Boynton Yards across the railroad tracks to the new Green Line station has the effect of incentivizing automobile use. This, plus US2's insistence on building thousands of parking spaces and its failure to contribute to an existing DLJ -funded shuttle bus service from Boynton Yards to Kendall and Sullivan Squares means that the city's response to climate change will fall far short of its goals.

From the perspective of Brickbottom residents, neighbors to the 200 McGrath project, a 12-story and 16-story pair of towers will make life on Medford, Linwood, and Fitchburg Streets a traffic-congestion nightmare. This congestion has the potential to undermine the full realization of the Boynton Yards development because one of its main auto access routes is Medford Street. The pollution from automobile exhausts of thousands of cars idling in bumper-tobumper traffic on Medford and Linwood Streets will make the future planting of vegetables at nearby city-sponsored Art Farm a non-starter.

US2 cannot be trusted to follow through with promises to the city because it is already in serious non-compliance with the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) contract it signed in 2019 with the Union Square Neighborhood Council. That CBA contract committed US2 to complete construction of 39

apartments affordable to lowand moderate-income residents at 45 Webster Avenue in time for the opening of the Union Square Green Line station. They have yet to purchase the parcel, let alone begin construction. US2 also committed to 20% of construction jobs for Somerville residents. They haven't even reached single digits towards this commitment.

For all these reasons, and because of the long and forceful outcry from the site's neighbors, we are concerned that the planning staff is recommending the Planning Board approve US2's site plan for 200 McGrath Highway. Does the Mayor know the repercussions of moving in this direction? If so, how can she make this decision? We urge all Somerville residents to write and call the Planning Board and the Mayor asking that US2 not be granted site plan approval on their proposal for 200 McGrath Highway.

— Union Square Neighborhood Council

Somerville announces municipal scholarships for high school graduates

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is proud to announce that Somerville residents graduating high school in 2023 can now apply for five municipal scholarships through the City of Somerville Municipal Scholarship Committee. Selected applicants will receive \$1,000 to help with post-secondary education expenses.

"We are thrilled to offer these scholarships to our graduating seniors as they continue their educations and prepare for their futures," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We hope that these scholarships help students bring the spirit of the Somerville community with them, no matter where their journey goes."

The municipal scholarships are open to all high school seniors who live in Somerville and have been accepted to an accredited post-secondary institution at the time the financial aid is first awarded.

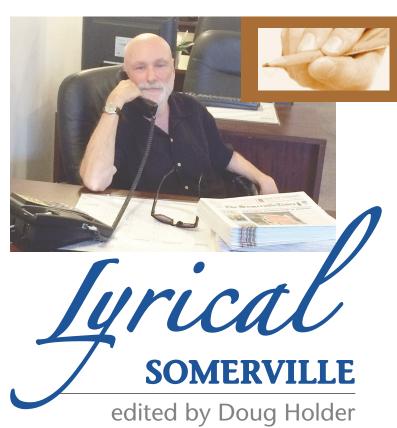
To apply, students are asked to create a profile and answer three

short essay questions via the City's Dollars for Scholars page: https://cityofsomerville.dollars-forscholars.org.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievement, community service, and financial need. Applications are due by April 28, and recipients will be announced May 15. The scholarship funds will be distributed to the winners in early June.

For more information, please visit somervillema.gov/treasury or call 311 (617-666-3311).





Noah Jane Silvia is a 25-year-old disabled writer and poet from Lynn Massachusetts, they have had several features at the walnut street cafe.

AMENDS

I just threw up my feelings,
Truth still splattered on the floor
So I take what's left of my dignity
and throw it into the nearest washing machine
Hang myself out to dry before speaking again,

I don't know if we'll ever speak again
At least not the way we used to.
Smoke fills my lungs, I take another drag of my cigarette
As I contemplate quitting cigarettes
And cough up the words"Maybe that's for the better."

— Noah Jane Silvia

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

Ms. Cam's To page 8 Answers

- 1. Montpelier, Vermont
- 2. Pete Best
- 3. Rice
- 4. Czech Republic
- 5. The buds of the female cannabis plant
- 6. The rider who is the overall leader of the race after each of the 20 stages
- 7. Forget-Me-Not
- 8. Boris Pasternak
- 9. 2005, by three former PayPal employees
- 10. Print on demand
- 11. Edible seaweed
- 12. ZZ Top

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Dirtbag, Massachusetts'

A Confessional by Isaac Fitzgerald

Dirtbag, Massachusetts, A Confessional by Isaac Fitzgerald Bloomsbury Publishing, New York, 2022 240 pages, \$27.00

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Ed Meek

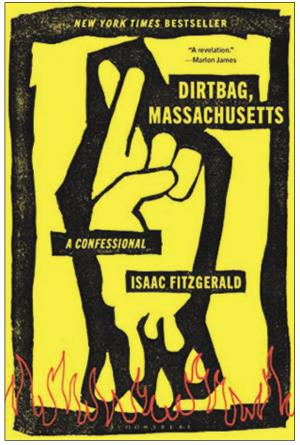
Isaac Fitzgerald is a literary celebrity. He appears on *The Today Show* and recommends books. He has a very enthusiastic demeanor and a bubbly personality. Intermittently, when speaking, he puts his hand on his heart. *Dirtbag, Massachusetts* (a name his friend gave to a town in Massachusetts) is a collection of his essays focusing on periods of his life from early childhood to the present.

In his poem What Thou Lovest Well, Remains American, the poet Richard Hugo says, "You blame this neighborhood for your failure. / In some vague way, the Grubskis degraded you/ beyond repair." To apply this to Fitzgerald, for "the Grubskis" substitute "your parents." Like Hugo, Fitzgerald goes on to become quite successful and like Hugo, he had an unhappy childhood and he sees the world from the perspective of someone who was victimized in Fitzgerald's case by a physically abusive father and a needy, emotionally abusive mother.

Hugo remained humble and surprised at his late life success and happiness and his past lent him a level of gravitas. He responded to his past the way a lot of comedians respond to their pain, with a kind of cynical humor. "You might come her Sunday on a whim, / Say your life broke down." (Degrees of Gray in Philipsburg). Fitzgerald's response is more emotional. "At some point, if we've grown close, I'll reward you by breaking down and crying over dinner, detailing the pain. The suffering." So, Fitzgerald is rewarding us by sharing his pain. In the concluding chapter, Fitzgerald tells us: "My hope is that you'll take one thing away from all this, maybe the only life lesson I've learned: Do not put off acknowledging your pain."

If you find yourself nodding along with that sentiment, and you are in the market for life lessons, this is the book for you. Of course, this is the age of victimhood, isn't it? Who among us hasn't suffered or been attacked or abused or victimized? I have. My wife has. My brother who was apparently physically abused by my mother who was an undiagnosed manic depressive, herself the victim of shock treatments, moved to northern Maine in his twenties and never came back, not even for the funerals of our parents. Fitzgerald, now successful and happy, remains emotionally vulnerable and he explains why in *Dirtbag*.

The first few chapters cover his childhood, from



a homeless period in Boston, when his parents depended on the Catholic church for help, (he loses faith in the church because of the predatory priest scandal) to a move to a working-class town in central Massachusetts where he became, for a short period, "the fat kid." To tough early teen years of drugs, early sex and fights, to a transition to life in a boarding school where he was the scholarship boy who had to work part time. After an uneventful college experience, he is on to San Francisco where he finds home in a bar as both a patron and a bartender. This is not just any bar, but a *Tender Bar* (as in the book and movie) where Fitzgerald makes close friends and hangs out in his off hours.

The book and his life then take a couple of side trips. He goes to Burma with a Christian "humanitarian service movement" called FBR, the Free Burma Rangers, who work with people in the "conflict zones of Burma, Iraq, and Sudan." This is a surprising and interesting move by Fitzgerald. It should be compelling but his focus remains squarely on himself in this mission. He finds he is a happy guy riding around on a motorcycle delivering supplies to people. If you want to find out what the FBR is really doing there, you have to go outside *Dirtbag* and look it up.

In the next chapter, Fitzgerald returns to San Francisco and hooks up with a company that makes porn movies. He is hired, first as an extra and then as a participant. "The fact is, I enjoyed porn." He bonds with his fellow "models" and finds Continued on page 15

SHS Girls Lacrosse vs Fitchburg

Somerville High School Girls Varsity Lacrosse came out strong against the Fitchburg Raiders on Monday afternoon, but the Raiders never went away. The Highlanders played well but lost 8-9 in overtime. To view all the photos, go to https://alexfredette.smugmug.com/Lacrosse/SHS-Lax-W-Fitchburg/ — Photos by Alex Fredette

























Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 14

another "chosen family." He also sees the experience as a version of sex education, getting more comfortable with his own body and how to communicate with partners about sexual needs and practices. Again, there is really a lack of self-reflection, depth and perspective in how Fitzgerald processes these experiences. I'm not a puritan by any means but the idea of being paid 300 dollars to be in a porn movie just seems appalling to me. Fitzgerald raises no questions about what might be objectionable or dis-

tasteful about this.

The last chapter is probably the best one in that he talks there about the abuse from his father, the neediness of his mother, and how his family, including half-sisters and cousins are still working to grow and heal. His parents, like him have followed a long, slow path of growth and healing.

In a review of Tar in The New York Review of Books, Zadie Smith says that millennials have managed to hold people (like Lydia Tar) to account for unethical behavior. They have determined that "No middle-aged person should use any young adult as an instrument or tool, sexually or otherwise." This is a good thing. But "the holiness of always being the injured party" as Maya Angelou puts it, is a form of self-indulgence. Hugo longs for a life "the world will never let you have until the town you came from dies inside." But it isn't always easy to let the town you came from die.

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