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# The Somerville Times

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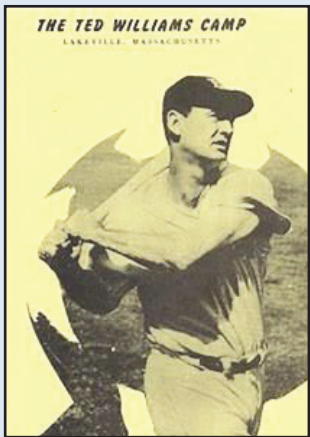


VOL. 10 NO. 14

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Baseball Camp**

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Boston Marathon**

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**A grand opening  
for Sav-Mor**

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## Mixed emotions for Davis Square business owners facing relocation



Businesses have begun to vacate the Davis Square Plaza in preparation for incoming development.

— Photos by Molly Rains

By Molly Rains

After extensive planning, several public forums, and plenty of speculation, the impending redevelopment of Davis Square has become very real for some Somerville business owners. Although exact timelines for construction have yet to be announced, businesses have begun to move out of the buildings slated for redevelopment, marking a time of transition for the iconic Somerville plaza.

One project on Elm Street, called 7th Spoke, will involve major changes to the buildings along either side of the pedestrian plaza linking Herbert and Elm streets. The company behind this effort, North Carolina real estate and development firm Asana Partners, invests in transforming “existing real estate in dynamic neighborhoods” nationwide. Exact dates for the 7th Spoke project are still

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## April 3, 1980, Somerville witnesses the worst chemical spill in the history of the state

By Mayor Emeritus Eugene C. Brune



42 years ago, this past Sunday and only in my twelfth week as mayor, I had my “baptism by fire,” so to speak. At about 8:30 a.m. on the morning of April 3, 1980, I received a telephone call at my home, just as I was about to leave for my office.

I was notified that there was an accident at the B&M yard. A Boston and Maine switching engine, consisting of a locomotive and 38 cars, rammed the side of a tank car. It pierced the skin of steel, 7/16” thick on a container car, causing a 16” long gash into the container. The damaged container was carrying 13,000 gallons of phosphorus trichloride. The chemical was spilling out of the tank car at the rate of 100 gallons per minute. It was televised as the worst chemical spill in the history of the Commonwealth.

When I got to the scene of

Continued on page 4



On April 3, 1980, a terrible chemical spill occurred in Somerville, threatening the health and well-being of thousands in the region.

— Photos courtesy of Eugene C. Brune

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Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen invite you to a virtual public meeting about upcoming construction in Spring Hill. **The Spring Hill Sewer Separation Project** is one in a series of projects across the city that will mitigate flooding, reduce waterway pollution, and upgrade century-old infrastructure. The first phase of work will begin in earnest this spring and is expected to continue through 2023 on Summer Street (Belmont Street to Bow Street), Central Street (Highland Avenue to Summer Street), Westwood Road, Avon Street, and Carter Terrace. This meeting will outline the project goals, scope of work, and anticipated construction impacts. Join in **Wednesday, April 6**, at 6:00 p.m. For more information and to register to attend, go to [somer villema.gov/springhill](https://somer villema.gov/springhill).








Somerville 's Ward 5 City Councilor Beatriz Gómez-Mouakad is holding **Office Hours Friday, April 8**, at **Cafe Zaruma**, 37 Woodbine St., 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. with special guest **City Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo**.

On **Monday, April 18**, for the first time since 2017, the **City of Somerville** will be celebrating **Patriots' Day** outdoors and in person at **Foss Park** on Broadway from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. The event will feature a reenactment of Paul Revere's famous ride from Boston to Lexington, which happened to pass right through Somerville. Attendees will enjoy period-appropriate refreshments and games. They can complete their "Colonial Passports" to win a prize and shop for educational items at the Somerville Museum's table, all while enjoying music from the Somerville High School band. Colonial clothing is encouraged. Interested in helping out with serving refreshments, overseeing games, and generally immersing yourself in the Revolutionary revelry? Email the city's Executive Director of the Historical Preservation Commission **Brandon Wilson** at [bwilson@somer villema.gov](mailto:bwilson@somer villema.gov) to throw your (tri-cornered) hat into the ring.

Continued on page 7

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 6 – April 12 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>April 6</i>	Rain	47°/42°	94%	2%	ENE 15 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>April 7</i>	Rain	51°/46°	82%	26%	ENE 14 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>April 8</i>	Rain	63°/46°	50%	18%	SW 13 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>April 9</i>	Rain	63°/44°	34%	1%	WSW 12 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>April 10</i>	Partly Cloudy	56°/39°	9%	16%	WNW 11 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>April 11</i>	Sunny	62°/48°	3%	19%	W 13 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>April 12</i>	Partly Cloudy	70°/50°	2%	20%	W 13 mph

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

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: **Do not establish a Local Historic District at 125 Highland Avenue**

Amelia Blount says:

While it would be feasible to demolish probably any structure built before, well, ten ago upon accusations of white supremacy, has his significance been considered intersectionality? Since Ralph Adams Cram's buildings are also frequently celebrated for his queering of the built environment and repudiation of homogenizing/profitteering tendencies in development? Defining historic significance the way this article does appeals to a model of preservation that is forty years outmoded and primarily supported the claims of historicity of the white majority. In fact, modern preservation takes into account the full gamut of history, including the material and environmental dimensions. A diversity officer has somehow proceeded to exclude from consideration the impact of demolition of traditional architectures of place built with now exhausted resources (e.g., how many hundreds of board feet of old growth wood, 4% of which remains in US forests since), extracted irrevocably from the environment; not to mention the embodied energy that would need to be offset to even pretend modern development has a greening effect. Some unfortunate and unprogressive oversights.

Michael Grunko says:

I would like to apologize to the women and men who are members of the King Solomon's Lodge A.F. & A.M (Masons). I was wrong to accuse them of not being diverse. I humbly apologize to them.

Villinous says:

While it sounds like there's arguments on both sides of its historical significance, whether there's anybody who can or wants to maintain it should be a paramount concern. Personally, I'm not a huge fan of the building and would rather see new housing with minimized parking on the site and a no-parking designation attached to the units (e.g. you can't obtain a city parking pass).

Anton Tutter says:

The Somerville Historic Commission voted unanimously to recommend LHD status for this property.

### Response to: **Somerville seeks volunteers for Patriots' Day and docent program**

Ron Newman says:

This will be the first one since 2017, since both 2018 and 2019 were cancelled due to cold and rainy weather.

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

## The Somerville Times

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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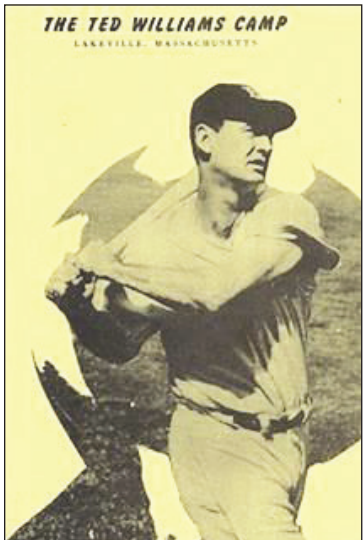
by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Ted Williams baseball camp



The following story was submitted by a few readers.

**Ted Williams former baseball camp hits a home run for Jimmy Fund**  
Alumni and friends of the



former Ted Williams Baseball Camp in Lakeville raised almost \$6,000 for the Jimmy Fund this summer.

The funds were raised mainly via an online auction that consisted of baseball-related items, gift certificates, and services from businesses along the north and south shores. Other donations were the result of those attending hosted events such as craft and floral nights, a brewery night, and a successful breakfast with Santa and Anna and Elsa characters.

Williams' daughter, Claudia, attracted dollars for the Jimmy Fund by donating for auction a stay at the Splendid Splinter Bed & Breakfast in Putney, Vt., and two autographed copies of her book, *Ted Williams, My Father*. The Splendid Splinter is the former home (renovated and transformed into a B&B) in which Claudia and her late brother, John-Henry, grew up with Ted's third (divorced) wife, Dolores Wettach Williams.

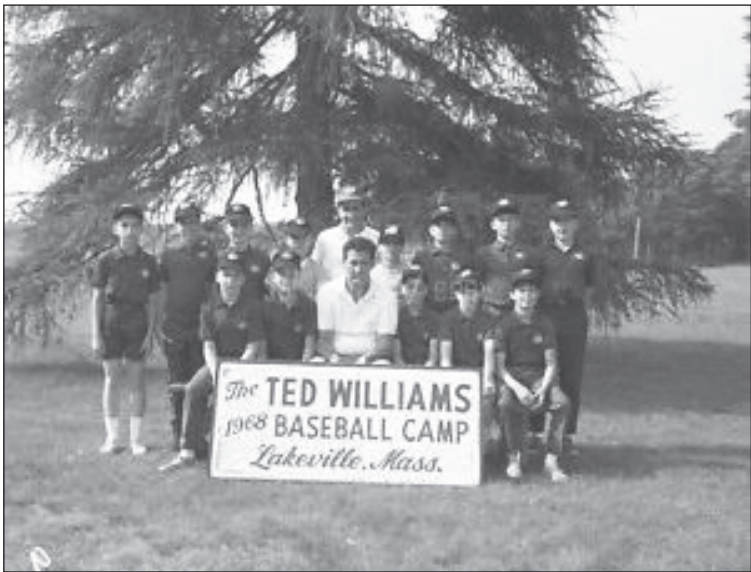
All of the events and auction

items brought in \$5,925.40 for the Jimmy Fund, whose research and healthcare professionals of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute lead the fight against adult and childhood cancer.

Alumni of the former summer camp were to conduct the auction during a luncheon at the camp grounds July 18, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced organizers to shift gears and proceed online.

The Ted Williams Camp operated from 1958 through 1986, having instructed thousands of boys from age seven through their teens, with frequent appearances by the Splendid Splinter.

The late Hall of Fame slugging left fielder of the Boston Red Sox, Williams championed the Jimmy Fund cause during the latter years of his career, which began in 1939 and ended in 1960. Williams (1918-2002) maintained his love and support of the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber for the rest of his life. Many considered him the



face of the charity, pouring his heart and soul into fundraising and making countless, mostly unpublicized, visits to young patients.

The Jimmy Fund was founded in 1948, and the Boston Braves baseball team quickly went to bat. A radio broadcast in Boston featuring Braves players comforting hospitalized kids went national, raising awareness of the Jimmy Fund and drawing in substantial amounts of financial donations.

When the Braves left Boston for Milwaukee after the 1952 season, the Red Sox – led by Ted – stepped to the plate, embraced the Jimmy Fund, and made it the official charity of the franchise.

Respectfully,

Joe LoRusso  
Nadia Carlevale  
Richard Trust  
Bob Ashley  
and the Ted Williams Camp Alumni

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## Somerville seeks volunteers for Patriots' Day and docent program

The City of Somerville seeks volunteers to help with the Patriots' Day Colonial Fair on Monday, April 18, at Foss Park. Volunteers will oversee colonial games, serve refreshments, and coordinate poetry readings. Setup starts at 9:00 a.m., and the fair is from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in Foss Park on Broadway near Fellsway West. Somerville High School students can earn community service credits. Interested? Contact Brandon Wilson, Executive Director for the city's Historic Preservation Commission, at [bwilson@somervillema.gov](mailto:bwilson@somervillema.gov) or 617-776-3938.



The city and the Somerville Museum are also seeking volunteer docents to lead free public tours at historic Somerville sites this May through October. Tours are offered twice monthly on weekends and Thursday evenings at the Milk Row Cemetery on Somerville Avenue, the Prospect Hill Tower above Union Square, and the Old Powder House in Nathan Tufts Park. All sites are ADA accessible. Period clothing is expected and can be provided, if needed. No prior experience required – just enthusiasm, reliability, and a commitment to being trained.



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# Mixed emotions for Davis Square business owners facing relocation

CONT. FROM PG 1

unknown; according to the company site, the project is “currently in the permitting phase.” However, business owners within the project’s bounds have already begun to relocate.

On Friday morning in Lumar-J Hair Salon, stylists snipped away as usual in a space that will soon be vacant for the first time in 41 years of business. The salon, currently housed at 260 Elm Street, will soon move to 19 College Avenue to make way for redevelopment. “It was stressful in the beginning, looking for a new spot ... a lot of clients were upset,” said salon owner Rosa Lopriore. “But we found a great location. I really think it is for the best.”

Michael Bayles owns LBC Boutique & Loan, another business that will soon relocate from the Davis Square Plaza. “We’ve had a store [in Somerville] for 15 years, and the city has been

evolving and changing,” he observed, noting in particular the recent metamorphosis of Assembly Row.

LBC Boutique expects to vacate their Davis storefront at the end of April, though the shop’s next location is not yet public. Bayles suggested that as squares like Davis and Union become more crowded and expensive, the affordable rent and readily available parking in smaller, more “underdeveloped” squares – such as Magoun – may draw more small business owners to these quieter areas.

Before long, more local businesses may join those from Davis Square Plaza in relocating. A separate redevelopment project, through the London-based firm Scape, will affect buildings further down Elm Street that currently house businesses including Sligo Pub, McKinnon’s

Meat Market, Caramel French Patisserie, and others. As with 7th spoke, however, the timeline for this project remains unclear.

Not everyone is looking forward to the changes in Davis. Newspaper vendor Jerry Harrell has

watched the square evolve for over 20 years. “All these businesses are established, they’ve been there for years,” he said, gazing around the square before adding, “They can come – I’m going to keep selling here.”

Bayles, meanwhile, was optimistic. “I think Somerville is going in the right direction, I really do,” he said on Friday. These remarks reveal a quality shared by Bayles, Lopriore, Harrell, and the other business owners and workers of Davis Square: the determination and grit to face up to development and stay afloat in a rapidly changing city.



Another redevelopment project will affect buildings further along Elm Street, where businesses such as Dragon Pizza and McKinnon’s Meat Market are currently housed.

# April 3, 1980, Somerville witnesses the worst chemical spill in the history of the state

CONT. FROM PG 1

the accident, I thought that I was on a movie set. I saw smoke billowing all over the sky, police cars, ambulances, fire engines from several cities, civil defense cars, bulldozers and sad to say, firemen being treated. It really looked like a movie made for television, only it was real.

My first order was to call for the evacuation of the immediate area. I later expanded that evacuation to several thousand residents.

I said to my staff, “It looks like we have much to do, and we better do it right.” The press was after me to make a statement, but I knew that first I had to meet with my Fire Chief Charlie Donovan to find out the facts and exactly where we stood at that point. I also needed to find out all that I could in just minutes what kind of toxic chemical “phosphorus trichloride” was.

I called for a press conference at my office soon after I got myself organized. Every television and radio station in the state was at City Hall. I explained to them that the chemical, phosphorus trichloride, was a clear colorless and highly volatile liquid that was corrosive to most metals.

If this substance came in contact with the skin, it would produce major burns. Also, the chemical was so strong that it could very quickly turn the chrome or other parts of a vehicle into rust. Most importantly, I informed everyone that very serious health problems could develop in those

breathing this very potent and dangerous chemical.

We set up a command center at the site and also at my office. Knowing that this would be an all-nighter. I had my staff set up space, telephones, coffee etc., for the press. I found out later that this was a gesture that they all appreciated. I just thought it was the right thing to do.

One of the most serious problems was keeping the flowing chemical away from the sewer system. In order to avoid this the fire department needed to get a front-end loader and make a trench so that the chemicals would not spread to the Joy St. storm drains. In so doing our firemen, without protective suits and breathing equipment were exposed to the physical effects this chemical had on them.

One Monsanto expert informed us that when water is poured onto phosphorus trichloride a cloud of hydrochloric acid and phosphorus acid (both toxic) is formed. I decided to err on the side of caution and when the wind started to shift, I ordered the evacuation of all homes from Washington St. to Cross St. By the end of the day, I had ordered the evacuation of about 14,000 citizens, including the school children from the Pope and the East Somerville Schools.

The real heroes were the firemen. I was never so proud of our firemen as I was that day. Each of them did an outstanding job. Sad to say we had several casu-

alties. Firefighters Kevin F. Sullivan, Anthony McDade, and Lieutenant Edward L Clifford were all permanently disabled as a result of injuries received at this spill. A fourth firefighter, Robert J Wilker, was injured and spent over a week in the hospital.

In speaking with the State Secretary of Public Safety as well as the State Civil Defense Director, I was told that, like it or not, as mayor I was in complete control of everything that happened. Suggestions could be offered, but all decisions and orders had to come from me. What was it Harry Truman once said? “The buck stops here.” It was true.

Later I found out that we still had 6000 gallons of phosphorous trichloride that’s settled into the ground. Our problem was that we had to rid the ground of every aspect of the chemical. We could not allow the ground to remain contaminated.

The chemical engineers came up with what they thought would be the best solution. If we poured 10 parts water to one part chemical, this might rid the ground of any contamination. However, this choice could very well cause a huge amount of white chemical smoke to hang over our city, as well as surrounding cities such as Cambridge, Medford or Charlestown. Naturally, if the wind blew the result would be even more disastrous and could force even more evacuations. I was also worried about the possibility of



having to evacuate the Somerville Hospital. As it stood, I had already evacuated over 14,000 people during the day.

Another possibility was the pour 10 parts sand to one part chemical into the ground. The downside might be that the sand would not work, and the ground would remain contaminated.

After giving it some serious thought, my decision was to pour sand and not water on the contaminated ground. We would also test the ground daily for the next two weeks. Each and every person in the room proceeded to tell me that they were happy with my decision and I went away feeling hopeful. It did work.

I would be remiss if I didn’t give huge thanks to Fire Chief Charlie Donovan, Deputy Chief John Brosnahan, and Lt. Frank Kelly for their prompt actions throughout that fateful day and night.

During that day the Somer-

ville hospital examined over 500 residents and admitted two firefighters. Mass General Hospital examined 20 and admitted one firefighter. The Lawrence Memorial Hospital examined 13 and admitted one firefighter, and Central Hospital examined 30.

There were so many volunteers who were so great to us. These included nurses, entertainers, food companies, John and Joann Sacco the owners of Dicks Service Center, Cataldo Ambulance, Holiday Inn, bus companies, The MDC Police and the Somerville Police Department. Amazingly, we did not have one case of looting in the city.

That day I saw fear in the eyes of my constituents, the uncertainty of families leaving their homes not knowing when and if they could return, and firemen who risked their lives combating a highly potent and foreign substance. Those were the lasting impressions that I still have today.



# Somerville resident Ellenor Barish set to run Boston Marathon

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

Local Somerville resident Ellenor Barish is eager to do something she has not done in 17 long years: complete a marathon. She will also do it in one of the most iconic races of all, the 126th running of the Boston Marathon. The race, scheduled to be run on April 18, is set to receive 30,000 runners from around the world. But for Barish this run means more than just running 26 miles, it also means representing a cause.

She plans to represent the Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC), a local non-profit seeking to provide services and housing for homeless individuals. “When I saw that the Homeless Coalition needed a runner I was just inspired, I was like, I would do that. If it means I can support the homeless coalition and I get to run the marathon, then I think I can do it,” Barish said.

Barish and her family have been very involved with the SHC, attending almost every event for the past 15 years. “We are very aware of the Barish family, they’re a regular supporter, a regular donor of SHC,” according to Felicity Beal, director of Development at the SHC.

According to Barish, SHC has always struck her as one full of compassion and generosity. “I’ve always been struck by the compassion of the organization, the way they collaborate with businesses in town and with other organizations in town to support their clients in the broader community,” Barish said. “I just get the sense that they are really good at what they do.”

In order to run in the Boston Marathon runners can qualify in one of two ways. The first is based on merit, where runners have to run the race distance at a predetermined time.

Another way to achieve qualification is through a charity. Every year charities are given bibs to run the marathon, but these organizations have to raise funds for their causes in order to be considered in future races.

Both for Barish and the SHC, this year’s marathon is very important. 2022 is the first year the SHC has a bib to run the race. According to Beal, the bib came about in a very organic way. “We didn’t put ourselves forward for a charity bib, but we were always on the lookout for one,” Beal said. “We have a board member who was able to secure a charity bib through a



Somerville’s Ellenor Barish is raising funds to benefit the Somerville Homeless Coalition as she prepares to run the Boston Marathon. — Photo courtesy of Ellenor Barish

member of John Hancock.”

With this being the first year the SHC has a charity bib in the race, Barish feels the pressure to perform well both in the race and outside of it. “If their runner does a good job fundraising it improves their chances for getting a charity bib in the future, so that’s sort of an extra incentive for me with my fundraising

to do a good job,” Barish said.

Initially, her goal was to raise \$10,000 by race day. She reached that goal 10 days ago. With less than two weeks before the race, Barish has set a new, ambitious fundraising goal: \$12,500. For more information and to donate to Barish’s fundraiser, visit <https://www.givengain.com/ap/ellenor-barish-raising-funds-for-somerville-homeless-coalition/#updates>.



Scan code to connect with fundraiser.

## Dorothy’s Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



### Passover Charoset

Charoset symbolizes one of at least five traditional items found on the Seder Plate during Passover. Charoset is a sweet relish of fruits, nuts, honey, spices, and wine. It represents the clay that was used to make bricks when the Israelites were enslaved in Ancient Egypt. For more detailed information, go to <https://jamiegeller.com/recipes/ashkenazi-style-charoset/>. The recipe below was adapted from <https://www.realsimple.com/food-recipes/browse-all-recipes/charoset>, Emily McKenna.

- 2 Apples, peeled and chopped into small pieces
- 1/2 Teaspoon lemon zest
- 1/2 Lemon, juiced
- 1/2 Cup toasted walnuts
- 1/2 Cup raisins
- 1/8 Cup honey

- 1/4 Cup orange marmalade
- 1/2 Teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/8 Teaspoon Chinese five spice
- Pinch of kosher salt

Preheat oven to 350°. Place the walnuts onto a cookie sheet and place in the oven for 10 minutes. Prepare the apples and place into a medium bowl. Add the lemon zest and lemon juice to the apples and mix well. This helps keeping them from oxidizing. In a small saucepan, add the raisins, honey, and orange marmalade. Place over a low heat and stir until the raisins are completely covered, about 2 minutes. Take off the heat and add the cinnamon, five spice, and salt, stir until completely mixed. Chop the walnuts into smaller pieces and add to the apples, then add the raisin mixture to the apples and blend everything together until well incorporated. Let sit for 4-6 hours in the refrigerator. Serve with matzo crackers. Serves



4-6 people. If you’re planning on cooking a brisket and the side of tzimmes, here’s a link to a crock pot tzimmes recipe from a previous post I did in the past:

<https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/64030>. Visit Dorothy’s website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix>.





# Beacon Hill Roll Call

Volume 46 – Report No. 13 • March 28-April 1, 2022 • Copyright © 2022 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local representatives’ and senators’ votes on roll calls from the week of March 28-April 1.

### \$350 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES AND MORE (H 4638)

House 156-0, approved and sent to the Senate a \$250 million package 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 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 lanes, improvement of public transit, electric vehicles and other state transportation projects.

Supporters said the 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 that this funding, known as Chapter 90, is relied on every year by local communities but noted that this is not the only source of local aid for cities and towns.

Geoff Beckwith, the executive director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, is one of the biggest advocates for more Chapter 90 funding above the \$200 million. “We are pleased that Chapter 90 and other important municipal transportation grant programs have been advanced by the House,” said Beckwith. “This is timely action to make sure that these funds are available for the upcoming construction season, and we look forward to continuing to work with lawmakers to address the long-term needs for local roads.”

Many local officials across the state continue to advocate for additional money to increase the funding and argue that the cost of repairing roads has increases by up to 40 percent but the state has kept this funding flat at \$200 million for the past 11 years.

Rep. Bill Strauss (D-Mattapoissett), the House chair of the Transportation Committee and the sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call for a comment.

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill).

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes

### ANOTHER \$25 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (H 4638)

House 28-128, rejected an amendment that would provide an additional \$25 million to cities and towns in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges across the state. This would be in addition to the \$200 million already included in the spending package.

“Roads are one of the biggest complaints we get from our constituents,” said amendment sponsor Rep. Kelly Pease (R-Westfield). “I believe that elected officials need to make dedicated road funding to our cities and towns a priority. Chapter 90 funding has not been increased for the last 11 years. Cities and towns throughout the commonwealth continue to take more and more money out of their budgets to try and keep up with the increasingly poor road conditions. This and schools are usually the biggest factors in property taxes going up. Again, I believe this issue needs to be one of our top priorities at the Statehouse.”

Opponents noted that the package already contains \$200 million for roads and bridges and an additional \$150 million for other local transportation projects. They said that the current formula, created decades ago, for distribution of the funds is considered unfair by many cities and towns. They argued the House should wait until an attempt is made to change the formula so that the additional \$25 million will be distributed in a fairer manner.

Rep. Bill Strauss (D-Mattapoissett), the House chair of the Transportation Committee and the sponsor of the bill, did not respond to repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call for a comment.

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$25 million. A “No” vote is against the \$25 million).

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No

### “CROWN ACT” - FORBID DISCRIMINATION AGAINST A PERSON WITH A NATURAL HAIRSTYLE (S 2796)

Senate 40-0, approved a bill that would prohibit any person or entity including educational institutions workplaces and public spaces from implementing any policy that would explicitly target someone who wears their natural hairstyle. The measure defines natural hairstyle as hair texture, hair type and protective hairstyles including braids, locks, twists and other formations. The House has approved a different version of the measure and the Senate version now goes to the House for consideration.

“Today’s passage of the Crown Act is a symbol from the Massachusetts Legislature that we stand with women of color who have experienced hair discrimination,” said Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). “As a father to young women of color this legislation means a great deal to me, but legislation is just the first step. In order to change hearts and minds, you have to ensure that people know that this exists, that it is deeply wrong and that it is something that many women of color have ... experience with.”

“On the long march toward justice, and especially racial justice, the Senate’s unanimous passage of this legislation marks another step forward,” said Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester). “We would not be at this point without the great courage and strength of Mya and Deanna Cook, who as 15-year-old students faced discrimination and abuse from their high school for their hairstyles, and bravely stood up for their rights and those of so many other Black women.”

“Today, an African-American woman with natural hair voted on the Crown Act,” said Sen. Lydia Edwards (D-East Boston), referring to herself. “This is a perfect example of when the personal becomes political. I am grateful to Maya and Deanna and so many Black women who spoke up through and for our hair. This makes our commonwealth stronger and affirms our belief that we should be judged on the content of our character. Today’s politics is especially a blood sport so to see both houses and both parties come together for justice is especially meaningful.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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### TEMPORARY LICENSE PLATES (S 2797)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would allow car dealers in Massachusetts to provide temporary license plates for vehicles that are purchased by

out-of-state residents and allow them to use the plates until the vehicle can be driven to and registered in their home state. The measure would direct the Registry of Motor Vehicles to design, issue and regulate the use of the license plates.

Supporters said that under current regulations, out-of-staters leave the dealership after a purchase and are forced to coordinate a complicated delivery across state lines.

Sen. Mike Rush (D-Boston), the bill’s sponsor, said the measure recognizes the growing business of online auto sales especially in New England which has a very compact set of states. He noted the legislation will bring in an estimated \$75 million to the state in new sales tax revenue and noted that almost all states currently allow this.

“I [am] a proud sponsor of [the bill],” said Rush. “As state senator representing the Norfolk and Suffolk district, I have the privilege of representing the largest stretch of auto dealers in Eastern Massachusetts, the Norwood/Auto Mile.’ This legislation will enhance auto sales throughout our commonwealth.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the bill).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes
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### ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**\$1.67 BILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET (H 4650)** – The House and Senate approved, on voice votes, without a roll call, and sent to Gov. Charlie Baker a \$1.6 billion supplemental budget that contains \$700 million for COVID-19 related expenses including testing, treatments, expanded vaccination access and personal protective equipment.

The measure also includes a section requiring the state’s pension funds to terminate investments with any company that has been sanctioned by the United States as a result of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine or is incorporated in Russia. Another provision provides \$10 million for the Office of Immigrants and Refugees to support the resettlement of Ukrainian and other international refugees.

The House and Senate had each approved its own versions of this budget weeks ago. The leaders of the two branches worked out the differences and came up with a compromise version without appointing a conference committee to do so. Although no one voted against the bill, some critics said that the 42-page bill is being rushed through the Legislature without representatives and senators having much time to read and understand the new version.

Other provisions include \$140 million for grants to special education schools to address the impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent variants; \$100 million for cities and towns for road repairs; \$100 million for rental assistance for needy families; extending eviction protections for tenants who have active assistance applications; and \$20 million for low-income home energy assistance;

The package also extends from April 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023 outdoor dining at restaurants and from May 1, 2022 to April 1, 2023 the law allowing restaurants to sell beer, wine and cocktails with takeout orders.

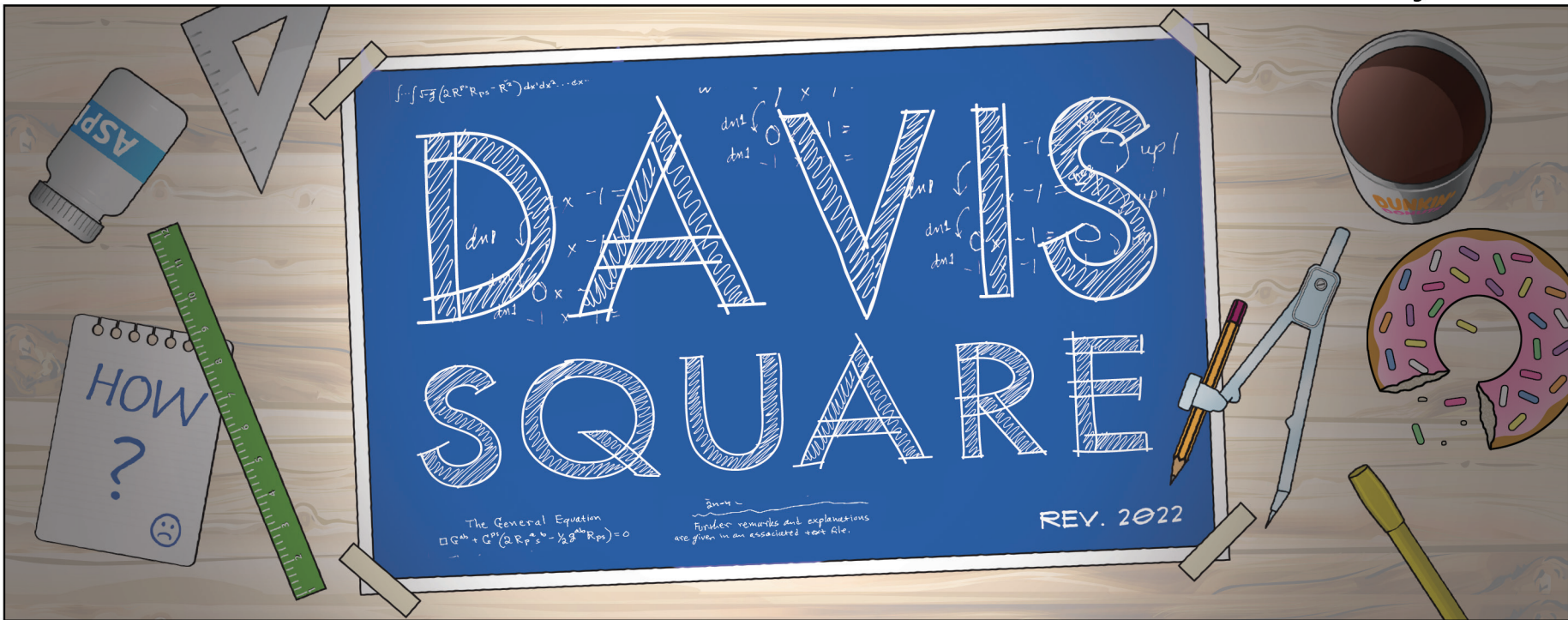
“The supplemental budget ... is emblematic of the Legislature’s consistent response to the



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



The best laid plans for Davis Square are about to be realized.

Our View Of The Times



Long awaited-for changes are coming soon to Somerville's Davis Square. Many redevelopment plans are all but complete and construction activities are imminent. These specific plans involve the renovation of several commercial properties and a number of new enterprises are expected to take up occupancy, while currently existing businesses will be moved around a bit as the overall project takes shape.

It is hoped, of course, that improvements to the general infrastructure of the area will also be seen as a vital part of the rehabilitation efforts. The broken-up walkways, damaged lamp posts, peeling paint, etc., have been a source of shame and aggravation as efforts to force the city into taking action on the matter have largely been ineffective. City officials often cite a failure to

secure bids from contractors that meet their budgetary limits as the main contributor to the delays. With the forthcoming thrust towards redevelopment of the area's business sector, it may be presumed that the resulting efforts will spill over and put a shiny new face on our beloved Davis community. Change is inevitable in all things. Some things stay, some things go, and some re-

main in place and adapt to the changes taking place around them. Not everyone doing in business in the Davis Square area is anxious to uproot themselves and relocate while the big changes take place. But almost everyone can agree that revitalization is a far better thing to live with than the alternative: the continued decline of a wonderful place that lives in our hearts.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

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**, also celebrating this week. We hope she had a great day too. Happy birthday to **Bruce Rollins II**, who also celebrated this week. We hope he enjoyed his day as well. Happy birthday to our good friend **Ida Fasano**. We're wishing her a great day as well. 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 having a great day. We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends such as **Linda Camiel Butler**, **Patricia Garrity**, **Kathryn Giuliano**, **Warren Goldstein-Gelb** and **Carmen Dolores Ferreira**, 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Reminder: **Street sweeping** began for the season on **Friday, April 1**. Make sure you know when your neighborhood is

swept and where you can park by checking signs in your neighborhood and visiting [www.somervillema.gov/sweeping](http://www.somervillema.gov/sweeping). The schedules are currently being updated. Street sweeping helps keep leaves and other debris out of storm drains, which helps prevent flooding. Help keep the streets clean – and avoid getting a ticket – by moving your car on street sweeping day.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC)** is looking for **drawstring bags** that their clients can use to carry their snacks and other personal items. College and other organized sports leagues are a great resource for drawstring bags, so if you or someone you know is affiliated, they would greatly appreciate you reaching out. SHC, 1 Davis Sq, (617) 623-6111, [shcinc.org](http://shcinc.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

Calling all **Somerville High School students!** Apply for the **Mayor's Summer Jobs Program**. Applicants must be Somerville residents, at least 14 years of age, and enrolled in high school. Summer jobs require approximately 20 hours per week for six weeks starting in June, though actual schedules will vary by employer. Some jobs require an

orientation before the program begins. Some positions can be done remotely or in a hybrid of remote and in-person work. Apply online at [somervillema.gov/summerjobs](http://somervillema.gov/summerjobs), or pick up a printed application in the **Human Resources Department at City Hall**, 93 Highland Avenue. Applications are due by **Friday, April 29**, at 12:30 p.m. All applicants will be interviewed the week of May 9. For more information, contact **Community Services Manager Javier Torres Trinidad** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2406 or [jtorrestrinidad@somervillema.gov](mailto:jtorrestrinidad@somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

Somerville's **indoor mask mandate** ended **Saturday, March 5**. The **City of Somerville** lifted its mask requirement for city buildings and events on **Monday, March 21**. This means all city-issued mask mandates are now lifted. Some federal and state mask requirements remain in effect. The **Somerville School Committee** voted to make masks optional in **Somerville Public Schools** as of **Monday, March 14**. The decisions to lift the local mask mandates follow current guidance from the federal **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**. But businesses can still set their own mask policies, so make sure to check

before heading in. More information, including where to find the latest health guidance can be found at [somervillema.gov/maskmandateupdate](http://somervillema.gov/maskmandateupdate).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

On **Tuesday, April 12**, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., **Newton Free Library** will celebrate **National Poetry Month** with virtual readings by **Harris Gardner**, **David Miller** and **Denise Provost**. An open mic will follow with a limit of one poem per person, limited slots are available. Sign-ups for the open mic will happen during the actual session. The series is facilitated by **Doug Holder** of **Ibbetson Street Press**. Registration for this program will end two hours before the start time. The Zoom login

Continued on page 9



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#821

1. When was the first Grammy awarded?

2. In 1990, who won the Album of the Year Grammy for *Nick of Time*?

3. Who won the Album of the Year Grammy in 1993 for *Unplugged*?

4. Who was the first black person ever to win a Grammy?

5. How many times has Fenway Park hosted the World Series?

6. Who was the

first YouTuber?

7. What are the two zodiac signs in April?

8. What is Holi?

9. In what months does spring occur in Australia?

10. Name the spring festival celebrated in Thailand?

11. What is Imbolc?

12. What time of year in the U.S. do Tornadoes most often occur?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The average adult spends more time on the toilet than they do exercising.

2. Honey is the only food that does not spoil.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
WHICH SPORT?

- ACROSS
1. Synagogue read

6. One in King's sematary

9. Cabinet div.

13. Grind down

14. Aloha State's welcome

15. Soup server

16. Bikini \_\_\_\_\_, Marshall Islands

17. Final, abbr.

18. Donor's loss

19. Vonn and Miller Olympic sport

21. Ovechkin and Gretzky sport

23. Alternative to trade

24. Secret disclosure

25. Computer-generated imagery, acr.

28. Wise Men

30. Remnant of the past

35. Egg-layers

37. Urban dwelling

39. Printer contents

40. Volcano in Sicily

41. Poetic although

43. Paella pot

44. Dictation taker

46. Like April 1st target

47. Locker room supply

48. Dirty or sleazy

50. Fuddy-duddies, for short

52. Stir fry pan

53. Bread portion

55. Mad King George's number

57. PelÉ and Ronaldo sport

60. Sampras and Williams sport

63. Luau greeting

64. "\_\_\_\_\_ my party, and I'll cry if I want to..."

66. Sack fabric

68. Cheat or trick

69. Davy Jones' Locker locale

70. Bert's buddy

71. Coral barrier

72. Poetic "ever"

73. "The defense \_\_\_\_\_"

- DOWN
1. Oolong, e.g.

2. Crumbs

3. #25 Down piece

4. Off-the-cuff

5. Mylar filling

6. Socket insert

7. Adult elver

8. Tax of one tenth

9. Like Darth Vader's side

10. Drop-off spot

11. Eugene O'Neill's piece

12. One less than jack

15. Hair holder

20. African antelope

22. Boat propeller

24. Depart from the ground (2 words)

25. Fischer and Kasparov sport

26. Reach a goal (2 words)

27. Private

29. Palmer and Nicklaus sport

31. Dirty money

32. Wife's dad, e.g.

33. Large violin family member

34. Bolt and Owens sport

CROSSWORD

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

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

A	S	H	E	S		M	A	O			W	I	D	E
T	W	I	X	T		E	M	U			S	H	R	E
M	A	F	I	A		O	P	T			V	O	I	L
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T	A	B	O	O		R	A	N		E	P	R	O	M
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N	E	T				E	R	E		S	N	O	R	T

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



OBITUARY

Mary M. Peterson



**Mary M. Peterson**, 81, of Kingston, Rhode Island, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 with her devoted husband and loving family by her side. Born and raised in Somerville Massachusetts to Margaret J. (Corbett) and Peter George G. Cernada (who later moved to East Boston), Mary then moved to Kingston, Rhode Island with her husband John, where they raised their five children.

Mary is survived by her beloved husband of fifty five years John F. Peterson of Kingston, Rhode Island, her loyal and loving brother George P. Cernada and his wife Eleanor of Amherst, Massachusetts, and her five cherished children and eight treasured grandchildren: Gary M. Peterson and his wife Carrie of Oregon City, Oregon and their son James; Mary Migliori of Wakefield, Rhode Island and her children with Donald Migliori, Donald and Gloria; Margaret Norberg and her husband John of Dux-

bury, Massachusetts and their daughters Maggie, Eleanor, Mary, and Clara; John Samuel Peterson of Kingston, Rhode Island and his son with Elena Puyo Peterson, Marco; and Sarah Peterson of Wakefield, Rhode Island. Mary also is survived by many nieces and nephews whom she loved as her own children. Mary was predeceased by her dearest sister Joan Dalton.

Mary lived a life full of devotion to her family, close friends, and God. A woman of strong Catholic faith, Mary attended daily mass at St. Francis Parish in Wakefield, Rhode Island and St. Thomas More Parish in Narragansett, Rhode Island. Mary attended St. Joseph's Grammar and High School and was a resident of Caldwell Ave. and Beacon Street in Somerville. Later in life, Mary proudly graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in English and was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Throughout her life Mary was entirely devoted to her husband, her children, and her grandchildren.

A funeral mass was held Monday, March 14th, 2022 at the Church of St. Thomas More in Narragansett, Rhode Island. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Mary's name to The Church of Saint Thomas More, Rockland St. Narragansett, Rhode Island.

# Woody's Liquors planning move to 483 Broadway

By Kyle Dante

A recent community Zoom meeting, sponsored by Ward 5 City Councilor Beatriz Gómez Mouakad, took place on Tuesday, March 29 regarding the relocation of Woody's Liquors to 483 Broadway.

Owner John Wood is working alongside RISE Architecture on the move. Wood, along with Nath lia Quirino and Tavis Babbitt, were present. It allowed the public to ask questions about the design and its incoming process.

Currently, the addition of Woody's Liquors has reached step two of an eleven-step site approval plan. It is in the process of defining the approval plan and updating it. It is the first of several incoming meetings in 2022 on the construction proposal.

Located near the Mid-Rise zoning district 4 (MR4), the location faces a two-story addition to another building. Babbitt seeks height variances based on the story specifications in MR4 for the Cities of Somerville and Medford.

According to the plans, MR4 allows three to four stories height in their construction. The proposal plan forces Babbitt to make accommodations that fulfill Somerville and Medford.

The plan aims to do two things: The reconstructed lot has 76% of land connected to Medford. Therefore, the location is both in Somerville and Medford. As for



Compliance with construction codes for both the Cities of Somerville and Medford are key components of plans for the future of the site at 483 Broadway.  
— Photos by Bobbie Toner

the Somerville legalities, it involves 723 square feet. As far as the height is concerned, it must be 14 feet tall.

The current situation in Somerville is creating complications. The lot currently has a first-floor height of 9 to 10 feet. Increasing the building height will create financial and construction problems, not only creating an increase in the construction budget but causing additional demolition. The demolition could force a reapplication with the Board. According to Wood, the decision-making process will run for four to five months.

There are a few factors impacting the plan. These depend on compliance with Somerville and Medford regulations. In addition to the boundary line, Medford issues different types of construction permits compared to Somerville's. It is two-storied for Medford versus the three, potentially four, stories for Somerville. Concerning the construction, two stories will not be an issue. At the moment, Somerville is not using its entire lot. It remains unused and in disrepair, as well as lacking parking capabilities.

Thankfully, when the construction begins, it will not be a detriment. The community will be allowed to give feedback in upcoming meetings. It is in blueprint form right now. As the year progresses, construction is expected to begin.

Those who are concerned with the project can participate in any upcoming neighborhood meetings regarding 483 Broadway. The decisions made can potentially impact the process and what will ultimately replace the set-to-be demolished building.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

information will be sent just after registration closes. Please be sure to check your spam folder in case it lands there. <https://newtonfreelibrary.net>.

\*\*\*\*\*

For a family fun time, on **Saturday, April 16**, 11:00 a.m.- to 2:00 p.m., **Connexion** will hold their **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** at **Chuckie Harris Park**, rain or shine.

\*\*\*\*\*

The **City of Somerville** seeks three artists to serve on the newly created **Somerville Armory Master Plan Committee**. After acquiring the Armory building at 191 Highland Avenue last year, the city has initiated a master planning process to support the space as a city-owned arts resource. The Committee will guide municipal consultants and staff in developing the Somerville Armory Master Plan in preparation for transitioning the property into a public community arts center. To learn more and apply, go to

[somervilleartscouncil.org/armoryplanning](http://somervilleartscouncil.org/armoryplanning). The application deadline is **Friday, April 15**, at noon. Please contact **Ted Fields** at [tfields@somervillema.gov](mailto:tfields@somervillema.gov) with questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Looking for a way to **practice social distancing** but still remain connected to other people? Look no further than the **Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly Phone Caller program**. They have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether

you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call **Natasha** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

\*\*\*\*\*

Are you a **Somerville High student** with a passion for food, community, and justice? Join **Groundwork Somerville's spring Green Team internship program**. You'll earn school credit while making friends, working for social justice, and learning about sustainable farming. Apply here: <https://forms.gle/4e5bAyLZ1pVAToMi6>


\*\*\*\*\*

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.



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

**GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP**  
*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

**LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)**

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, April 19, 2022** 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 22 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@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Registration URL:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2092417229089883662>  
Webinar ID: 818-180-675

**TO CALL IN**

Phone Number: 1 (562) 247-8422  
Access Code: 739-141-284

**ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT**

**Alterations to Local Historic District (LHD) Properties**  
HPC.ALT 2022.20 – 17-19 Aldersey Street  
Applicant: Paul Morgan  
Owner: ZD Aldersey, LLC (Paul Morgan & Carrie Endries)  
*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by replacing windows and doors, installing vents, and enclosing windows.*

**HPC.ALT 2022.16 – 9 -11 Campbell Park**  
Applicant: ACE Residential Solar, LLC  
Owner: Eugene Mirman  
*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by installing solar voltaic cells on the roof.*

**HPC.ALT 2022.19 – 50a Spring Street**  
Applicant: Jeff O'Neill & Claire Decoux O'Neill  
Owner: Same as applicant  
*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by altering existing window openings, the addition of a Juliet balcony, the extension of a first-floor porch, and the addition of a second-floor porch with pergola on the left elevation.*

**HPC.ALT 2022.21 – 78 Sycamore Street**  
Applicant: Daniel Macheras  
Owner: Same as Applicant  
*The Applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness to alter an LHD property by installing tracking lines for a ductless split system on the right elevation.*

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

**HPC.DMO 2022.09 – 57 Trull Street**  
Applicant: Rich Ducott  
Owner: Tim Buntel & Cynthia Graber  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

**HPC.DMO 2022.10 – 3 Prescott Street**  
Applicant: Damian & Penny Mangino  
Owner: 3 Prescott St Nominee Trust  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

**HPC.DMO 2022.11 – 9 Union Square**  
Applicant: Hamilton Construction Management, represented by Michael Sambuceti  
Owner: Union 2 Associates, represented by Carol Rash  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*


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

**HPC.DMO 2022.13 – 32 White Street**  
Applicant: SGL Development, Inc.  
Owner: Gary F. Shea & Teresa A. Grove  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

**HPC.DMO 2022.14 – 44 White Street**  
Applicant: SGL Development, Inc.  
Owner: ETS Family Investments, LLC  
*The Applicant seeks to demolish a principal structure constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.*

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

3/30/22, 4/6/22 The Somerville Times



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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, April 21, 2022**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 22 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 upon request to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7750638206265767692>  
Webinar ID: 861-497-539

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8321  
Access code: 361-345-892


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

**350 Assembly Row** Street Retail, LLC proposes to develop a 7-story lab/office building subject to the Assembly Square Mixed Use District (ASMD) of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance in effect as of August 1, 2019, and subject to PUD-PMP PB2006-59, as amended, which requires a Special Permit and Site Plan Approval, and is seeking waivers for minimum parking stall width and minimum parking requirements.

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

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

4/6/22 The Somerville Times



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

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, April 20, 2022**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, 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](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/447951354926366477>  
Webinar ID: 419-068-883

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0052  
Access code: 364-323-722

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


**15 McGrath Hwy** 15 McGrath Hwy Owner, LLC requests an extension to a previously approved Hardship Variance (DRA #2020-0334)

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

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

4/6/22 The Somerville Times

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



**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Removal of Public Shade Trees**  
**City of Somerville**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a virtual public shade tree hearing on **Thursday, April 14th, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** using GotoWebinar software to consider the removal of the following public shade tree(s):

- 37 Walker Street** – 26-inch diameter American Sycamore due to impact of root system to foundation and underground utilities of abutting house.


The tree identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing. Documents may be sent via email to: [trees@somervilleMA.gov](mailto:trees@somervilleMA.gov), or mailed to: 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. A recording of this hearing will be available upon request to [trees@somervillema.gov](mailto:trees@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**  
**Webinar ID:** 784-266-019  
**Registration URL:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4394267911715812367>

**CALL IN**  
**United States:** +1 (415) 930-5321  
**Access code:** 884-738-487

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**SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, April 13, 2022**, at 6:00 PM, on a petition for an amendment to a Dog Kennel License:

Elliot's House Pet Care and More seeks an Amended Dog Kennel License at 230 Somerville Avenue, adding overnight boarding for 10 dogs.

**This meeting will be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.**

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

- To attend and be heard, enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1147907054167798540>. You can also find this link on the City website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
- If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the City Clerk at the address below, or by email to [cityclerk@somervillema.gov](mailto:cityclerk@somervillema.gov). Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Committee.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.**

**KIMBERLY M. WELLS, CITY CLERK**  
**CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV**

4/6/22 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE**  
**PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**RFP# 22-51**

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

**Consultant for Cultural Planning**

The bid package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's electronic bidding platform at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Thursday, April 7th, 2022**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, and 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, Thursday, April 28th, 2022**.

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

Please email [purchasing@somervillema.gov](mailto:purchasing@somervillema.gov) for more information.

**Jordan T. Remy**  
**Procurement Analyst**  
**617-625-6600 x3400**

4/6/22 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES  
RFP # 22-48

Acquisition of Commercial Office Space by Lease for Police Station

The City of Somerville, acting through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites sealed bids for a lease of commercial space for use as a police substation serving the neighborhood of East Somerville.

A request for proposals (RFP) and specifications may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's electronic bidding platform at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after **Wednesday, March 23, 2022**. Sealed proposals will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, at 93 Highland Ave. Somerville, MA 02143 or via Bid Express until **Monday April 25, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.** at which time sealed proposals will be opened. The Chief Procurement Officer 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.

The preferred space will be located on or in the environs of lower Broadway in a highly visible location and be large enough to accommodate a vestibule, a conference room, and two offices and will include some off-street parking. The desired lease term is three years plus options to extend for up to two additional years. Lease start date shall be **July 1, 2022**.

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

3/30/22, 4/6/22 The Somerville Times

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[www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

School Committee to host Office Hours

The Somerville School Committee will be hosting office hours over the next few weeks, some virtual and some in-person at locations across the city. Somerville residents are invited to stop in for a chat at any of the scheduled School Committee office hours to share ideas, recommendations, questions, or concerns as the district continues its 2022-23 budget preparations. Residents can also reach out to individual School Committee members at any time. School Committee office hours will be posted on the School Committee Office Hours page: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee/spring-2022-virtual-and-person-office-hours>.

Ms. Cam's  
Olio  
Answers

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. May 4, 1959            | Spring, a popular ancient Hindu festival  |
| 2. Bonnie Raitt           |   |
| 3. Eric Clapton           | 9. September to November  |
| 4. Ella Fitzgerald        | 10. Songkran  |
| 5. 11                     | 11. The Gaelic festival celebrated halfway between the spring and winter solstice |
| 6. Co-founder Jawed Karim |   |
| 7. Aries and Taurus       | 12. Spring, early summer  |
| 8. The Festival of        |   |

GLX arrives in Union Square

By State Senator Pat Jehlen

We celebrate not just the opening of the first GLX stations, but the decades of community activism that made it possible:

The mothers who tried to block the construction of I-93, the neighbors who fought and succeeded in stopping the construction of the Inner Belt through our neighborhood, the Conservation Law Foundation which sued to get the commitment to the GLX as part of I-93 mitigation and then again when it was threatened, the hundreds of activists who filled the Somerville High School auditorium twice when the project was about to be canceled, the advocates who persisted with STEP, the Friends of the Community Path, and the Medford Green Line Neighborhood Alliance, as well as the elected leaders recognized today.

Many times in the past 30 years,

this project seemed to be at a dead end. But the dedication and persistence of so many people, most of them unnamed today, and many of them no longer with us, got it over every roadblock.

This is an important milestone, but our work is not done.

Now many people think the GLX will permanently end at Medford/Tufts. But we will not stop until it reaches Route 16.

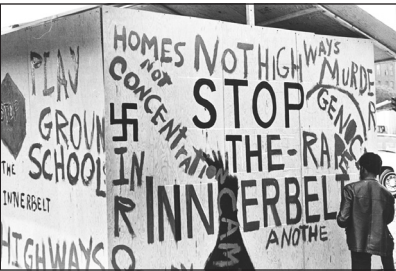
The GLX was approved as mitigation to offset increased air pollution from traffic on I-93. But for 40 years, the people closest to I-93, along Mystic Ave and in East Somerville, have suffered health damage and death due to that pollution. How do we make up for those lost years? The GLX is not enough. The damage continues. We have to build barriers now to stop the pollution and the noise.

As we celebrate the enormous economic growth unlocked by this project, we can't forget the people left behind and pushed out by the rapid rise in property prices and rents. Apparently, everyone in North America wants to live in Somerville. But the things that make our community so attractive won't exist if the immi-



grants, the working people, the longtime residents, the artists, as well as small businesses and family-owned triple-deckers are gone. There are solutions we can and should adopt immediately to slow displacement, protect existing affordable housing, and promote home ownership, as well as build new affordable housing for all ages and family sizes. It will be tragic if the people who need and use public transit the most can't afford to live near it.

Thank you to everyone who contributed over the years to this achievement. Thanks also to all the taxpayers, without whose contributions this would not be possible. Without their support, its maintenance and operation won't be possible. And thanks to everyone who continues the effort to expand public transit and other public benefits that make our lives richer.



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](mailto: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 Somerville Times,

This is a response to Jason Mackey's letter dated March 23, headed "do not establish a local historic district at 125 Highland Ave."

I can tell your readers that the Historic Commission did not take Mr. Mackey's advice. They did, in fact, vote to establish the address as a local historic district. Now the matter goes before the City Council.

Beyond the information just stated, I wish to counter several but not all of Mr. Mackey's contentions. I take his point that the building has been poorly maintained and needs work. In counterpoint to other points in his letter I offer: a) Somerville needs for more affordable housing than that which is presently conceded by the developer, and b) it is specious logic to tolerate tearing down a 100-year-old building on the National Register of Historic Places because the architect's expressed racial bias.

Mr. Mackey opens with a claim that affordable housing won't be built if a local historic district is declared at 125 Highland. I'm sorry: 8 units out of 40 (he admits) would be affordable under the developer's present proposal. That's 20%. Our city sorely needs more than 20% of

new units built to be affordable. We do not need 80% of said units to be lived in by transient upper-middle class people having their last fling in a gritty urban environment while their real objective is the suburbs once they have kids. All over Massachusetts, affordable housing has been successfully built in historic buildings because such developments qualify for twice the funding under the state's Community Preservation Act, which Somerville voted to accept. That's because they qualify under both the historic preservation AND affordable housing categories. Why should Somerville have its landmark buildings replaced with anonymous boxes, when other communities are keeping historic structures AS affordable housing?

On the matter of Ralph Adams Cram's racial views. It is a complicated task to judge those of the past by today's standards. However, since the public discourse on this matter has already labeled him a white supremacist, I would like to state that I do not personally believe that the remedy for white supremacy of the present, or the past, is to tear down historic churches. This is not a Confederate monument. This building is a former church building of one of the constituent denominations (the

Universalists) of arguably the most liberal Protestant group operating in the U.S. today (the Unitarian Universalists). Would we tear down Thomas Jefferson's Monticello? Or, closer to home, the Isaac Royall House in Medford, which has the last remaining slave quarters in new England? That building typifies a more helpful approach to buildings with unpleasant histories – a marker and ongoing programming that tells its story to living generations.

Are we really to believe that the Masons wouldn't continue to meet at 125 Highland Avenue if it were not so difficult to maintain? – I ask that because Mackey indicates they don't do so any longer, and I wonder how many Masons presently reside in Somerville. Lastly, I strongly suspect there were many Masons of the past who held racial views similar to those of architect Cram. Nonetheless, I'm certainly not advocating the abolishment of their group, though it is an historically secret society that to this day only men can join (see <https://kingsolomonslodge.com/>, the section headed "Become a Mason").

Sincerely,

Arthur Hock  
35-year resident of Somerville



SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bingo** – Tuesdays at Ralph & Jenny Center starting at 10:00 a.m. and Thursdays at Holland Street starting at 10:00 a.m. Grab and Go lunch available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov.

**Project Outlook, Low Vision Group returns** – 2nd Tuesday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie and socialization. Project Outlook has been active for over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. For more information please contact Claudia at 857-237-1801.

**Game Club** – Mondays from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.) Please join us as we play a wide variety of board and card games. Please RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

**General Nutrition Classes** – In-person, Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at our Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at our Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Virtual classes are offered Monday at 11am via Zoom. New and returning members are welcome! Call Mary Marshall at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316 or email her at headtofitness10@yahoo.com. Masks are required.

**Walking Group** – Fridays at 9:30 a.m. The walking group will meet in front of the Holland Street Center and will enjoy walks through area neighborhoods. All classes and groups will be limited in participation and are weather permitting. Pre-registration is required. For additional information or to register for the program, contact Chris Kowaleski by email at ckowaleski@somervillema.gov or by phone at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315.

**Fit-4-Life Exercise Classes** – Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m and 11:00 a.m.—In-person, indoor at the Holland Street Center. Each class will focus on strength, balance and flexibility. Pre-registration is required as classes will be limited; masks are required. Please contact Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 or email ckowaleski@somervillema.gov with any questions or for additional information.

**English Conversation** – Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. – At the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Meet people from all over the world as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation. This program is in person; pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

**Men’s Group** – Second Tuesday of the month from 10:30 to 11:30. Our popular men’s group is held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Holland St. Center. New and returning members are welcome. Please RSVP to Norbert DeAmato at ndeamato@hotmail.com.

**Bowling is Back** – Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Flatbreads Company / Sacco Bowl Haven in Davis Square. For more information or to sign up please contact Debby at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Deb at Dhiggins@Somervillema.gov. Face coverings are required.

**Somerville’s Poet Laureate, Lloyd Schwartz** – Wednesday, April 6, 1:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.) The program will begin with a reading of “the Two Horses” a poem Schwartz wrote about his mother and the memories which she shared with him about her childhood. To join us please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov Grab & Go Lunch will be available after the program. This event is made possible by the Academy of American Poets.

**Coffee with the Chief of Police, Chief Charles Femino** – Friday, April 8 at the Holland Street Center 10:00 a.m. Join us for coffee and treats with Somerville Police Chief Femino and members of the Somerville Police Force. Please RSVP to Debby at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov. Grab & Go Lunch will be available after the conversation.

**Line Dancing with Julie Kaufmann** – Monday, April 11, at our Holland Street Center. No experience needed. For more info or to RSVP please call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov.

**How to Help a Loved One Who Clutters** – Wednesday, April 13 and Wednesday, May 18 from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Do you have someone in your life that is

more than a little messy? Does their clutter prevent them from having better relationships with family and friends? If you find yourself in this situation and have a hard time talking to someone about their clutter, look no further than this two part seminar. On April 13, we will discuss how to talk with someone who is hoarding. We will show you different techniques about how to engage them and their clutter in a productive manner. On May 18 we will discuss different resources available to someone who is looking for support with de-cluttering. To RSVP for the seminar, please contact Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

**Mix It Up Mondays** – Mondays, April 11, and April 25 – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Street Center. Led by Tufts Occupational Therapy Interns. Take a stroll down memory lane and join us for afternoons of creativity and nostalgia. Participate in an array of activities like painting, creating poems and sharing recipes while socializing with your friends at SCOA! This series will culminate in a collection of tangible memories for you to treasure. RSVP to Chris by phone at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

EXERCISE

Virtual FIT-4-LIFE SCHEDULE

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise  
Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise  
Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise  
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22  
The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



In baseball, where do catchers sit at lunch?  
Behind the plate.

On This Day in History  
April 6

- 1199 – English King Richard I is killed by an arrow at the Siege of the Castle of Chalus in France.
- 1789 – The First U.S. Congress begins regular sessions at Federal Hall in New York City.
- 1830 – Joseph Smith and five others organize the Church of Latter-Day Saints in Seneca, New York.
- 1862 – Confederate forces attack General Ulysses S. Grant at Shiloh, Tennessee.
- 1896 – The Modern Olympics begin in Athens with eight nations participating.
- 1909 – Americans Robert Peary and Matthew Henson become the first men to reach the North Pole.
- 1917 – The United States declares war on Germany and enters World War I on Allied side.
- 1965 – President Lyndon B. Johnson authorizes the use of ground troops in combat operations.

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# Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONT. FROM PG 6

economic needs and priorities of the commonwealth,” said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D -Quincy). “In addition to critical investments in health care, education, transportation infrastructure and housing, this package also includes funding for the resettlement of Ukrainian refugees here in Massachusetts, ensuring that we do our part in the global effort to help those suffering from the war.”

“Massachusetts has avoided the worst of the financial downside from this pandemic and its effects thanks to a history of careful financial planning and consistent investment in those programs and services which support public health and build resiliency in our communities and our commonwealth,” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “The supplemental budget ... continues this trend by providing targeted funding to healthcare, housing, education, and transportation needs. Importantly, this budget ensures that Massachusetts can continue to offer sanctuary

to refugees fleeing from violence abroad even as war continues in Ukraine.”

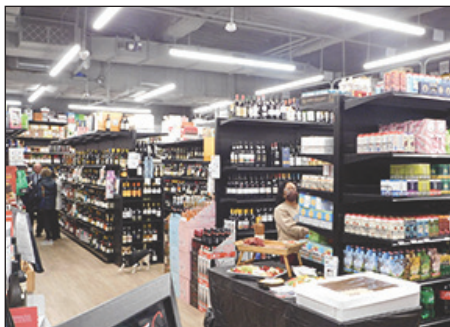
HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION? Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. 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 28-April 1, the House met for a total of 13 hours and

29 minutes and the Senate met for a total of nine hours and four minutes		
Mon. March 28	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:49 a.m.	Senate 11:14 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.
Tues. March 29	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:04 a.m.	No Senate session
Wed. March 30	House 11:06 a.m. to 2:57 p.m.	No Senate session
Thurs. March 31	House 11:01 a.m. to 7:46 p.m.	Senate 11:19 a.m. to 7:47 p.m.
Fri. April 1	No House session	No Senate session
Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at <a href="mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com">bob@beaconhillrollcall.com</a>		



## Sav-Mor Liquors opens in Assembly Row

On Friday, April 1, family owned and operated, Sav-Mor Liquors celebrated the opening of their new location, 325 Canal Street, Assembly Row. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Councilors-at-Large Jake Wilson and Kristen Strezo, Somerville Chamber of Commerce President, Stephen Mackey were on hand to help generations of the Weiner family celebrate their grand opening. They are a great family that have owned and operated Sav-Mor liquors for more than 50 years. They also well-known for their humorous roadside signs which Robbie Weiner will keep alive at the new location. Their signs were recently featured on Chronicle 5 WCVB — Photos by Bobbie Toner



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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville’s Denise Levertov:  
The Poet of Glover Circle

Mark Pawlak, a former Somerville resident, had an informal apprenticeship with the late poet Denise Levertov (1923 to 1997). Levertov, a noted lyrical and political poet held court at her home at Glover Circle, right outside Davis Square.

While teaching at Tufts and MIT, she sort of had an ongoing poetry salon at her house where poets like Mark Pawlak learned their craft back in the 60s and 70s. Pawlak has a new book about his experiences with Levertov entitled *My Deniversity: Knowing Denise Levertov*. I had the chance to speak with Pawlak on my Somerville Media TV show, *Poet to Poet: Writer to Writer*.

Pawlak, an accomplished writer and poet in his own right, and a founder of the noted Hanging Loose Press, told me that he thought Levertov had three distinct phases in her life. The first was when she immigrated from London, and married Mitch Goldman, a writer and political activist from Brooklyn. Then she transitioned to become an "American." Pawlak recalled that she wrestled with the American idiom. She eventually became comfortable with it.

Levertov’s early poems were very sensual. The noted poet William Carlos Williams compared her to Sappho. Later, she transitioned to becoming a more political poet. With the advent of the Vietnam War, she and her husband became devoted anti-war activists. So, the political gradually seeped into her poetry. Pawlak said, “She never stopped being political.” Pawlak continued, “Some poets said her poetry suffered because of this new trend, they felt her poems were too didactic.”

Pawlak, who still teaches physics at U/Mass Boston, was a physics student at MIT when he heard about Levertov from his roommate. Pawlak was very interested in poetry, and he was particularly fascinated with Walt Whitman. He read most of the body of his work when he was younger. So he attended Levertov’s workshop at MIT, and that was the beginning of a long association with her.

Levertov had a home about a block outside Davis Square on Grover Circle. This was a short walk



for Pawlak. Levertov let him drop in whenever he wanted. He recorded the many conversations he had with her in his notebooks, some of which are included in *Deniversity*. Pawlak told me Grover Circle was a sort of an ongoing literary salon. People would come in and out and discuss poetics, politics – a whole range of things.

We are all to some degree walking contradictions. And Pawlak told me that Levertov, despite being very political, never felt being a woman had anything to do with the quality of her work. Many younger women wanted her to be a mentor, a feminist who stands up to the patriarchy of the male-dominated literary world, but she wouldn’t have it.

Eventually, Pawlak and Levertov parted ways. Pawlak reflected, “Often, mentors want to be a continuing influence on their proteges. When I started to meet poets of my own generation, and others she didn’t approve of, we drifted apart. She became extremely critical of my poetry, so we moved on.”

In the end Pawlak was very lucky to have a mentor like Levertov. Perhaps without her he would never fully explored the craft, and become the accomplished man of letters he is today.

Lyrical  
SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Kaileigh Grieb is a freshman at Endicott College studying communications and journalism in the hope of becoming a journalist. She found a passion for writing late in high school and it’s only grown since then. In her free time, she can be found writing poems, short stories, and other genres of literature.



Nana’s Three Sisters

She always looks out the window and always tells me the same thing as we take our usual route home,  
"How I do love those three old houses on Route 6A+."  
Those three old houses lit up with candles in the window.  
Those three old houses that stick out like a sore thumb on the road.  
Those three old houses that remind me of "simpler times."  
"The Three Sisters" as the neighborhood calls them, built neatly in a row.  
My grandmother always asks to take the scenic route in the hopes of driving by the  
"Three Sisters".  
She longs to meet the owners  
to tell them how much  
she loves the houses.  
How nosey my grandmother can be.  
She always tells me of how  
"The Three Sisters" were built by a sea captain for his three young daughters when they married.  
How proud he must have been of those three old houses on Route 6A.  
He died at sea.....  
never got to see his three girls move  
into those three houses,

but I know he was watching over them  
as it’s told,  
his ghost wanders... house to house  
on certain summer nights.  
The dead sea captain knows me  
and knows my grandmother,  
how can he not?  
We are his regulars.  
I hope we get to meet one day,  
to finally put a face to that old man’s name.

— Kaileigh Grieb

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

Composing New Perspectives:  
Female Voices From Iran

The Tufts University Department of Music presents Composing New Perspectives: Female Voices From Iran in the Distler Performance Hall at the Perry and Marty Granoff Music Center on Sunday, April 17 at 8:00 p.m.

An evening of new works for loadbang ensemble by IFCA members including, Fojan Gharibnejad, Bahar Royaei, Nasim Khorassani, Kimia Koochakzadeh, Golfam Khayam, Niloufar Nourbakhsh and Tufts student Yasaman Ghodsi.



The New York City-based new music chamber group loadbang brings a new kind of music for mixed ensemble of trumpet, trombone, bass clarinet, and baritone voice.

The Granoff Music Center is located at 20 Talbot Avenue on Tufts’ Medford/Somerville campus. The event is free; no tickets required. This event will be live streamed through Tufts Music Live Streaming: <https://as.tufts.edu/music/news-events/live-streaming>.



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