

Somerville's
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independent
newspaper

The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com



VOL. 9 NO. 14

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



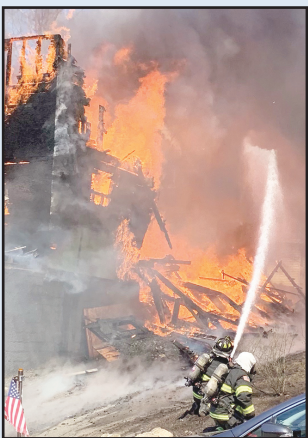
Andy's Meat Market

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Public safety building planned

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Morrison Ave. ablaze

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Somerville schools prepare for return to in-person hybrid classes



Schools in Somerville are getting ready for students to return to classrooms in April.

By Alex Reidy

The Somerville School Committee Meeting on Monday night began with presenting details of the hybrid return to school, which is currently in its 3rd phase, stating that as of April 5 teachers returned and on April 8 students in grades 3-6 will return to the in-person hybrid classes.

Tests will continue as April vacation will see a full return to 5-day school weeks by April 26. PK-8th grade, but not high schoolers will for the foreseeable future will remain in remote learning.

Starting on Monday, April 26, there will be a 2-hour delayed start for all PK-8 students so that staff can rapid test Monday morning after the break before resuming classes.

The April 26 start times for students are 10:45 a.m. for PK and 10:15 a.m. for grades K-8. There will be a regular 1:45

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New tools can help small businesses thrive while working remotely

It's been a challenging year for businesses of all sizes, with many companies having to quickly transition from centralized to decentralized work environments. Business leaders say that without the right tools, the new normal can put a strain on communication, collaboration and teamwork, significantly reducing productivity.

"Leading effectively from afar is a real challenge," says Amir Moussavian, the CEO of Eturi Corp. "The ability to tune into the hum and buzz of my team collaborating has always been essential."

Recognizing a missing piece of the puzzle, Moussavian and his team at Eturi, which develops cross-platform solutions for mobile devices, introduced a new app called Motiv, a mobile dashboard that delivers important productivity metrics to CEOs, managers and leaders. The tool's reporting focuses on providing conference call activity and email summaries and integrates with Google Workspace and Microsoft 365, with many additional

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Smart use of the latest technologies can boost the effectiveness of remote working strategies.

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

The **City of Somerville’s Elections Department** has set up an online appointment system to allow candidates for municipal office to safely pick up and drop off nomination papers and speak with **Elections staff** while City Hall remains closed to the public. Candidates can sign up for a 30-minute appointment **between May 3 and June 9** at www.somervillema.gov/elections. For more information about municipal elections, including how to run for office and a full election cycle calendar, visit www.somervillema.gov/elections








Reminder: Regular street **sweeping schedules** resumed Thursday, April 1, and **continue through December 31**, unless otherwise announced. On designated street sweeping days, vehicles must be moved from the side of the street being swept, as noted on signs posted on each street. The penalty for not complying with street sweeping parking regulations is a \$50 fine. You can find street sweeping information for your neighborhood by checking street signs or visiting www.somervillema.gov/sweeper. Please note that if there is a discrepancy between the online schedule and street signs, follow what is printed on street signs.

The **Somerville Community Growing Center** is a contender in the **Nature’s Path Gardens for Good** competition. They have an amazing opportunity to receive \$5000, just from crowdsourcing votes. The short window for voting is **from now until April 7**, but the top 21 vote-getting non-profit gardens will receive the money. Please help them rack up points by voting here (you can only vote once): https://www.naturespath.com/en-us/gardens-for-good/?fbclid=IwAR1415cy4tXIbx-zgqjBTWTdM4qHWfpzUsc1OYaDzIdTh9zYI_mye9xbN-3wo#the-somerville-community-growing-center.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Big happy birthday to **Steve Mac** of the DPW. We hope Steve enjoys his day. Happy birthday to **Sissy McWatters-Ankenbauer**, *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 7 – April 13 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>April 7</i>	Partly Cloudy	57°/44°	7%	2%	NNE 12 mph
 Thursday <i>April 8</i>	Partly Cloudy	57°/43°	8%	3%	NE 10 mph
 Friday <i>April 9</i>	Partly Cloudy	60°/45°	9%	4%	ENE 9 mph
 Saturday <i>April 10</i>	Partly Cloudy	64°/48°	10%	6%	SSW 11 mph
 Sunday <i>April 11</i>	Rain	58°/46°	39%	22%	E 12 mph
 Monday <i>April 12</i>	Rain	53°/44°	40%	23%	NE 12 mph
 Tuesday <i>April 13</i>	Rain	56°/45°	37%	21%	NE 10 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: **City Councilor Will Mbah announces candidacy for Mayor**

Sara Dion says:

Wow, congratulations! You most likely have my vote!

A.Moore says:

And if he becomes mayor how many personal things will we have to supply him or pay for? As it is he has the city shovel him out. Not a good start.

Ayongbertran says:

He merits my vote

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Nice enough guy. One bit of advice, respectfully offered: ditch the “you know” interjections between every few words when speaking in public. Not your best move. Cheers!

Joe says:

His whole pitch is based on so-called progressive ideals. Where are the nuts-and-bolts of running and bettering the city that is like 98% of the job? Will he fix the roads? Will he tackle the rats? Will he get rid of the junkies? Will he improve transportation for *all* (improve car traffic flow while also building bike infrastructure)? Will he greatly improve the care of city trees? Is there anything he would do to clean up the litter all over the city? Does he respect property owner rights? Does he acknowledge the importance of the Somerville police? But mostly: Will he be a great steward for the continued transformation of Somerville into a highly desirable city among professionals? Will he attract new businesses and make sure that chains don’t move in (for instance in Union Square)? Will he make sure we don’t end up with a traffic and/or parking nightmare? I don’t know. I don’t hear anything. I’m waiting for a candidate to stand up who has a great deal of practical experience and who will be a mayor for *ALL* of Somerville. We don’t need somebody that will give climate change and sanctuary cities and BLM lip service to get elected and then realize that it has nothing to do with the actual day-to-day job.

In response to Joe says:

In response to Joe’s comment above I just want to say that those “junkies” you speak of aren’t junkies. Men and women just like them are our friends and family members that we care about. Many died in the prime of their lives. Addicted more often than not due to underlying untreated mental illness. Better question is how do we get rid of your dated thinking, lack of compassion and negativity? You owe everyone who sees your comment an apology because we’ve all lost at least one person to opiates who was a human being. Not a junkie.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Andy's Meat Market



The photo is from around 1960. The streets are the same but there's been a lot going on at that corner.

Many Somerville families got their ground beef, steaks and chops at Andy's Meat Market. Our sources are a bit confused as there are two Andy's mentioned by former customers.

One friend says, "I believe my brother in law's dad, Andy T, owned the meat market." Another former resident tells us, "I helped my Uncle Joe R do electrical work on that meat market in the 1950's. At that time, it was owned by a sweet man I knew as Mr. Gianino."

Some remember hanging around the laundromat to stay warm in the winter. A musician friend shared a memory:



"I lived on the corner house behind the laundromat at 7 Farragut Ave. Jimmy S and his family owned the house and lived downstairs. I started our first rock group with Lou M and Carlos P while attending Western Jr High. Those were the days."

Other residents and former neighbors share: "Grew up down the street and spent a lot of time on Farragut. I think I remember it being a hair salon. There was also a barber shop where Andy's was."

"Now there are stupid condos. Looks so crowded."

I have friends that currently live on Farragut Ave. Two of my dearest friends, Michael T and Brian B lived there too.

The last business to be where the laundromat was included a dry cleaner.

For years neighbors also recall a beauty salon at the former site of Andy's. Today it's a real estate office.

A former neighbor says, "I guess it was just a matter of time before the site was razed and rebuilt as apartments or condos." And one final comment from another neighbor: "Now there are stupid condos. Looks so crowded."

Thank you, Cyndi D, for the photograph of kids hanging around in the laundromat in the '80's.



City Councilor Will Mbah announces candidacy for mayor

At-Large City Councilor Will Mbah has announced his candidacy for mayor of Somerville in the 2021 election. Mbah, who was first elected in 2017, is in his second term on the Council.

Mbah said his campaign would take "the great promise and progressive ideals that Somerville expresses- a belief in black lives, a belief in being a sanctuary city, of affordability, a commitment to education, the arts and artists, of a Green New Deal for Somerville, a commitment to our seniors, a support of our local businesses, and a belief in having a safe and thriving community for all- and then ask the hard questions about how we are living up to these values for ALL in the community." Citing his temporary displacement from Somerville due to rising rents after he first moved to the city, he emphasized the importance of bold action on housing affordability. He spoke about the pressing environmental issues facing the city, which have been a key focus of his work on the city council. Mbah discussed the need for climate justice in Somerville, including clean air for all, especially those living closest to the I-93 corridor.

An immigrant from Cameroon who moved to Somerville in 2011, Mbah understands first hand the challenges faced by the one-quarter of Somerville's population who are also immigrants. As a father raising two young children, he is deeply invested in seeing the city of Somerville become the most welcoming, inclusive place it can be. The Somerville Mbah envisions extends opportunities to all of its residents. Prior to his time on the city council, Mbah volunteered on the Community Assessment of Freeway Exposure and Health (CAFEH), was involved locally with the Democratic City Committee as the Diversity Chair, was a member of Our Revolution Somerville, and was also involved in community organizing in Sweden and Cameroon.



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CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION
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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

B.Y.O.B. unwelcome at restaurant

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to Mike's Restaurant in Davis Square last Friday afternoon on reports of a fight. Upon arrival, the officers spotted a man, later identified as Adan Avalos, reportedly throwing punches at various people outside of the main entrance to the restaurant. According to reports, Avalos then backed away, knocked over a hand sanitizer display and began lifting a granite top table to flip it over. Upon seeing the officers, Avalos put the table down and walked over towards them, yelling and raising his hands as if preparing to strike them, police said. An officer grabbed the front of Avalos's jacket and brought him down to the sidewalk. The officer grabbed the left wrist of Avalos and he pulled it away. Avalos was told to stop resisting, but he reportedly continued pulling his arms away and swinging them. A witness told the officers that he was eating in Mike's Restaurant when the staff told Avalos to leave. Avalos began yelling and "getting in the face" of the restaurant staff. At this point, the witness said he intervened by telling Avalos to leave and not yell at the female staff. This reportedly angered Avalos and he began yelling at the witness and attempted to hit him. At that point the officers arrived on scene. Police also spoke to the restaurant manager, who told them that Avalos was bringing outside alcohol into the restaurant and was asked to leave. She said that Avalos became angry at this request and began yelling and pushing furniture around inside the restaurant. She called the police and waited by the doorway until officers arrived on scene. Avalos was transported to the Somerville Police Station and booked on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG			
Arrests:	er, March 30, 12:57 p.m., of conspiracy and assault to	Adan Avalos, April 2, 4:24	charges of disorderly conduct
Theresa Alves, of Fall Riv-	arrested on warrant charges murder.	p.m., arrested at Davis Sq. on	and resisting arrest.


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Somerville schools prepare for return CONT. FROM PG 1

p.m. dismissal for PK and 2:35 p.m. dismissal for K-8 students. All PK to 8th grade students will resume their regular in-person start times on Tuesday, April 27. Student representatives spoke of graduation being set for June 7, with a rain date of June 9. It will be streamed live with professional photographers. A motion was made to create student committees that will serve together with the School Committee in order to provide student feedback and information to the committee and to influence decisions. A quick update on COVID-19 testing was given with 1,524 students and 697 staff having been tested in the month of March, showing a .18 percent positivity rate, with 0 staff positive since March 1. Break testing will occur on the April 20 and 22. Crossover sports were also discussed, and it has been decided that as long as you play on a school team you cannot play for a travel or other league team. A presentation on statistics was made and it was shown that multilingual learners are struggling in comparison with others, and a commitment to bettering the multilingual learners was made. A presentation in equity showed the goals of Equity and Excellence in Somerville Public Schools, initiatives included establishing systems and structures which advance equity in the district, cre-

ating robust professional development opportunities, to support each school community, and responding with appropriate supports. There is an advancing equity task force, a team of 25 who work to identify systemic inequities, affinity group working group, a group of ten looking to plan the incorporation of affinity groups for students and staff. All educator professional goals needed to be aligned with equity. There is a new school-based equity specialist who is generally a teacher who works with administration in meeting individual needs for equity. Some organizations that they are partnered with include UnboundEd, the SEED project, BetterLesson, Dr. Daren Graves, and the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, all dedicated to improving equity. College readiness and counselor effectiveness was also discussed and how statistics are showing that many students are applying to college and have their FAFSA filled out already. Public comments were made, with some complaining about the lack of education being provided in schools, in terms of time spent actually teaching, the police being called on students for disciplinary actions, and the hybrid school format. The motion to make the Emergency 1-year Leave of Absence and School Placement Hold Policy go into effect was made and seconded.

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New public safety building plans presented

By Alex Reidy

On Wednesday, March 31, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 1 City Councilor Matt McLaughlin, Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott, and city staff held a virtual community meeting to introduce the Public Safety Building Project.

The new public safety building is to be built on 90 Washington Street to replace the original building that has become obsolete and outdated, with a plethora of structural issues that would cost more to fix than to build a new building.

The new facility will house both the Police and Fire Departments as well as community-decided development that has yet to be determined.

The focus of constructing this new building is the shared spaces of Police, Fire and Community, which would include spaces for emergency communications, education, wellness, community



Initial steps in preparing for construction of Somerville's new public safety building is expected to commence within the next few months.

outreach and clinical support, investigation and evidence, patrol, administration, and specialized training.

Beyond the administrative aspects, there is the idea that the extra space on the land can be used for many different purposes that are as of yet undetermined, including possible affordable housing, a park or another building used for other purposes, such as a pharmacy.

Impacted soils need to be tested and the original foundations still need to be demolished, and 3 to 4 months from now is the estimated starting date for that.

Funding has not been concretely decided upon, but the use of Opportunity Zone funding program may well be used.

The new facility is estimated to be completed by late 2023 to early 2024. You can go to sommervillema.gov/public-safety-building to share your opinions and feedback, and to get updates on the project.

City Council's Legislative Matters Committee update

By Emmanuel Vincent

The Legislative Masters Committee Meeting started the new month with a virtual meeting this past Thursday. One of the highlights of the meeting was the staffing level of police patrolmen. It was argued that the City Council should have the responsibility of controlling the staffing of law enforcement in the city.

There was some push back regarding this, suggesting that the Police Department itself should determine the number of patrolmen. The reason given for this is that the Chief of Police has a better understanding of staffing requirements, since they are engaged in the office on a consistent basis.

"We have the power of the police," said one Councilor. "If we want to cut the police, we can cut the budget. The Chief should be able to determine what the structure of the department looks like." Nothing was finalized with this topic, as it was agreed to address the matter at a later time, with a formal proposal.

Another item on the agenda for the meeting was the police and fire reserve list. There's a concern, primarily for those who are already on the list as well as those who were given a conditional offer by the city.

With the history of dealing with this matter, there is no clear roadmap to an outcome that works for all parties involved. "Everybody is unclear," said City Solicitor Frank Wright. "There's no precedence or guidance for us to give. It's just a question of whether the Civil Servant commission would deem them to have any sort of protection."

The day-to-day salary of police officers would not be negatively impacted if the reserve list is dispensed with. Some feel that there is no urgency for limiting or getting rid of the reserve list. Instead, it was felt that the current list should be exhausted first.

The Chief of the Fire Department expressed concerns about the possible removal of the reserve list as he needs more people on board, as overtime re-

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The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #227

Fort Sumter

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

One hundred and sixty years ago this coming week, the American Civil War began in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. After years of smoldering pressure between the abolitionist North and the slave-holding Southern states, Fort Sumter became the war's first battle site.



For 34 hours on April 12 and 13, 1861, Confederate batteries struck the fort with over 3,000 artillery shells causing its surrender. It was the first time since General Washington raised our first American flag on Prospect Hill that our standard was humbled.

This attack launched us into the most disastrous and costly war fought on our soil. The nation's loss was 1.5 million casualties, over 620,000 soldiers killed on both sides, and the destruction of much of our country. During four painful years, every city, town, hamlet, and its citizens had been changed.



Somerville was no different in her adaptation.

- The Somerville Volunteer Militia's sacrifice during the four-year conflict would be 98 killed and 250 wounded out of 1,485 who served or almost one quarter. Many more served in other military branches.



- The 1863 Civil War memorial on Somerville Avenue honors her fallen troops and, as such, is said to be the first in the nation. Another beautiful statue on Central Hill commemorates their valor and conviction.
- During the war, much of the land west of Davis Square was called Camp Cameron

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COMMENTARY

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

Revitalizing local democracy through charter reform



By William C. Shelton

Last Thursday the Charter Review Committee conducted its first meeting. Its purpose is to design a new governing document – a new government, really – that will enable the City to be responsive to residents and to effectively meet the challenges of this historical moment.

Such an effort is overdue by over a century. Our current charter dates to 1899. It mandates two Fence Viewers, a Wood and Bark Measurer, and a Grain Weigher. It also invests overwhelming authority to govern in the mayor.

Just twelve years after the current charter’s adoption the city’s leaders recognized their error. The Board of Aldermen approved a new charter that specified a commissioner form of government, a forerunner of today’s council/manager form. The Mayor signed it, but it languished and then died in the Legislature in 1914.

Our current charter grants the city’s legislative branch only two powers. The City council can create new ordinances, which can then be vetoed by the mayor, requiring a two-thirds vote override.

And the Council can approve

the annual budget submitted by the mayor. Even this “authority” is illusory. The Council can only reduce specific items, or reject the entire budget.

If the Council were to not approve the budget, city government would continue to operate on the previous year’s budget. The Mayor could then pick and choose individual supplemental appropriations to submit for Council approval, mobilizing political pressure to approve them.

Lord John Dalberg-Acton famously wrote that “Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Massachusetts’ politics offer convincing evidence.

Less than eight percent of its 351 cities and towns have a strong mayor form of government. But they historically account for all of the Commonwealth’s major municipal corruption scandals, with one exception. That would be Lowell, where the corrupt city manager had been a strong mayor in Holyoke.

Somerville is consistent with this pattern. Its long history of corruption peaked, but did not end, in the late 1960s. The *Boston Globe* Spotlight Team’s very first series blew the lid off this corruption in 1971, for which it won a Pulitzer.

The pattern of *quid pro quo* exchanges of money for favors may be substantially reduced now. But highly concentrated power in the executive branch fosters an unconscious arrogance that usurps the legal

and democratic prerogatives of Council members and citizens. It leads to decisions made in the absence of public awareness and input that are justified after the fact, if and when doing so becomes politically necessary.

From the mid-1970s through the mid-1990s, Aldermen pursued comprehensive charter change five times. In 1980 the Board of Aldermen approved and the mayor signed a comprehensive charter revision.

Largely drafted by Alderman Andrew Puglia, it aimed to make government more responsive through provisions like Initiative, Referendum, and shifting power to the legislative branch. In 1981 it arrived at the Massachusetts’ House of Representatives, where it passed as Bill 6294. But Somerville’s Denis McKenna killed it in the Senate.

One provision of that charter would have eliminated a corrupted system of elected tax assessors. Shameless cynics said that Senator McKenna opposed the bill because his son’s father-in-law was Assessor Bobby Campo. Mr. Campo later went to prison as part of the Assembly Square corruption scandal.

The Committee that will pursue this latest attempt to update the city’s charter is entirely appointed by Mayor Joe Curtatone and Council President Matt McLaughlin. They had set January 19 as a deadline for Committee candidates to submit their applications.

They subsequently extended the deadline, citing insufficient diversity in the applicant pool.

Viewing the Committee’s ultimate makeup challenges one’s understanding of what was meant by “diversity.”

Nevertheless, the Committee has been given an awesome responsibility. It has the opportunity to design a municipal government that is open, accountable, and responsive.

Substantially shifting authority from the executive to the people’s elected representatives could base policy decisions more firmly on real-world evidence, make governance more participatory, produce more creative solutions to the city’s great challenges, moderate escalating campaign spending, reduce the influence of self-interested parties, and make the city’s true fiscal conditions and choices more transparent.

For me, the wisest comment during the Committee’s first meeting came from Committee Member Beverly Schwartz. She suggested that the Committee begin by discussing values and goals that would define what should be the new government design’s guiding principles.

Yes. If you don’t know where you’re going, any road – or hired consultant – can take you there. But by first defining the destination, the Committee can deploy available resources to support the journey.

The Committee’s webpage promises to “engage the community in robust discussions about potential charter amendments.” A good start would be to revisit the decision to not record Committee meetings. Not everyone

can attend meetings at the time they are scheduled, but everyone will be affected by their outcome.

As one “community” member, I offer the following charter provisions for the Committee’s consideration:

- Adopt initiative and referendum. We the voters should have the maximum capacity allowed under Massachusetts’ Constitution and General Laws to propose and approve our own ordinances.

- Consider proportional representation. Assess such methods as ranked-choice voting.

- Create an elected auditor position with an independent budget, charged with monitoring the city’s fiscal condition on behalf of its people.

- Ensure that the legislative branch has its own legal counsel and, if it chooses, staff.

- Include all the funds managed by the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development within the publicly reviewed budget.

- Make advocacy for a city job applicant illegal if it is done by an elected official.

- Simplify charter amending. The city should have the authority to make basic amendments without needing a Special Act of the General Court.

What provisions would you like to see in a new charter? We at *The Somerville Times* would like to encourage a conversation on the matter. Please go to our website, click on the “Forum” tab at the top and right side of the homepage, and share your thoughts.

Rep. Barber leads effort to include individuals with disabilities and their caregivers in Phase 2 of COVID-19 vaccine distribution

Representative Christine Barber of Somerville and Medford led a sign-on letter campaign with 84 members of the House and Senate to call on Governor Baker to prioritize individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their caregivers in the second phase of the state’s COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely and devastatingly impacted people with I/DD. Recent studies on the impacts of COVID-19 have found that having an intellectual disability is the greatest risk factor, other than age, associated with COVID-19 deaths.

Families of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been active in reaching out about the health risks and challenges of accessing vaccines. The letter, sent this week, emphasizes a need to also prioritize the vaccination of caregivers for persons with I/DD.

“The pandemic has had a severe impact on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families,” said Representative Christine Barber (D-Somerville). “Many people with disabilities have also had difficulty with preventative health measures and disruptions to health services they normally rely on as a result of the pandemic. Giving people with disabilities vaccine priority ensures their safety, keeps our communities safe, and further reduces the spread of COVID-19.”

84 legislators signed on to the letter, which was sent to Governor Baker this week. Representative Barber is continuing to work closely with her House and Senate colleagues, along with disability justice advocates to ensure the state’s vaccination distribution plan and COVID-19 recovery is equitable and inclusive of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

— Office of Representative Christine Barber

COMMENTARY

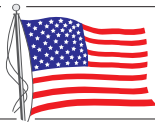
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Aspirants to the throne, come forward!

Our View Of The Times



The more the merrier, so they say. And when it comes to the latest political season that is currently coming into full bloom, we should all indeed be prepared for some merry times ahead of us.

Along with the regularly recurring contests for various seats on the City Council and School Committee, the current mayor's recent announcement of his decision to not run again to retain his seat at City

Hall has upped the ante in the upcoming power plays soon to unfold.

A number of newcomers have emerged to vie for positions on the City Council and School Committee, and a few well-known names have stepped up to announce their ambition to take the city's top honor, Mayor of Somerville.

It's a little difficult to imagine a new administration in charge of the city, since

the present mayor has been in office for so long. His governing style has become an institution in itself, and he will leave an indelible impression on the character of the city for many years to come.

So, whoever takes up the mantle not only has big shoes to fill, the complexities of the present-day and future issues that confront our community not only persist but are compounded constantly, and call

on the best and the brightest to step up and boldly embrace the challenge.

Some will come as serious and highly qualified candidates, and others as pretenders interested only in seeking attention and momentary fame. Ultimately, the process will separate the wheat from the chaff and the voters themselves will dub the successor to the seat of power. That's our system, and that's good.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

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**, who is a real estate agent with **Century 21 North East**. 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.

Join the **City of Somerville planning team** and **fellow community members** to help shape the future of the **Brickbottom area** of Somerville through an interactive workshop. This will be the first of several events to help us create a

Vision Plan that reflects the community's shared vision for the future of this area and can serve as a guide for future development. In this first session, they will discuss the existing conditions as well as several key improvement opportunities identified in their community outreach thus far. Brickbottom: First Visioning Workshop, **Wednesday, April 7**, at 6:30 p.m. This is a virtual meeting. You can register at <https://tinyurl.com/BrickbottomWorkshop>. You can learn more about this initiative at somervillema.gov/brick. Questions? Email at planning@somervillema.gov.

A virtual meeting about **Bluebikes** is set for **Tuesday, April 13**, at 6:00 p.m. Learn more about your public bike share. Bluebikes is co-owned and managed by the municipalities of **Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Everett, and Somerville**. At their spring meeting, they will look back at bike share in 2020 and share what to expect in 2021. They want to hear your questions, comments, and ideas. You can submit your thoughts in advance or share them during the meeting. Email bikeshare@boston.gov or use our online form. Register for the Zoom meeting: [bit.ly/](https://bit.ly/2021bikeshare)

bit.ly/april-bike-share-comments. Submit questions and comments in advance: bit.ly/april-bike-share-comments. Interpretation and translation services are available to you at no cost. If you need them, please contact us at bikeshare@boston.gov.

All **Somerville Public Library** locations will be closed from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on **Friday, April 9**, for a staff development training. Contactless pickup will be available at **Central Library** and **East Branch** from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Regular Contactless Pickup hours resume **Saturday, April 10**.

Virtual Overdose Prevention Training, **Tuesday, April 13**, at 3:00 p.m. Learn how to prevent, recognize and respond to an opioid overdose. Register for this event: [http://bit.ly/April13registration](https://bit.ly/April13registration).

The **Somerville Museum** will reopen to the public on **Thursday, April 8**. Hours are **Thursdays, 2:00 – 7:00 p.m., Fridays, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m.** They require all visitors to wear face masks regardless of vaccination status, and everyone needs an advance timed-entry ticket. Tickets available on Eventbrite. Time slots are

1/2 hour long. \$5 for Non-Members. Members enjoy free admission. Want to become a member? Sign up here: <http://somervillemuseum.org/join-html/>

Somerville High School is looking for volunteer speakers. Please contact their **Social Studies Department Head** if you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity: akersten@k12.somerville.ma.us. Here's what **Ms. Kersten** says: "Are you passionate about an issue in society? Do you work to make positive change locally, nationally, and/or globally? Do you work to influence public opinion, policy, representation, or the allocation of resources? Somerville High School is looking for people who are civically engaged to share their experiences with our students."

The **Walk for Hunger** is seeking participants to join our community dedicated to doing good by helping get food to kids and families during the pandemic. A virtual fundraiser that supports **Project Bread's** work to increase food access for people of all ages in Massachusetts, registration opened on **Tuesday, February 9**. Fundraising **continues until May 2**, with fun, virtual events

Continued on page 9

Ms. Cam's *Olio*

#774

- Answers on page 14

1. The Nullarbor Plain of Australia covers 100,000 square miles without a tree.
2. It takes 12,000 head of cattle to produce one pound of adrenaline.

3	1	2	5	8	9	6	4	7
8	5	6	7	1	4	3	2	9
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Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

4 Alarm fire - 195 Morrison

The Somerville Fire Department was notified of a house fire on Morrison Avenue at approximately 12:19 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, April 3.

Arriving fire companies were faced with extreme fire conditions. A vacant, 2 ½ story home, which was under extensive renovations, was completely involved in fire at 195 Morrison Avenue and fire had already ignited the homes on either side at 191 and 201 Morrison Avenue.

Four Alarms were sounded in quick succession bringing mutual aid fire companies from Cambridge, Boston, Belmont, Chelsea, Medford, Malden and Arlington.

The original fire building at 195 Morrison was completely destroyed and collapsed. The homes at 191 and 201 both suffered significant damage and are currently uninhabitable. Six residents of those homes have been displaced.

A house in the rear at 197 re-

ceived heat damage as well as the house across the street at 194. Embers from the fire resulted in a porch fire at 169 Morrison as well as a mulch fire at 177.

Four vehicles were damaged by heat and a construction trailer was destroyed. Heat from the fire also melted some of the warning lights on the first arriving fire apparatus.

Several live electrical lines burned and fell to the ground causing added difficulty and an

additional hazard to firefighters operating at the scene.

Construction workers were on the site at the time of the fire. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation but is not considered suspicious. The lack of finished interior walls and ceilings in the home under renovation as well as missing windows allowed rapid fire spread throughout the structure. Damage is estimated to be two million dollars.

Both the Red Cross and Somerville Health and Human Services were on scene assisting the displaced residents. One firefighter was treated at the hospital for a burn and several other firefighters suffered minor injuries but were able to remain on duty.

Charles J. Breen Jr.
Somerville Fire Department

— Photos courtesy of
Somerville Fire Department



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

taking place throughout the day. In its 53rd year, and its second year as a virtual event, thousands of caring community members will participate in the oldest pledge walk in the country, which is expected to raise over \$1 million to help get food to kids and families during this crisis. Likeminded organizations that fundraise as part of The Commonwealth by forming teams can raise money to support their own work, while also furthering the statewide effort. There is no registration fee this year or fundraising minimum. To create a personal or team fundraising page for The Walk for Hunger or to make a donation, visit projectbread.org/walk or call (617) 723-5000.

The state has announced when all remaining groups will be **eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Monday, April 5:** People age 55 or older and people with one certain medical condition became eligible. See the full list of medical conditions at mass.gov/vaccine. **Monday, April 19:** People age 16 or older will be eligible. For more information and to pre-register for an appointment, visit mass.gov/vaccine or call 211. The City of Somerville is also available to help those who face barriers to accessing vaccines, including people who need transportation or language assistance. If you are currently eligible to receive a vaccine and need help accessing the vaccine, please call 311.

Greg Nadeau has announced his candi-

dacy for **Ward 7 School Committee** in November's election. Nadeau has dedicated his life to public education. In addition to his professional career in educational systems, he has been active with Somerville schools. Any Ward 7 voters interested in meeting to share ideas about working together to better support Somerville young people, should register their interest at PeopleWorkingWithGregNadeau.org. Two Zoom meetings are scheduled: **Sunday, April 10, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**, and **Wednesday, April 14, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

Some reopening restrictions have started to ease since April 5. As more residents have access to the COVID-19 vaccine, including essential and service industry workers, the **City of Somerville** is moving forward with some additional modest business reopening steps. Somerville is still reopening at a more cautious pace than the state, remaining in a **modified Phase 3, Step 1** of the state's reopening plan until further notice. Starting April 5, restaurants have been allowed to stay open beyond 9:30 p.m. until their regularly permitted closing hours, but must remain at 25% indoor capacity. The city will work with recreation facilities to expand their operations in ways that are safe for each business. The **Somerville Museum** will be allowed to open, but must adhere to special event capacity caps in effect citywide of 10 persons indoors and 25 persons outdoors. The City of Somerville continues to moni-

tor COVID case, vaccination, and other related data on a daily basis. As more people are vaccinated there is hope for further reopening in the near future, but guidance from public health experts does not support further openings at this time given the recent increase in case numbers across the state.

Massachusetts Military Support Foundation (MMSF) will be distributing **USDA Farmers to Families Food Box** to local families in Somerville and surrounding communities on **Saturday afternoons on a weekly basis. 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.** at the **Somerville Lions Club, 9 Washington Street, Somerville.** Those wishing to receive food are asked to register online by visiting the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation website www.mmsf.org. On the day of the Food Box distribution, individuals shall arrive in a vehicle, remain in the vehicle and wear a surgical mask at all times. Volunteers will place the box in the vehicle's trunk, back seat or pick-up truck bed. Distributions will take place once a week at this location.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is offering **free transportation to COVID-19 vaccination sites** to Somerville residents age 60 and up as well as adults of any age with disabilities. Appointments must be scheduled in advance. To learn more or schedule an appointment, contact SCES at 617-628-2601 or info@eldercare.org.

The city has been holding **virtual vaccine information sessions and Q&As** in multiple languages throughout the vaccine rollout. To find out when a session is coming up, click the **"Events"** tab on somervillema.gov/vaccine.


If you or someone you know would prefer to get **occasional vaccine updates via a phone call**, you can sign up by visiting somervillema.gov/vaccine or calling 311. If you prefer email updates, don't worry, you won't be missing any information if you don't sign up for calls. All information sent out via calls will also be included in these email updates.

Apply for **small business relief funds.** The **City of Somerville** has made \$5 million available to small businesses in its third round of the **Small Business COVID-19 Relief Fund.** Eligible businesses can apply for grants of up to \$25,000. Applications are now available and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Learn more about the funding, including eligibility requirements, or apply for funds online.

The Pandemic – Electronic Transfer (P-EBT) Program was created spring 2020 to provide eligible families funds to purchase food while schools were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended through the end of the 2020-21 school year. Visit <https://www.map-ebt.org/home/#ihdtab> for additional information.

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**Section 00.11.13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Highland Gardens Site Improvements, SHA project #1912, for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by CBA Landscape Architects LLC dated March 31, 2021.

The Project consists of: The removal and replacement of shrubs, perennial plants, and trees; removal of existing nonfunctioning light poles; replacement of one missing light pole with another light pole from on site; power washing and selective resetting of existing brick pavers; repainting of fences and benches, and any other miscellaneous site improvements as shown on the drawings and in the specifications.

The work is estimated to cost \$57,943.73

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c. 30 §30M and minimum wage rates as required by the Davis/Bacon Wage Rate. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the Somerville Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

General bids will be received until **10:00 am on Thursday, 22 April 2021**, and publicly opened online forthwith.

All bids should be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com and received no later than the date and time specified above.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternatives) and made payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority**.

Bid forms and Contract documents will be available for pick up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of \$50.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc.

Plan Deposits may be electronically paid or by check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets upon return of the sets in good condition within (30) days of receipt of bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional Sets may be purchased for \$50.00.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **\$40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to BidDocs ONLINE, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:
Date and Time: **Thursday, April 15 at 10:00 AM**
Address: Highland Gardens,
114 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145.

It is strongly suggested all prospective bidders attend the site visit. Bidders are required to register for the site visit with the Somerville Housing Authority representative listed below and will be required to adhere to Covid-19 safety measures of wearing face masks and maintaining social distance of six feet between attendees.

Questions or requests for an appointment to see the work site should be directed to Travis Panzini at TravisP@sha-web.com or 617-625-1152.

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

Somerville Housing Authority 30 Memorial Road Somerville, MA 02145 617-625-1152	Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749 978-568-1167
--	--

4/7/21 The Somerville Times




**DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED
OCCUPANCY/RENTAL ASSISTANCE
JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Director of Admissions and Continued Occupancy/Rental Assistance is under the general supervision of the Deputy Director. This position is responsible for planning, directing, monitoring and evaluating the services and activities associated with the management of the Tenant Selection Department and to the management of the subsidized Section 8 Department, which includes other special programs, such as the SRO, SNAP/Shelter Plus Care, AHVP and MRVP Programs. The Director of Admissions and Occupancy/Rental Assistance supervises and trains staff members and performs various other duties in order to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Tenant Selection and Section 8 Departments.

For full job description visit Somerville Housing Authority's website at www.sha-web.org.

Please send resume and cover letter to:
Emily Eschmann, Executive Secretary
30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145
EMAIL: emilyh@sha-web.org

4/7/21 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 public hearing on **Wednesday, April 14, 2021** at 6:00pm. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

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

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7381844405939084046>
Webinar ID: 416-425-059

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (914) 614-3221
Access code: 890-285-579


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

51 Central St Applicant, Fresh Start Contracting, proposes to modify the condition list of a previously issued Special Permit (ZBA 2017-36).

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.

3/31/21, 4/7/21 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4651534932822475278>
Webinar ID: 392-971-059

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8321
Access code: 616-077-759

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

255 Elm Street The Harvest Club proposes to establish a Cannabis Retail Sales use in the Commercial Core district which requires a Special Permit.

240 Elm Street Sira Naturals, Inc. proposes to establish a Cannabis Retail Sales use in the Mid-Rise 4 district which requires a Special Permit.

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

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

3/31/21, 4/7/21 The Somerville Times



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

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

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, April 20, 2021** at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public meeting and hearings **will be conducted via remote participation**.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8725760975606402064>
Webinar ID: 115-948-715

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: +1 (562) 247-8422
Access Code: 987-048-095

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

DETERMINATIONS OF APPROPRIATENESS (LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTIES)

HPC.ALT 2021.21 – 33 Warren Avenue
Applicant: 33 Warren Ave., LLC
Owner: same as applicant
Install new walkway and create new driveway

HPC.ALT 2021.17 – 64 Meacham Road
Applicant: Bridget Darling
Owner: Bridget Darling & Mary Margaret Darling
Exterior renovations

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

HPC.DMO 2021.10 – 25 Appleton Street
Applicant: Kwesi Acquah
Owner: 25 Appleton, LLC
Demolish all structures

HPC.DMO 2021.11 – 64 Medford Street
Applicant: P & P Realty Trust
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure

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

HPC.DMO 2021.06 – 1 Washington Street
Applicant: Niranjana Gawli
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.08 – 187 Central Street
Applicant: Nora, LLC
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2021.09 – 125 Highland Avenue
Applicant: Highland Masonic Temple Association, Co-Owner c/o Christopher Kenney
Owner: Barros Properties, LLC
Demolish principal structure

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

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Business Law
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Real Estate
Elder Law
Civil Litigation

mdropkin@dropkinmatza.com

GLX Project Update – Upcoming Nightwork

As spring temperatures rise and work crews continue the final push for revenue service, we want to remind abutters that nightwork is likely to increase in various locations. Current nightwork plans include:

- GLX will be performing nightwork in the School St. & Medford St. area starting Monday, April 5. The work, which involves placing a low-rise, interlocking retaining wall between the commuter rail and GLX tracks, will take approximately 1 month to complete.
- North of College Ave, wall panel placement is planned at night for the next few weeks.

In order to complete the work quickly and efficiently, the yellow construction train known as the Multi-Purpose Machine (MPM) will be used in the areas where nightwork is taking place. The vehicle is required by federal regulation to sound its horn during frequent stops and starts. We apologize for any disruption caused by this work. As we continue to advance, the project will make every effort to keep abutting neighborhoods apprised of upcoming nightwork through regular email contact. We also encourage our followers to check for regular construction updates at www.mass.gov/glx.

The project is targeting June 2021 for its next general public meeting. The meeting format will be virtual, and we will publicize the exact date and agenda well in advance of the meeting

For more information, please visit www.Mass.gov/GLX. Questions? Email us at info@glxinfo.com. Urgent issue? Call our construction hotline at (855) 459-4636 or (855-GLX-INFO).



Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

and was named after Lincoln’s Secretary of War. Thousands of regional troops were trained there and on Prospect Hill. After the war, the city named many of her streets after states, battles, and heroes of the Union.

- Winter Hill’s Edward Everett was considered one of the country’s best orators when he delivered a two-hour speech at Gettysburg. It was eclipsed by President Lincoln’s two-minute masterpiece. Afterward, Everett stated to Lincoln, “I wish I could flatter myself that I had come as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes.” A bronze memorial of the Lincoln’s address hangs in Somerville’s City Hall.
- In 1853 Somerville firefighters erected a flagpole at the intersection of Washington Street and Somerville Avenue christening the spot Liberty Pole Square in honor of America’s freedom won. After the Fort Sumter attack, the location was renamed Union Square in honor of preserving the Union.
- In 1866, the entrance to the then new quarters of Somerville’s Fire Hose Company #1 at the corner of Webster and Ellsworth Streets was named in homage to the first officer killed in the Civil War. Colonel Elmer Ellsworth was a firefighter and close friend of President Lincoln whom he worked with in Washington, D.C. He was killed after he tore down a Virginia Confederate flag which could be seen from the White House. Today, pieces of the flag pepper many

muse-ums across the country. “Remember Ellsworth” was a Northern battle-cry throughout the war.

- The Fort Sumter flag was shot down during the battle and retrieved before the surrender by U.S. Major Robert Anderson. The banner was used as a fundraiser, touring northern cities during the war. It was seen by 100,000 patriots in New York City alone, flying above an equestrian statue of General George Washington. Four years later to the day at the war’s end on April 14, 1865, Major Anderson returned to the Fort and raised the American Flag.

The war was over and the Union had been saved. That night, its savior, Abraham Lincoln, was shot.



City Councilor Will Mbah announces candidacy for mayor CONT. FROM PG 3

Long-time Somerville resident and disability rights activist Harriotte Hurie Ranvig said “I am thrilled to support Will as he runs to be our next mayor. Somerville is an amazing community that has strong progressive values ranging from housing to climate to immigrant rights. We deserve a mayor who will fight for those progressive values every day and do so in an open and transparent way that acknowledges the different lived experiences of residents new and old. I’m excited for this next chapter in Somerville’s history. Our city celebrates the raising of the first American flag every year, and I hope we live to see the day when Mayor Mbah is at that ceremony.” To view Mbah’s announcement video, visit https://youtu.be/_YIEwmHBR7s.

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By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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On This Day in History

April 7

1789 – The First U.S. Congress begins regular sessions at Federal Hall in New York City.

1814 – Granted sovereignty in the island of Elba and a pension from the French government, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicates at Fontainebleau.

1830 – Joseph Smith and five others organize the Church of Latter-Day Saints in Seneca, New York.

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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SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Music & Movement – Wednesday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. Being physically active is not just good for our bodies, but it is also one of Mental Health America’s 10 tools to building resiliency; or the ability to overcome obstacles and manage through tough times. Physical activity can improve sleep, increase energy, decrease some kinds of pain, boost our immune systems and lower the risk for stroke and some cancers. It also helps to reduce our anxiety, depression, stress and tension. Steve shows us that exercise can come in all different forms and movements. Please note that this program has changed to Wednesday. RSVP to Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321. You will then receive your email invitation to join the program via ZOOM.

Jeopardy Game Night – Thursday, April 15 at 5:00 p.m. - Our Health and Wellness Coordinator Chris will be hosting an hour-long Jeopardy game over Zoom with questions that will cover such topics as: Health and Wellness, TV Shows, History, Sports, Music and Movies. For more information or to RSVP please contact Chris at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email at CKowales-

ki@Somervillama.gov.

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

Zoom Book Club – Friday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m. - Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. Book club's next meeting is on Friday, February 19th from 10-11am. The book that will be discussed is In Praise of Difficult Woman by Karen Karbo. Please contact Natasha at either 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail her at NNaim@Somervillema.gov for the Zoom link or to ask any questions.

Caregiver Check-In – Tuesday, April 27 at 11:30 a.m. - Are you a caregiver for a loved one and want to connect with other caregivers? Would you like to discuss the joys and challenges of caregiving? The Somerville Council on Aging is hosting a monthly check-in via Zoom for caregivers. Please contact Natasha by either calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail Natasha at NNaim@Somervillema.gov.

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

ONGOING EVENTS

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

EXERCISE

Exercise Schedule

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22

The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Fit-4-Life YouTube

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hd26HjpwBI&t=68s>

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwHfyoEZaws&t=247s>

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcl2eBSS024&t=158s>

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EDtaldYSz0>

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAnwfwGybTI>

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF_EEbqF0&t=130s

Yoga with Janine video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zezcj9XXBU>

For questions or to register for a Fit-4-Life Zoom exercise class, please contact Chris at CKowaleski@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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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

New tools can help small businesses thrive while working remotely

CONT. FROM PG 1

integrations and features slated for future release.

“As all business owners know, it’s difficult to support collaboration or make informed decisions for the future of your company without up-to-date insights into what your team is doing,” says Moussavian. “That’s why we wanted to create a dashboard that essentially functions as a virtual corner office vantage point.”

Moussavian stresses that although decentralized office

can be challenging, the flexibility it offers employees can boost their morale and ultimately make for a happier workforce. Indeed, research shows many employees hope to continue working from home in the future. He says that tapping into these benefits while leveraging tools that facilitate remote work will be a key to success for companies as they move forward.

Easily adopted by small- and medium-sized businesses,

which have been underserved by existing productivity solutions, Motiv is available free for a limited time through the iOS App Store and Google Play Store. To learn more, visit motivapp.com.

While many teams have not met in-person in quite some time, one thing is certain, collaboration is still as important as ever. New tools and the right mindset can help businesses modernize and thrive. (StatePoint)

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Ms. Cam's

Olío

Answers

1. A list consisting mostly of popular musicians, artists, or actors who died at age 27

2. Pontiac GTO

3. Ballard County, Kentucky

4. Black

5. The Pretenders

6. Coriolis Effect

7. India

8. Asia

9. Toronto

10. Mammoth Cave

11. Miami Beach

12. Starbuck



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Media Center

Director Kat Powers

A Born Storyteller brings us the
saga of our city on the screen

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Mary Surabian is a senior at Endicott College graduating this May. She has been studying education and psychology. In her free time, writing poetry has been as escape for her in periods of stress. Some of her hobbies include: shopping and reselling secondhand clothes, cooking Italian food, and trying out new kinds of iced coffee.



The Introvert

She often tells herself that she is quiet because when she was little
She was told over and over to speak up
“Why is she so shy?”
They would tell her mom
“Let her speak for herself”
Even today people ask
Why she is so quiet
Why she doesn’t say much
It’s not something that will just go away
Being shy is not a bad thing
She has a lot of reasons to be quiet
She is humble
She is nurturing
She is soft natured
like your favorite childhood blanket
She is comfort
She’s not a talker
She’s a listener
This is a skill that not all people have
But just because people tell her she’s quiet
Doesn’t mean that she has to be
We get so caught up on misconceptions about ourselves
That we have outgrown like a pair of Nikes
She has outgrown her quietness
She needs to stop reverting back
to beating herself up about being quiet
And appreciate the progress she has made
From a silent 8-year-old girl
Flying under the radar
As a defense mechanism
To a 22-year-old girl
with strong opinions and goals
Who has a lot to say,
and chooses the right times
to say it
She doesn’t say much,
But when she does
It is important
She is the wind
Sometimes she is barely there
Giving you a soft breeze on a wonderful spring day
And other times she is so strong
That she shakes your car
when you’re driving down 128.

— Mary Surabian

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

Like myself, Kat Powers has had a long love affair with the City on the Mystic, Somerville, MA. Kat has a long and accomplished journalistic background, and will continue to bring the saga of our unique burg to the TV screen, through the Somerville Media Center.

Doug Holder: Congratulations for being selected the new director of the Somerville Media Center. You are coming in at a time when the station is planning to move, the pandemic has changed the nature of operations. etc. What is your mission statement? what are your goals?

Kat Powers: Thank you! Yes, there’s a lot of change at SMC, but any change means there’s room for opportunity. The pandemic has changed how we relate to each other, and community media has to change too.

SMC has always been the cool place to be, where artists and producers and ideas were thrown together, edited on tape and shared widely. We need to make sure we can support that community with a new center, with new equipment that’s more mobile.

We are all missing that opportunity to bump into someone and learn about the newest project. We’re learning new ways to foster that sense of community virtually, but it will be exciting when we get back to seeing all these producers in person.

My mission is to work with our community to find a path forward, with a new site and stable sources of funding. Community media access centers all over the U.S. are finding ways to adapt to changes in cable funding, but it’s not all doom-and-gloom. Some fund access programming by developing software and selling it to other access centers. Some consolidate into regional centers. Some sell video production services. We need to work together to find our path.

So, that’s a Mission of Message, Members, Money and Moving? Let’s get to work.

DH: You were a reporter and managing editor for *The Somerville Journal* for a number of years. Community newspapers are disappearing from the map. You will be continuing with community journalism at the Somerville Media Center. Do you think cable/ access TV organizations may be the last stand for hyper-local reporting?

KP: SMC has always been part of hyper-local reporting. I’ve been watching the archive process we’re undergoing at SMC. We have hundreds of 20- and 30-year-old tapes we’ve put in our main studio and we’re sorting through what gets preserved for posterity. All those call-in shows? Those local election debates? Those reports from the hot set on local business? That was hyper-local reporting in the 80s before we called it hyper-local reporting. I don’t think coverage of Somerville is going to go away, but I do know it has to evolve to something digital, and SMC is going to be part of that future.

DH: One of the first meetings I had with the Somerville Media Center Board of Directors involved them telling me fantastic stories of what they liked about the *Somerville Neighborhood News*, and how they’d like it to thrive again. We’ll get there, and we have some pretty awesome partners to work with to build a news network.

DH: You used to live in Somerville, but you are now in Watertown. How does Somerville compare to other cities you have lived in. What makes it unique?

KP: Somerville. It’s magical. Its waters are Mystic. Somerville, like some of the greater cities of the world, has its land and its streets marked by progress and ambition. Every single group of people in the world have come through and changed it. They chopped hills, burned nunneries, buried the enemy in the street. They



planted trees, kilned bricks, set stone, chopped down orchards and built the triple deckers and the trolleys, and then paved their yards to make room for cars. Now those triple deckers are condos and we fight for bike lanes and parks to eat outside.

Somerville is a story of progress – not always good – but every single story in our nation, Revolution to opioid epidemic, had a part of the tale set in Somerville.

I am a storyteller. How could I not love Somerville?
DH: You have a unique knack for picking up jobs. Not the traditional resume/interview type of deal. Can you talk a bit about this?

KP: I like to build ideas and organizations. I’m told it’s a perspective used in sales ... you have a unique problem, let’s reframe in in a certain way and see what solutions fix the problem. For example: I was at the Red Cross and I needed a few volunteers to answer people who reached out to us on social media, and those people had to be nimble enough to also spread the word about what we were doing. No one wanted to be a “social media volunteer.” When I changed the job description to “Twitter Ninja” I had so many applicants I had to turn away free help. I seem to fit in the jobs where you have to take a step back and think about the problem your work solves, and then build the solution.

But yes, I’ve worked for a state senator, I was a journalist leading a newsroom, I was the chief of disaster public affairs for the Red Cross during the Marathon Bombing. But those jobs had something in common: I had to figure out a process to work to move a lot of people forward in the same direction. I also worked as a secretary in a prison and I unloaded trucks at Marshall’s. Those were great examples to me of places that didn’t work, and I saw what happened when people were punished for attempting to fix problems.

DH: You have an extensive background in marketing. How will you market the station? Any new approaches?

KP: Community media is really nothing without its community of artists and producers – and that’s something the pandemic hit. You cannot stick your head into the control room to see who’s taping a show if we all have to stay in our homes. But you take someone like yourself, Doug, or JoJo LaRicca, folks who have produced shows remotely and engaged others, and it’s just inspiring to watch. Every time I hear a story about a hurdle overcome, or a new member excited to learn, I just want to step up and make sure we preserve access media for everyone.

I’m betting if others hear these stories, others will want to preserve access media too.

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