## CENTURY 21 NORTON GROUP RE

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Somerville's original independent newspaper

# The Somerville Times

VOL. 8 NO. 15

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020

**TWENTY-FIVE CENTS** 

### Inside:



**Tales of Easters** past

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A Somerville runner for Hope

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A socially reliable city in motion

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### Mask decontamination system installed at Assembly Row site



The Battelle Critical Care Contamination System designed to sanitize N95 respirator masks for reuse by medical professionals arrived last week at the now vacant Kmart auto shop space at Assembly Square.

#### By Jim Clark

Somerville's Assembly Row will be playing host to a mechanical system that is capable of sterilizing as many as 80,000 respirator masks per day, a tremendous boon to medical facilities engaged in the fight against the current COVID-19 epidemic.

The system's creators, Columbus, OH, non-profit Battelle has coordinated with the City of Somerville and PartnersHealthCare to set up the system in the no w vacant Kmart auto shop area.

Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone secured use of the site by invoking the emergency powers available to him as a response to the current coronavirus crisis.

The mayor issued a public statement on the matter saying, "We've got to move fast and be nimble to handle the coming Continued on page 4

### **Project SOUP continues to feed** Somerville during pandemic

#### By Isabel Sami

With the coronavirus closing businesses and putting people out of work, more individuals are losing their main source of income, affecting their financial stability and forcing them to find alternate means. Somerville's Project SOUP (Share Our United Pantry) provides a free food pantry for residents in need, but the pandemic is impacting their operations as well.

Project SOUP, a branch of the Somerville Homeless Coalition, is open five days a week for four to five hours a day. In an average month, the pantry serves 500 Somerville households, but in March they saw over a 20 percent increase in visitors with 725 households served. About 150 new households registered to access Project SOUP, and program manager David Jacobs says he expects this increase to continue through April.

Jacobs, who has been working at the pantry for a year and a half, says he and Continued on page 11



An uptick in needy families and individuals turning to Project SOUP for food assistance is being seen due to the effects of the coronavirus crisis.

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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.

Readers of our print edition will will notice that we are running fewer pages this week. This is due to the fact that so many of our regular features such as Villens on the Town, the Council On Aging listing, Somerville Police arrest reports, etc., are not being produced because of the lack of activity in the city during the coronavirus stay at home advisory. Be assured that we will continue to publish and include the latest and most vital news you need to get, both here in print and on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com, and will return to our usual usual page count as conditions warrant. And remember, we invite everyone to submit their Somerville Sheltering Stories, photos, anecdotes, etc., to news@thesomervilletimes.com. We want to know how everyone is doing while we are all going through this uniquely challenging time.

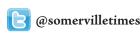
\*\*\*\*\*\*

To discourage organized games and contact sports that could hasten the spread of COVID-19, Tufts University's athletic fields, including the Ellis Oval, are now closed. In accordance with the City of Somerville (Official) guidelines, the playground on Powder House Boulevard has been closed as well. The vast majority of the Medford/Somerville campus, including the academic quad, the President's Lawn, the Triangle Park (corner of Powder House Boulevard and College Avenue) and Fletcher Field (corner of Professor's Row and Curtis Street), will remain open for walks and passive use. These decisions are being made on an ongoing basis with great care and consideration for public health. The university has never taken such extraordinary actions in its history. They ask for your patience and sincerely thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and flexibility as we move forward together.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Happy birthday this week to several locals: Big happy birthday to Steve Mac of the DPW. We hope Steve had a good day. Happy birthday to Bruce Rollins II, who also celebrated this week. We hope he enjoyed his day as well. Happy birthday to Sissy McWatters-Ankenbauer, also Continued on page 7

## The Somerville Times

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#### The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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### Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 8 – April 14 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
*	Wednesday April 8	Rain	48°/40°	63%	63%	E 12 mph
*	Thursday April 9	Rain	52°/36°	100%	74%	S 19 mph
	Friday April 10	Cloudy	48°/36°	11%	45%	W 20 mph
	Saturday April 11	Partly Cloudy	50°/33°	0%	42%	WNW 14 mph
*	Sunday April 12	Sunny	58°/48°	11%	45%	SW 12 mph
*	Monday April 13	Rain	55°/44°	77%	79%	S 19 mph
	Tuesday April 14	Partly Cloudy	57°/41°	19%	49%	NW 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: Obituary: John J. McKenna

Mary McKenna says:

My siblings and I are so heart broken over the death of our brother John.

He really was Lazarus! He had so many good days mixed with the hard days

I was so happy that I was able to visit often from NJ during his long illness.

He loved the mince pie I made. We loved to talk garden & food talk and the changes to Somerville. I was so unaware of these changes. John had seen 72 years of change.

This was his city he loved, just like my mom & dad, "born here, die here" Yet he had extensive travel and was so knowledgeable. His law practice was just around the corner on College Ave. Never saw the need to live or work anywhere else.

His garden flowers and tomatoes were legendary. He shared it all with his neighbors, friends, his nurses and medical team at MGH.

Everyone who knew loved him and found his so interesting. He really had many good people in his life. Not just family. He had cherished friends, hunting & carpentry buddies.

This loss will be with us for some time. This is our sibling, our first to leave us.

Our connection is like no other. We were a group of 8 kids who all went to same school, same church for all of our 12 years. John was choir boy, alter boys, bell ringer, Boy Scout for years with my dad as leader.

His faith was strong, he fought the fight and had his wish, to be at home until the end. In Somerville."

On behalf of the Somerville Licensing Commission, our sincere condolences to the McKenna family. To our colleague, mentor and friend, rest easy John.

Joe, Chris, Lori Jean, Warren and Bob.

#### Response to: Newstalk - April 1

Be well says:

I hope this finds everyone well or as well as one can be in these times. Thank you for this newspaper, it's good to see some things around here that are constants. The people and the businesses in this city will be changed for a generation if this continues much longer.

### Response to: Mayor Curtatone's statement on Somerville's first coronavirus-related death

Jimmy D says:

Thank you Mayor Joe. Your leadership and compassion is very comforting. God bless us all.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments



### Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

### **Easters** gone by



Considering current pandemic, Easter will not be how we are used to celebrating. Here is a story I did in 2008. I'm sure we will all do our best

to make Easter as enjoyable as possible.

Easter was a special time in my family because I had an Uncle Chick and an Uncle Bunny. Really! I used to love telling people that. Easter was the kind of holiday when we got new shoes and new clothes. I remember it was a struggle because my parents never liked the suit jackets I liked. I went for a red plaid jacket one year and I ended up wearing some dumb looking thing that I hated.

The trip to Anderson-Little in Medford was a pain in the butt. The only good thing about it was that we always went to Howard Johnson's at Wellington Circle when we were done. We'd pile into my father's old Rambler American and take the drive to hell. It was an hour of trying on hideous suit jackets and gross looking trousers that made me look like an Italian version of a mini Wally Cleaver. By the way I finally convinced my parents to buy me a red suit jacket a couple of years later.

The suit jacket would never fit right because my parents would buy a size bigger than I wore, so I could get more than one season out of it. The problem was, I didn't have those normal growth spurts, so by the time I grew into it, the jacket was outdated, stained or ripped.

And the pants! When I was a pre-teen the style was pegged pants, but I wasn't allowed to wear tight pants. I had to wear these baggy wool pants that not only itched but also made me look like an idiot. We called them balloon pants because when the wind blew, they inflated from the bottom. They would have been in style today. I also had to wear goofy orthopedic shoes for a few years. It added to the misery of the uncomfortable clothes.

The only kids in my neighborhood whose parents let him dress cool was Pat O'Neil and his brother Dennis. They had the pegged pants, the pointed shoes, the in-style jackets and the cool haircuts. One year my folks actually let me get penny loafers at Thom McCann's, Of course, I put dimes in them.

We didn't mind looking silly when we were really young. When my brother and I were six and three, my parents dressed us up alike in tweed suits, complete with matching little beanie hats. Man, were we cute.

Mom always made sure that my sister was dressed to the nines. She had the pretty bonnet, the Continued on page 11



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Our menus and specials are posted on our Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Vernon-Restaurants-103209019028/

We ask you to bear with us while we implement these guidelines. The safety of our patrons and employees remain our number one priority as we continue to operate and maintain our small business during this difficult time.

Our hours of operation moving forward will be

12:00 to 8:00 p.m. until further notice.

Be safe and stay healthy – The Mount Vernon Restaurant

### Somerville Deadline for paying property taxes, some bills extended

On Monday, April 7, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone announced that residents and property owners will have extra time to pay their property tax, excise tax, and water bills. He also announced that all City-sponsored or permitted public events and large gatherings will be canceled in Somerville through June, including the City's annual Fourth of July fireworks.

To help alleviate financial impacts from the pandemic, Mayor Curtatone has ordered that residents and property owners be given extra time to pay their property tax. Property tax bills, which would otherwise be due on May 1, may now be paid by June 29 without interest or penalty. For excise tax and water bills, the City's Treasury Department will not charge any interest or penalties for bills with a due date of March 10 or later, as long as they are paid by June 29. However, because taxes and water and sewer fees fund essential services, residents and homeowners who are able to pay on time are encouraged to do so.

"With so many people having lost income during this crisis, this is one way we can help alleviate the immediate financial burden," said Mayor Curtatone. "At the same time, if you have not suffered financial impacts, by paying on time, you can help make it possible

for the City to accept late payments from those who need this relief right now. So I am also asking that those who can pay on time do their part to support those who

To help slow the spread of the coronavirus, all Somerville-sponsored public events or events permitted by the City are now officially canceled through June. Community members are also reminded that Governor Baker has ordered that through May 4th no social gatherings of more than ten people may occur. The City of Somerville strongly advises that ten-person gatherings are too large and should not be held.

"Having to forego some of our favorite activities like PorchFest, early-summer SomerStreets festivals, private gatherings, and the fireworks is not something any of us are happy about, but this is a vital step necessary to save lives," said Mayor Curtatone. "This is about preventing deaths and slowing the spread of COVID-19. As we saw with the Biogen conference in Boston earlier this year, this disease can very easily spread through a single event."

"While the Arts Council is saddened by our current crisis, we are determined to continue to support local artists and bring people together through Somerville's creativity," said Somerville Arts Council Director, Greg Jenkins. "Please go to www.somervilleartscouncil.org and our various social media outlets including www.fb.com/somervillearts to learn more about our virtual work. We have launched a Home Alone and Somerville Creates series, and we are looking to bring Porchfest to our virtual lives."



### Renew or apply for a new resident parking permit online

The doors may be closed, but the virtual parking office is open. You can renew or apply for a new resident parking permit online at somervillema.gov/parking.

New residents should ensure their vehicle is registered and insured in Somerville, and that you have proof of residence (like a utility bill or bank statement).



### Mask decontamination system installed at Assembly Row site

**CONT. FROM PG 1** 

coronavirus surge. It hasn't even been a week since Battelle's technology got approved by the tecting all of us." FDA. Partners is able to bring them with a facility where they can use it. This is how it's supposed to work in a crisis. Everybody comes together to do big things. The whole purpose of time like this is to use them. In this case we're able to put technology into production that's

going to protect the frontline healthcare workers who are pro-

The system is expected to be it over and we're able to provide made available for use by several medical facilities in the region, decontaminating the N95 masks that would normally be discarded after a single use. With the Battelle system, up the having emergency powers at a masks can be sanitized for reuse up to 20 times.

> The Battelle CCDS™ can decontaminate thousands of N95

respirators using concentrated, vapor phase hydrogen peroxide. The respirators are exposed at the validated concentration level to decontaminate biological contaminants.

According to Battelle, the technology draws on decades of research and is grounded on an FDA study the company completed following a 2016 contagion. Battelle is currently conducting research to validate that other equipment, including surgical masks and ventilator components, can be decontaminated using this process.

Healthcare systems will collect worn N95 respirators each day in accordance with an approved procedure, and the PPE will be labeled with a barcoded serial number for tracking the chain-of-custody throughout the decontamination process. This procedure ensures that the hospital system receives its own respirators back.

Battelle has also served the military in protecting troops from chemical and biological



Technicians at work decontaminating N95 masks.

– Photo courtesy of Battelle

hazards. The company operates Biosafety Level 2 and 3 labs where research is performed on live viruses, including SARS-CoV-2. Battelle also has a full medical device development team that works with the FDA on a regular basis.

The Battelle CCDS system at Assembly Row is expected to be fully operational by the end of the week.



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

### **Tufts University opens dorms to** patients, doctors, and city workers

In partnership with local healthcare providers and its host communities, Tufts University today announced it will make its residence halls available to house medical personnel, first responders, and patients, including those recovering from COVID-19, in an effort to help contain the spread of the virus as local hospitals prepare for a surge of cases that threatens to overwhelm their capacity.

The university has offered to house:

- Cambridge Health Alliance patients, including COVID-19 positive patients who are no longer in need of critical care but who still need to isolate and whose transfer into Tufts residence halls can free up hospital beds for those who are seriously ill;
- Medical personnel from Cambridge Health Alliance and Tufts Medical Center who cannot return home to potentially vulnerable family members in high-risk populations;
- First responders from the cities of Somerville and Medford who cannot return home to potentially vulnerable family members because they are awaiting test results, have tested positive and need to isolate, and/or have vulnerable family members who belong to high-risk populations;
  - Tufts staff members whose

presence is required on campus and who have either had an exposure to a COVID-19 positive person or who prefer to stay on campus so as to not risk infecting family members who have compromised immune systems or other risk factors.

The university is able to do this by segmenting its campus into separate zones for different types of populations, providing each with their needs while protecting everyone's health.

In all of its plans and actions, it is being guided by the advice and direction of medical professionals and logistics experts whose expertise enables this multi-pronged approach while ensuring that members of the Tufts community who have been exposed to COVID-19 remain separated from those who have not.

The university and its local community and health-care partners are following all appropriate guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting these spaces to ensure the health and safety of its community members.

"As COVID-19 continues to have an impact globally and locally, it is clear that support and action are needed from all corners. Individuals, communities, and institutions can all play a part in mitigating the spread of this pandemic," said Tufts University President Anthony P. Monaco. "I feel strongly that Tufts and other universities, particularly research universities, have an abundance of resources to offer our community and health-care partners in their fight against this unprecedented and rapidly changing challenge. We have the ability to help with our space, facilities, infrastructure, and partnerships. We need to match our capacities to providers' needs in order to help relieve the pressure on the healthcare system."

"I am very grateful for this partnership with Tufts University and the cities of Somerville and Medford, which will help ensure the healthcare system remains functional during this crisis," said Cambridge Health Alliance CEO Assaad Sayah. "Tufts' generous accommodations will both allow us to reserve our hospital beds for more seriously ill patients and reduce the strain on our employees who are working around the clock to care for our communities."

"We are extremely fortunate to have an academic partner in Tufts University that has gone above and beyond to accommodate our needs and the needs of our frontline clinical staff during this public health crisis," said Michael Apkon, president and CEO of Tufts Medical Center.



"We know that some of our staff have concerns about going home to people that might have a higher risk if they were to become infected. By offering overnight dormitory accommodations at no charge, the university has helped provide our caregivers with a safe, convenient, comfortable sleeping option so they can continue to provide the very best care to our COVID-19 patients in the coming weeks."

Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone said that "one of the biggest challenges we're trying to tackle at the moment is finding space for the coming patient surge and for housing front line health and emergency workers. We are incredibly fortunate to have a partner like Tufts to step up to help us tackle the enormity of this task," he said. "We're never going to know the exact number of lives this will save,

but it's a number we never want to know. Hopefully what Tufts is doing here becomes a model for college campuses across the state, region, and country."

"We are extremely grateful to Tufts University for their generosity and their leadership in making spaces available not only to front line health workers combating COVID-19, but also to members of our communities who are, thankfully, recovering," said Medford Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn. "As health-care professionals and first responders prepare for the potential surge in hospital admissions in the coming weeks, having a safe, clean, and stable place to rest without fear of spreading the disease to family members and the general community is essential, and we commend President Monaco and the entire Tufts University Continued on page 6

# Dorothy's Corner



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 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.

### 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.

### **Updates on Somerville's response** to the COVID-19 crisis

Normally there is an editorial from Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone in this space, but this week the City is instead sharing important information and updates about COVID-19.

#### Updates on City Closures, Event Cancelations, and Tax **Payments**

City buildings are closed through May 4, but many City services are still available. To find out which services are still available, click the "City Services Status" tab at www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus. You can also 311 for more information. City-sponsored events and events that are permitted by the

city are canceled through June to help control the spread of COVID-19.

To help alleviate financial impacts from the pandemic, Mayor Curtatone has ordered that residents and property owners be given extra time to pay their property tax. Property tax bills, which would otherwise be due on May 1, may now be paid by June 29 without interest or penalty. For excise tax and water bills, the City's Treasury Department will not charge any interest or penalties for bills with a due date of March 10 or later, as long as they are paid by June 29. However, because taxes and water and sewer fees fund

essential services, residents and business tax provisions. Details homeowners who are able to pay on time are encouraged to do so.

#### **CARE Act**

The CARE Act is recently-passed federal law that directs \$2 trillion in funding to COVID-19 relief. The CARE Act is wide reaching and includes help for individuals and businesses. Assistance for individuals includes direct cash payments, an expansion of who is eligible to apply for unemployment, and student loan relief. Help for businesses includes Paycheck Protection Program loans, the Small Business Debt Relief Program, and some small

on some of these programs are still being finalized, so keep an eye out for more information.

To learn more about what the CARE Act provides for individuals, as well as other resources available through the City and other organizations, visit www.somervillema.gov/ coronavirushelp. Business owners should visit www.somervillema.gov/covidbizhelp for business-related support.

#### Staying Informed During COVID-19

The City's COVID-19 website, www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus, is updated frequently with public health information as well as resources and supports. On the website you can find information about applying for unemployment; the CARE Act, a new federal law that directs \$2 trillion in funding to COVID-19 relief efforts; lowcost internet access; and more. Here are some additional ways you can stay informed:

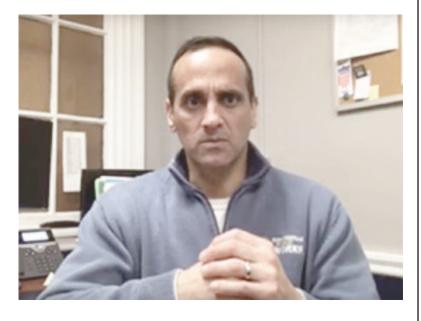
- + Sign up for City alerts at www. somervillema.gov/alerts or by calling 311. You can choose to get phone, text, and/or email alerts.
- Tune in to City Cable (RCN channel 13, Comcast channel 22) for information and updates. 311 is available 24/7 to answer questions and provide information.

### Mayor Curtatone's statement on Somerville's first coronavirus-related death

Tragically, this morning we got word of the first coronavirus-related death in Somerville. My first thoughts go out to the family and friends of the deceased. Words cannot encompass the pain of your loss, but know that I share your grief. I suspect everyone else in the city will be joining me as they hear this news. Even though we're all socially distanced from each other, thousands of people will be feeling the sadness of your loss in their hearts.

Out of respect for the family, we are not releasing any personal details, but I want to say that no one is a statistic. While we may be counting numbers to gauge the effectiveness of our response, we fully realize every confirmed case and every loss is an individual human being who will be missed by those who knew them and who will be forever lost to our broader community. All of our current efforts are designed to reduce the human toll of this disease, to keep the pain in our community to a minimum.

And, as I say that, I want to be honest with people - we will lose others in the coming days and weeks. We need to be prepared for the emotional weight that comes with this pandemic. We're all going to need to give ourselves permission to feel sadness as we do our best to get through this crisis. It's a natural human response to what we're experiencing. Yet it is a burden we can all bear together. We can be united in our sadness, connected by our empathy.



Every one of us matters. None of us are in this alone. I urge everyone to stay as connected as you can, reach out for help if you need it and give yourself the space to feel what you need to feel during these trying times.

— Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, April 2, 2020

### Tufts University opens dorms to patients, doctors, and city workers

CONT. FROM PG 5

team for offering this service."

To help other colleges and universities take similar steps to assist their local hospitals and communities, Tufts today announced it will share what it has learned while working with its community partners in a webinar being held in coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Ed-

ucation on Wednesday, April 8, at 2 p.m. Eastern time. The webinar is open to colleges, universities, hospitals and government officials from across the country.

To register, visit the following link: http://go.tufts.edu/covid-19communitysupport.

Making its residence halls available to relieve strain on the health-care system is one of the many ways the university is stepping up to meet the threat of COVID-19. Already, the university has:

- Donated to its local hospitals a supply of personal protective equipment and respirators that it has collected from research and teaching labs and its veterinary hospitals;
- Lent expertise to repair more than 6,000 broken N95 masks [3] that will now be usable by health care personnel at Tufts Medical Center;
- Offered its parking lots for alternative testing sites to help decrease demand on hospitals;
- · Shared its guidance and planning tools with other colleges and universities to

encourage them to take similar steps to help their local healthcare systems and host communities.

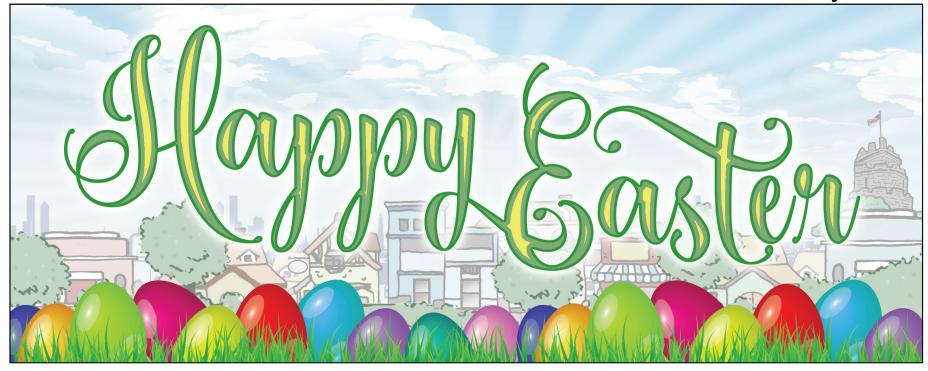
For more information on the housing program, please see the university's COVID-19 frequently asked questions page on community partnerships: https://coronavirus.tufts.edu/ community-partnerships/.

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### **COMMENTARY**

### SIGNS OF THE TIMES

**Illustrated by Jim Clark** 



### **Our View Of The Times**

Enjoy the holiday, Somerville.



The COVID-19 crisis has certainly put a damper on our ability to enjoy the usual holiday celebrations in normal ways. So it may be over the next week as both religious-minded and secular folks deal with yet another occasion in semi- or total isolation.

It also doesn't help to know that in spite of our best efforts to avoid it, the lurking danger is out there, when we're forced to venture out to buy necessities, to take a walk and get a little fresh air and exercise, and so on. It's the grim reality we all have to face at this time, until the danger finally goes away.

But we can also turn to these events for solace and inspiration, if we look at them in a certain way.

For example, for those of the Jewish faith, the tradition of Passover represents

in part the protection of the home against a deadly plague. While the correlation to today's events may be tenuous, there is something of a relevant message there. That staying in and strengthening the family bonds will protect us from danger.

Then, in the Christian faith, there is the miracle of resurrection and renewal as exemplified in the Easter story. We will one day emerge from our self-imposed solitude, revived and re-energized, perhaps viewing the world before us through new eyes.

Whether one embraces and celebrates any particular religious beliefs or not, it is possible to draw a bit of inspiration from the core messages nestled within these occasions and use that to help get through a difficult time.

And get through it we will, God willing.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

celebrating this week. We hope she had a great day too. Happy birthday to our good friend Ida Fasano, who is a real estate agent with Century 21 North East, Norton Group. 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. Happy birthday to Talt Gregory Shackelford IV, who is celebrating as well. We wish him the very best of birthdays. Happy birthday to Linda Camiel Butler, Christos Ringos, Warren Goldstein-Gelb, Patricia Garrity, and **Kathryn Giuliano**. To all the others we may have missed - and yes, there are a few more out there - we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

In response to COVID-19, the Somerville Winter Farmers Market will be a pre-order only market held in the Armory parking lot from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 11. You can order from several of their vendors this week, and then pick up your goods on Saturday. This is a great way to sup-

port vendors, especially smaller vendors who do not have the capacity to set up their own delivery systems at this time. Please consider purchasing some of their delicious products. To preorder or for more information, go to https://www.somwintermarket.org/vendors. SNAP/EBT are accepted.

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

The Somerville Library has been hosting virtual story hours live on their Facebook page. Besides Cathy reading to her pup Rocky, the Children's Librarian staff are going to try to keep their regular story time schedule on FB Live.

East Somerville is holding a Virtual Egg Hunt. You can create colorful eggs out of paper, or even draw them on a sidewalk. The goal is to display them in a place where everyone can see them. When you spot the eggs, you can snap a photo and post it to the East Somerville Main Streets Facebook page with the tag #SomervilleEggHunt. Hint: You can find one at East End Grille. For more info, visit https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/virtual-egg-hunt.

Support local business and enjoy the best of Somerville's culinary scene by

ordering takeout or delivery during this difficult time. Check out https:// www.somervilledelivers.com for a list of restaurants accepting orders now. Don't see your restaurant listed? Add it here: Somervillema.gov/covidbizhelp

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

Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) is accepting masks. The link below offers a pattern and provides more details. Thanks to many local sewers who have already been hard at work on this. The link for CHA's Call for Masks is: https://www.challiance.org/about/newsroom/personal\_protective\_equipment\_ppe\_homemade\_donatio\_1180

The Somerville Arts Council understands the importance of social distancing and the impact this has caused on the arts community. They want to stay connected and continue to support artists as much as they can. They are launching the Home Alone Art Series (HAAS). HAAS is a series of art related performances live streamed by Somerville artists on Facebook. The performances can represent a variety of genres, including music, visual arts, performance, writing, theater, dance and multidisciplinary art forms. HAAS will

be scheduled throughout the month and they will provide a schedule to share and follow. Their goal is to hire and pay Somerville artists (both residents and those who have a studio in the city) who are experiencing financial difficulties because of Covid-19 restrictions. To apply, see the website for details: https://somervilleartscouncil. org/homealone. The Somerville Arts Council enjoys bringing people together. Through their events they are able to support artists financially. They understand the importance of social distancing yet also want to stay connected and continue to support artists as much as they can.

Everyone should also remember to please support our local businesses in any way they can. Even though restaurants closed and most are only available for takeout, you are encouraged to order out and buy gift cards at the restaurants and small businesses for future use.

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

To contact us at *The Somerville Times* during these closures, please go to news@thesomervilletimes.com. We are still up and running but will be working remotely.

### **FUN & GAMES**

# Ms. Cam's

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#725

- 1. The very first
  Easter eggs were what color?
- 7. David Gilmour and Roger Waters were in which rock group?
- 2. Which American president rolled the first annual White House Easter egg?
- 8. Which country has the rand as its currency?
- 3. Did the original Peeps candy have wings?
- 9. Which comic book hero rode a horse called Storm?
- 4. Who was the lead actress in the film *Easter Parade?*
- 10. How many cups does a pound of tea yield?
- 5. Which guitarist was in the Yardbirds, Cream and Derek and the Dominoes?
- 11. Which band started their career with *Anarchy in the UK?*
- 6. In what year did Mexico City host the World Cup
- 12. What is the main color on the Chinese flag?

Answers on page 11

#### SUDOKU American Standard WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500 ✓ Backed by American Standard's 140 years of ✓ Ultra low entry for easy entering & exiting ✓ Patented Quick Drain® Technology ✓ Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard ✓ 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage 866-612-7490 A MENGAP 9 5 6 a 2 Q 3 6 3 5 9 6 1 2 8 6 8 6 4 6

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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.

### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Cuba is the only island in the Caribbean to have a railroad.

2. When honey is swallowed, it enters the blood stream within a period of 20 minutes.

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: NAME THE ANIMAL

#### ACROSS

- 1. Spoil
- 6. Delivery service
- 9. Gallup's inquiry
- 12 14 11 11 11
- 13. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
- 14. One of the Tudors
- 15. Pinkerton's gallery member
- 16. Beneath, to a poet
- 17. Bird-to-be
- 18. Not slouching
- 19. Koko or Digit
- 21. George or Marcel
- 23. Langley agency
- 24. Can of worms
- 25. Pine juice
- 28. Up to the task
- 30. Most recent
- 35. Furnace output
- 37. Gives a helping hand
- 39. Veranda in Honolulu
- 40. European sea eagle
- 41. Waterwheel
- 43. Ladder crosspiece
- 44. Valued for its down
- 46. Steelers's Chuck
- 47. Genealogical plant?48. Treat for Dumbo
- 50. Hoofbeat sound
- 52. "To \_\_\_\_\_ is human"
- 53. Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise
- 55. Garden cultivator
- 57. Roger or Peter
- 60. Rocket or Rascal
- 64. "Random" audience member 65. Mozart's "L'\_\_\_\_\_ del Cairo"
- 67. Resin-producing tree
- 68. Like haunted house
- 69. Time delay
- 70. City in Germany
- 71. Not a bee
- 72. Pilot's deadline
- 73. Not those

### DOWN

- 1. Pirates on a plank?
- 2. Black and white treat

13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19					20			21	22					
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41				42		43	$\vdash$		
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48			$\vdash$		49		50			51		52		
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FREE! Savings Include an American Sardard Right Height Tollet FREE! (SOU Value) WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500														
<ul> <li>✓ Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience</li> <li>✓ Ultra low entry for easy entering &amp; exiting</li> <li>✓ Patented Quick Drain® Technology</li> <li>✓ Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard</li> </ul>														

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- 3. Papa or Mama
- 4. Clown act
- 5. Perennial garden flower
- 6. Iris holder
- 6. Iris noider
- 7. Babe or Wilbur
- 8. Fraternity letter
- 9. Politician's barrelful
- 10. Curved molding
- 11. Famous Australopithecus
- 12. "\_\_\_\_ the wild rumpus begin!"
- 15. Hertz offering
- 20. Labanotation founder
- 22. Doesn't mix well with water
- 24. Wilma and Fred's hometown

31. Queen of Hearts' pastry

- 25. Dolly
- 26. Eagle's nest
- 27. Giant or Red
- 29. Simba or Elsa
- 32. Accustom

- 33. Not so crazy
- 34. Detroit mascot
- 36. Not quite an adult
- 38. Perfect houseplant spot

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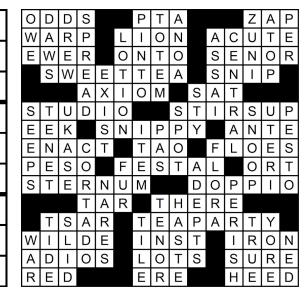
866-612-7490

- 42. Luau greeting
- 45. S. E. Hinton's "\_\_\_\_ Fish"
- 49. Chi precursor
- 51. Place for a square
- 54. Furry scarf
- 56. What's in your e-wallet?
- 57. Actress Perlman
- 58. Runs, as on TV
- 59. Radar flash60. Indian music
- 61. Yorkshire river
- 62. Lode deposits
- 63. Supreme Court number
- 64. Make a seam66. Tom or Sylvester
- Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

### Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

#### Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:



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John **Pratti** 8 years in business johngpratti@yahoo.com



**Denise** Cosby 14 years in business denise\_cosby@yahoo.com



Ida **Fasano** 32 years in business idafasano11@gmail.com

To find out what the value of your home is call today for a free market analysis: 617-623-6600 • 699 Broadway, Somerville

#### **OBITUARY**

Mary E. (Coyne) Fantasia



Mary E. (Coyne) Fantasia, age 100, March 5. Of Lynnfield, formerly Somerville and Plymouth. Former State Representative. Beloved wife of the late Anthony N. Fantasia. Mother of the late Patricia Stewart and her husband James of Framingham, the late Kevin Fantasia and his wife Donna of Plymouth, and Joanne Cedrone and her husband Ron of Lynnfield. Grandmother of six and great-grandmother of eight.

Born in Arlington and moved to Somerville at an early age. Served 4 terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Democratic National CommitteeWoman

for 10 years. Democratic State CommitteeWoman for 20+ years. Vice Chairwoman of the Democratic Massachusetts State Committee. Presidential Elector in the Electoral College for John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, and Jimmy Carter. A champion for education and the rights and benefits of veterans, the elderly, the disabled and women. She was on the board of directors for numerous organizations and a member of many charitable and civ-

A special lady who accomplished so much in her life and positively impacted so many. Mary found time for family, church and politics serving the people. She loved being around her family, and spent most of her life helping and giving to others.

Funeral Services were private and held Mar. 11. Donations in Mary's memory may be made to Beacon Hospice, 290 Merrimack St., Suite 242, Lawrence, MA 01843.

### **Kyle Vernest to run Boston Marathon for Project Hope**

On September 14, 2020, nearly 30,000 runners will run the 124th Boston Marathon®. The 26.2-mile route extends through Hopkinton, Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley, Newton, Brookline and Boston.

Somerville's Kyle Vernest has been running since high school and continues to do it as a way to spend time with his dog, Ollie. Kyle also ran for Project Hope in 2012. Kyle will be running for Project Hope through an entry provided by John Hancock. Each year John Hancock donates guaranteed entries to selected nonprofits, which use these entries to recruit individual runners to raise money for their cause.

Project Hope is a multi-service agency at the forefront of efforts in Boston to move families up and out of poverty. Project Hope partners with low-income women, children, and families to access education, jobs, housing, and emergency services.

Working alongside women and families in the heart of Boston where the most support is needed, Project Hope also works for a broader systematic change. Last year, Project Hope served 691 families. 95 women became part of the Project Hope community through enrollment through their yearlong Adult Basic Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages classes.

150 participants engaged in workforce readiness programming, job search, and placement support during their first year of employment. 80 % of Work Force Development graduates secured and maintained employment. 96% from their healthcare training programs obtained positions in the field. 344 families received housing



Project Hope's Boston Marathon runner Kyle Vernest.

support services, leading to 81 families avoiding eviction and stabilizing their current housing as well as 115 families securing much needed affordable and sustainably housing.

This year, with 14 runners total, Project Hope's Marathon Team's goal is to reach \$200,000.

Approximately 500,000 spectators line the 26.2-mile course annually, making the Boston Marathon New England's most widely viewed sporting event, according to estimates by police and public safety officials from the eight cities and towns along the route.

Donate to Kyle Vernest's fundraising campaign by clicking this link or by visiting Team Hope's 2020 Boston Marathon GoFundMe page and viewing

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The Somerville Times

### **MOUNT VERNON**



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Email: mtvernonrestaurants@yahoo.com

### Grateful firefighters get masks





Somerville Firefighters Local 76 recently expressed its gratitude to Louis Antonellis and Local 103 IBEW for their generous donation of KN95 masks, so important for firefighter safety in the midst of the current coronavirus crisis.

### **LEGAL NOTICES**

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



#### 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 22, 2020 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.

#### **TO USE A COMPUTER**

Virtual meeting link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5560386838378844941

#### TO CALL IN

Phone number: Access code:

1 (415) 655-0060 550-248-895

This hearing may be relocated to the City Council Chambers on the Second Floor of Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA if the State of Emergency is terminated and Somerville City Hall is reopened to the public by Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

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

50-54 Murdock St. -

Applicant, Roberto Grieco, and Owner, Alida Elena Grieco, Trustee of the fifty Murdock Investment Trust, seek an extension to previously-granted special permits. RB zone. Ward 5.

1154 Broadway -

Applicant and Owner, Anuj Pradhan, Trustee of the 1154 Broadway Realty Trust, seeks a one-year time extension to a previous ly-granted Special Permit with Site Plan Review. NB Zone. Ward 7.

391-395 Somerville Ave - Applicant and Owner, Somerville Avenue Trust, LLC, seeks a one-year time extension to previously-granted Special Permit with Site Review and Special Permits. BA Zone. Ward 2.

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 or in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

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

4/8/20 The Somerville Times



#### BID

#### **ADVERTISEMENT**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Painting Contractors for exterior painting at One Cape Court Elderly Apartment Building located at One Capen Court, Somerville, Ma. 02145. SHA Job # 2013

The Project consists of painting the exterior of One Capen Court, one side only.

The estimated cost for Painting is \$30,000.00

Bids are subject to M.G.L c.149, § 44A-J & minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149, § 26 to 27H inclusive, and the Davis/Bacon Wage Rate, whichever hourly rate pays more. 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.

General Bids will be received until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 23th, 2020 electronically by emailing Manny St. Louis at mannys@shaweb.org due to the COVID-19 Emergency crisis. We will also accept mail in bid submissions. To avoid large crowds in person submission will not be accepted

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the bid amount and made payable to the SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available electronically by contacting Manny St. Louis at mannys@sha-web.org 617-625-

A pre-bid meeting will be held at One Capen Court, Somerville, MA 02145, Wednesday, April 15th, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Attendance is strong-

Questions should be directed to Manny St. Louis at 617-625-1152 ext.330 or by email at mannys@sha-web.org.

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any and all bids, or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after approval of the award by the Somerville Housing Authority without written consent of the Somerville Housing Authority.

4/8/20 The Somerville Times



**Common Area Flooring Replacement Project at Brady Towers** (AMP-2) SHA Job # 2012

#### **ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority invites sealed proposals from registered Architecture firms to provide professional design and construction administration services for the common area flooring replacement at the Brady Towers (AMP-2) elderly building in Somerville, Massachusetts.

The Estimated Construction cost is \$120,000.00

The Award is subject to HUD requirements and guidelines. A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for 11:00 AM on Wednesday, April 8th, 2020 at Brady Towers, 252 Medford Street, in Somerville, Mas-

Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 16th, 2020.

\*Responses will be received by email only at mannys@sha-web.org

The RFS may be downloaded from the SHA website www.sha-web. org under the bid opportunities tab or by contacting mannys@shaweb.org. If downloaded you must email mannys@sha-web.org to receive changes, or updates.

Questions must be sent in writing to mannys@sha-web.org no later than Friday, April 10th, 2020.

4/1/20, 4/8/20 The Somerville Times



#### CITY OF SOMERVILLE **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

#### Legal Notice of Public Hearing

The Community Preservation Committee will hold a public hearing for all interested parties on Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00pm. The hearing will be held virtually on the GoToMeeting platform in compliance with Governor Baker's emergency orders regarding the Open Meeting Law during the COVID-19 crisis. The Committee seeks public input on how the City should prioritize spending \$2 million in Community Preservation Act funding. The draft FY21 Community Preservation Plan and other information about the Community Preservation Act in Somerville are available at www.somervillema.gov/cpa. A presentation for individuals and organizations interested in proposing a CPA funded project on City land or proposing a project for a feasibility study will be offered before the hearing from 6:30-7:00pm. Please join the presentation and hearing from your computer, tablet or smartphone. https:// global.gotomeeting.com/join/792438397. You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (646) 749-3122. Access Code: 792-438-397. The hearing will also be recorded and made available on the CPA

Interested persons may provide comments to the Community Preservation Committee at the hearing and by submitting written comments by Friday, May 15th by email to jtumusiime@somervillema.gov. You can also share your ideas by taking the Community Preservation Committee survey at www.somervillema.gov/cpa.

Attest: Jane Carbone, Chair

4/8/20 The Somerville Times

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#### www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



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

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

**PLANNING DIVISION** 

#### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on Thursday April 23, 2020 at 6:00pm. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 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.

#### **TO USE A COMPUTER**

Virtual meeting link: <a href="https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/regis-">https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/regis-</a> ter/2993313060456563980

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (213) 929-4212 424-580-194

This hearing may be relocated to the City Council Chambers on the Second Floor of Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA if the State of Emergency is terminated and Somerville City Hall is reopened to the public by Thursday, April 23, 2020.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following proposed amendments to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

Amendment of §1.2 Applicability to extend the validity time frame of previously issued permits.

Clarification of §2.4.2.c concerning lot coverage.

Correction of the primary and secondary facade fenestration requirements for the general building, commercial building, lab building, mid-rise podium tower, block building, and commercial block building types in the mid-rise, high-rise, and commercial core districts.

Correction of the threshold for the employment linage requirement in Article 4. Mid-Rise Districts Article 5. High-Rise Districts, Article 6. Commercial Districts, and Article 7. Special Districts

Correction of the minimum building height in stories for the commercial building and lab building types in the commercial core district.

Revision of \$10.3.6.b & c and \$10.3.7 to streamline the provisions for landscape buffers.

Correction of the tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 Rental ADU price multiplier for studio ADUs in Table

12.1.5(b) and the tier 2 and tier 3 Ownership ADU price multiplier for studio ADUs in Table 12.1.5(c).

Correction of the language in §12.1.8 and §12.1.9 of Article 12 Development Benefits.

Correction of the language in subsection b. Membership for Section 15.7.2 Zoning Board of Appeals, 15.7.3 Planning Board, and 15.7.4 Urban Design Commission of Article 15 Administration.

Revision of the use limitations for ground story commercial spaces fronting a pedestrian street in the mid-rise, high-rise, commercial core, and fabrication districts.

The proposed amendments identified above may be viewed online at www.somervillezoning.com/amendments

Interested persons may provide comments at the hearing or by submitting written comments by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

4/8/20 The Somerville Times

### Limits put on in-store shoppers



Somerville will be limiting the number of in-store shoppers to no more than 107. Those waiting to enter the store will form a socially-distanced line outside the building. — Photo by Doug Holder

### Easters gone by CONT. FROM PG 3

gorgeous dress, the stockings with little flowers on them, a little pocket book and patent leather shoes. Gilchrists, Gorins or The Children's Shop were where the girls stuff usually came from.

The best part of Easter was the Easter Basket. Today the kids will get video games, Apple gift cards or maybe a new cell phone case. We always got a yo-yo, a plastic water pistol and one of those paddleball things, called a bolo.



The elastic holding the ball would snap off after 10 minutes, then it was just a worthless hunk of wood. We also got pastel colored plastic Slinkys and one of those gyro-rolling magnetic wheelie things.

Fanny Farmer in Davis Square had the good stuff. We didn't get Cadbury eggs or Reese's Eggs but we got Marshmallow Peeps. I think they only came in yellow back then. Am I the only person that hates those bogus things? Remember what a rip off it was getting a hollow chocolate bunny?

In the basket were also some foil covered chocolate eggs. Remember the first time you tried chewing one without taking the foil wrapping off? It was the most painful thing ever. That was the first real buzz I ever got! I think I actually saw Satan! Ah, those Easter memories!

My brother and sister and I would get all wired up on chocolate and then my parents would drag us to church. They actually expected us to sit there quietly with our extreme sugar-rushes. Plus, we'd always sneak some candy with us to church too. If we were lucky, we would get Father Coughlin at St. Clements. He was a chaplain during the war and he said the mass fast. The legend was that they never knew when they would start shelling and dropping bombs again so he had to say mass quickly. It worked for me.

Legend has it that my grandfather gave my aunt a baby lamb named Bambi one November. When it mysteriously disappeared around the following Easter, Grandpa told everyone, "Bambi had to go live on a farm." That's the first time I ever heard of a serving dish referred to as a "farm." RIP Bambi.

We piled into that old Rambler and had to make the rounds. My parents paraded us over to our aunts houses and finally to grandma's and grandpa's on Elmwood St. My folks really got their money's worth out of those new duds. Visiting my grandparents was always the highlight of Easter Sunday.

Some Easter traditions stay the same. the great We'll be eating the hard boiled eggs photo, pay that our kids or grandkids colored for days. Who cares if the white part is various shades of blues and greens. There Stay safe.



will also still be strands of that plastic colored grass around the house for the next three weeks. Let's hope that the dog doesn't eat any like last year.

For Easter 2020, I will also be missing the great antipasto my Aunt Olga (in photo, page 3) used to make for me every Easter. When this crisis is over, I'll make an antipasto in Auntie's memory. Stay safe.

### Project SOUP continues to feed Somerville during pandemic CONT. FROM PG 1

his colleagues at Project SOUP started worrying about the effects of the coronavirus pandemic in February. Their main concern is being able to serve the increasing number of people coming to the pantry as layoffs and unemployment rise, pushing more people to need the help of food pantries. Already the number of pantry visitors is climbing. "Last month was interesting because we saw a 20 percent growth in one month," Jacobs says. "These are trying times for everybody, including us, and we're trying to keep up with the increased demand."

Food donations mostly come from the community. Local restaurants and individuals donate food, such as dry goods and produce. Project SOUP has even been in touch with local farmers markets, discussing the possibility of buying in bulk to support local farms and sustain the pantry. The Greater Boston Food Bank also donates food, though currently less often than usual.

Running out of food is a reality at the pantry. Last week they ran out of peanut butter, and with supplies low and demand high, assistant manager Ben Wyner says it's going to take a lot of creative problem solving to keep the pantry operating at the same rate as before the pandemic began.

Initially, workers at Project

SOUP walked visitors through the pantry, explaining what goods were available and offering assistance if needed. There was a level of customization to the process, with an added element of personal care. Now with social distancing guidelines in place, workers can no longer give personalized assistance to visitors. Instead, prepacked bags are made for each person in need.

The size of each visitor's bag is based on how many members there are in a family. When a visitor comes to the pantry, they tell a worker what general items they want, such as instant or regular coffee, canned or dry beans, and other specifics. Every bag contains some variation of grains, dairy, eggs, frozen meat, and fresh produce. Visitors wait outside, and when their bag is ready a worker brings it to them, always free of charge.

Jacobs and Wyner are developing plans to change their model to fit CDC regulations while also keeping the personalized elements they had before. Only workers and volunteers are allowed inside the pantry now, but Jacobs says that even with an influx of visitors he still wants to keep the pantry personal and customizable.

As of now, only about four people can be in the limited space of the pantry at a time, with three workers packing bags while another worker talks to the visitor about what they want.

Jacobs and his team are also doing home deliveries once a month, mainly to seniors who need access to the pantry but do not want to risk leaving their homes during the pandemic. Wyner says their eligibility process had previously been proof of a doctor's note saying that they couldn't go outside, but since the pandemic began the pantry has received a number of calls from residents who are concerned about leaving their homes. "Those are such valid concerns right now," Wyner adds.

"A lot of the people that we serve are over the age of 65 or potentially immunocompromised, so we have to be as careful as possible," Wyner says. "It's hard when it's just one person doing all those deliveries in a day. We have a couple hours in the morning set aside for it, but as the need continues to grow we won't be able to handle it on our own."

Many volunteers at Project SOUP are students at Tufts University, but with the closure of the school and students leaving campus, the pantry lost a large amount of help. With the increasing number of visitors coming to the pantry, the need for volunteers is growing. Wyner

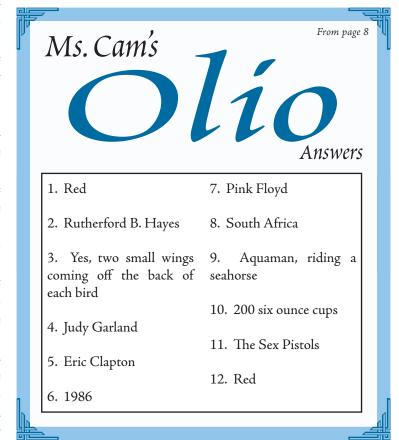
says it's been difficult to find new volunteers who are familiar with their work and who are going to be consistent and able to volunteer on a regular basis.

The protocol in place for volunteers is standard for most places of business still open: wash hands frequently, wear masks, be showered, and wear clean clothes when coming into the pantry. Additionally, they are asked to check their temperature two hours before coming into the pantry to ensure they are in good health.

Adopting these changes has

been a challenge but still manageable. "This is certainly new territory for everybody here," Jacobs says. "We've had to change our processes. We've been very fluid on the practices in trying to find some balance of serving the clients and keeping everybody safe. It's been tricky. My staff has been awesome in terms of feedback and ideas and things like that. So we all work together to try to find a process that works."

To donate or volunteer, contact Project SOUP at djacobs@shcinc.org.



# 'Popcorn Pop-Up' at Somerville Theatre



The Somerville Theatre held an event (abiding by all social distancing laws) called "Popcorn Pop-Up" on Friday, April 3, to raise funds during this difficult time. Loyal patrons were encouraged to phone in their orders for popcorn and other snack bar treats earlier in the day for pick up that evening, which they could then take home to enjoy while watching their own favorite films. The next event is planned for Saturday, April 11, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Somerville Theatre. The theater can be reached by phone at 617-625-4088.

— Photo by Sean Burns

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# **Social distancing at Reliable Market**



Signs of responsible social distancing and facial coverings were spotted recently at the famed Korean Grocery Reliable Market in Union Square.

— Photo by Doug Holder

### Line to Trader Joe's back to the home goods store with social distancing in force





### Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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# On This Day in Kistory April 8

1789 - The U.S. House of Representatives holds its first meeting.

1865 – General Robert E. Lee's retreat is cut off near Appomattox Court House.

1913 – The 17th Amendment is ratified, requiring direct election of senators.

1935 - The Works Progress Administration (WPA) is approved by Congress.

1952 - President Truman orders the seizure of U.S. steel mills to prevent a strike.

1962 – Bay of Pigs invaders get thirty years imprisonment in Cuba.

1974 – Hank Aaron hits his 715th home run, breaking Babe Ruth's record.

1975 – Frank Robinson of the Cleveland Indians becomes first black manager of a major league baseball team.

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### SCATV Channel 3 Schedule

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Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) Wednesday, April 8 12:00am 3:00pm 8:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 4:00pm VOX POP: Somerville Connects 9:00am SMC Youth Media 5:00am Free Speech TV Free Speech TV 12:00am 4:30pm The Struggle 9:30am Science 360 6:00am 6:00am NASA TV Somerville Neighborhood News 5:00pm 10:00am Dead Air Live 7:00am Somerville Storytellers Community Bulletin Board 7:00am 6:00pm #AFAD 11:00am TeleGalaxie 7:30am DW In Good Shape 7:30am Going Postal 12:00pm 6:30pm Somerville Storytellers 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) Community Lens: SHC 5K Race 7:00pm 1:00pm Tele Magazine 9:00am DW Global 3000 Reeling Review 8:00pm LIVE - Our View 2:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News Both Sides of the Bars 10:00am 9:30am 3:00pm MA House of Representatives Formal Session 9:00pm PABFONE Closing Day Ceremony Our View Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer 11:00am 10:00am 10:00pm Community Bulletin Board 4:00pm Tele Krevol 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show Somerville Neighborhood News SNN Neighborhood Update 10:30am 10:30pm The World Fusion Show Henry Parker Presents 5:00pm 1:00pm 11:00am SOM ARTS 11:00pm VOX POP Comedy Night Henry Parker Presents 5:30pm From My Heart to Yours Somerville Storytellers 11:30am 1:30pm Somerville Pundits Friday, April 10 6:00pm 2:00pm 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show NASA TV The Somerville Labor Show 6:30pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 1:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News 12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 3:00pm 7:00pm BLOWW Show a Go Go SCATV Secret Stash 4:00pm African Television Network 1:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News 1:00am 7:30pm 8:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News Community Lens: SHC 5K Race 2:00pm Colores Latinos 1:30am SCATV Secret Stash 5:00pm #AFAD 2:00am 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) Free Speech TV 6:00pm LIVE from VOX POP 9:00pm Nossa Gente e Costumes 4:00pm DW Conflict Zone 6:00am NASA TV 6:30pm Fur, Fins and Feathers 10:00pm 4:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library Heavy Leather Music Video Show The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV) 7:00am 7:00pm Tele Galaxie 11:00pm SCATV Secret Stash 5:00pm Hello Neighbor Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) LIVE -Somerville Overcoming Addiction 8:00am 8:00pm 11:30pm From My Heart to Yours 5:30pm 9:00am DW Euromaxx 9:00pm Dedilhando au Saudade Sunday, April 12 Somerville Neighborhood News VOX POP: Somerville Connects 6:00pm 9:30am Strata 10:00pm Colores Latinos NASA TV 6:30pm 10:00am 12:00am Flotilla 11:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party "The Cask of Amontillado" at VOX POP SOM ARTS NASA TV 7:00pm 11:00am 1:00am Tuesday, April 14 Cambridge Calendar The Thom Hartman Show 7:30pm 8:00pm Sidewalks Entertainment 11:30am 1:30am NASA TV 12:00am Public Safety/Homeland Security Hearing LIVE - Somerville Pundits 12:00pm 2:00am NASA TV 6:00am 8:30pm DW Euromaxx Community Benefits Agreement 1:00pm 3:00am Free Speech TV 7:00am NASA TV 9:00pm 10:00pm Revolution Awakening at VOX\_POP 2:00pm Somerville Pundits 2:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library Bate Papo com Shirley Nossa Gentes e Costumes Somerville Pundits 6:00am 8:00am Democracy Now! LIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 7:00am 9:00am The Chef's Table Series 11:00pm 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 8:00am Effort Pour Christ 10:00am 4:00pm 5:00pm Gay USÁ DW Global 3000 NASA TV 9:00am Thursday, April 9 Ioanna Bremis HMS Clinicals 11:00am 10:00am Tele Kreyol SCATV Secret Stash 12:30am The Thom Hartman Show 12:00pm 5:30pm What's New Massachusetts? 11:00amMA House of Representatives Formal Session 1:00am Free Speech TV 1:00pm Revolution Awakening at VOX POP 6:00pm 7:00pm Grandstanders 12:00pm Sidewalks Entertainment 1:30am Free Speech TV **Emergency Preparedness** 1:00pm SOM ARTS 2:00pm Somerville Overcoming Addiction 2:00am Free Speech TV 3:00pm The Somerville Labor Show SNN Neighborhood Update Democracy Now! 7:30pm 1:30pm 3:00am Free Speech TV SMC Youth Media 8:00pm 8:30pm LIVE - Greater Somerville Greater Somerville Chico and B-Man African Television Network 4:00pm 2:00pm 6:00am Bate Papo com Shirley Going Postal 3:00pm DW Conflict Zone 7:00am Dedilhando a Saudade Fur, Fins and Feathers 4:00pm 5:00pm LIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer 9:00pm DW Euromaxx 7:30am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party Heavy Leather Music Video Show 5:00pm 6:00pm 10:00pm Gay USA 5:30pm What's New Massachusetts? 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) VOX POP: Somerville Connects 11:00pm 6:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News 9:00am DW Tomorrow Today 6:30pm DW Tomorrow Today 6:30pm From My Heart to Yours 9:30am Hello Neighbor Saturday, April 11 7:00pm **Emergency Preparedness** 7:00pm The Somerville Labor Show VOX POP Comedy Night 10:00am The Chef's Table Series 12:00am Dead Air Live 8:00pm 7:30pm LIVE - Greater Somerville The Chef's Table Series 1:00am 10:30am Free Speech TV 9:00pm 8:00pm LIVE - Dead Air Live Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals Free Speech TV 11:00am

#### **CITY TV 22 (Comcast)** (RCN) Schedule

Free Speech TV

Free Speech TV

Effort Pour Christ

DW Focus on Europe

10:00pm

11:00pm

4:00pm 5:30pm

8:30pm

9:15pm

9:31pm

Monday, April 13

#### Wednesday, April 8

11:30am

12:00pm

1:00pm

1:30pm

7:00am Somerville Heroes' Salute 2019 SomerViva en Espanõl - Public Charge 8:30am 9:38am Talking Business The Spiritual Music of Henry Hadley 10:00am 11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 12:00pm School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 3:03pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 4:00pm City Council Meeting 3.26.20 How Does COVID-19 Spread? 5:30pm 7:00pm 7:00pm Council on Aging Update 3.30.20 7:02pm 7:35pm Senior Circuit - "Shape Up Somerville" Talking Business

Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals

The Thom Hartman Show

The Somerville Line

3:00am

5:00am

Thursday, April 9

City Council Meeting 4.7.20 8:00pm 12:00am Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 CDC Handwashing en Espanol PSA City Council Meeting 4.7.20 12:48am 1:00am 4:00am Fit-4-Life #3 Storytime with Anne 4:30am SomerViva em Português - March 2020 Raising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking" 5:00am 6:00am 6:30am City Alert Talking Business 6:35am 7:00am Storytime with Anne School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 7:30am 10:00am The Spiritual Music of Henry Hadley Fit-4-Life #2 City Alert 11:00am 11:30am City Council Meeting 4.7.20 Fit-4-Life #6 12:00pm 4:00pm 4:30pm City Alert: The CARES Act 5:30pm Middlesex Update w/Marian Ryan 6:00pm Storytime with Anne

School Committee Meeting 4.6.20

SHS Football vs Peabody

City Alert

SomerViva em Português - March 2020

Senator Ed Markey's Town Hall at SHS0

11:08pm Student Health Survey, Trivia, & Discussion Friday, April 10 Faith In a City: Fire & Roses 12:00am 1:30am City Alert: The CARES Act City Alert School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 Somerville Heroes' Salute 2019 2:00am 7:30am 9:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang 9:30am 11:00am The Spiritual Music of Henry Hadley 12:00pm Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 SomerViva en Español - Public Charge 1:00pm 1:30pm 2:30pm Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 Letters of World War II at Council on Aging 4:00pm Fit-4-Life #6 Council on Aging Update 3.30.20 4:20pm Storytime with Anne Raising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking" 4:30pm 5:30pm 5:56pm CDC Handwashing en Espanol PSA City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang Senator Ed Markey's Town Hall at SHS 6:00pm 6:30pm 8:07pm **Talking Business** 8:30pm Return to Italy Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 SomerViva en Espanõl - Public Charge 9:30pm 10:30pm The Spiritual Music of Henry Hadley 11:00pm Saturday, April 11

12:00am

Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 Tuskegee Airmen City Council Meeting 4.7.20 12:30am 1:30am 7:30am Tuskegee Airmen City Council Spotlight - Mary Jo Rossetti 8:30am The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism 11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 11:30am City Council Spotlight - Mary Jo Rossetti Storytime with Anne SPD Ride Along 12:00pm 12:45pm The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism 1:00pm 2:30pm SomerViva em Português - March 2020

Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 Raising Families "Special Needs Education" School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 Student Health Survey, Trivia, & Discussion SPD Ride Along Haitian Cultural Celebration 2020 Faith In a City

Community Lens: Somerville 5K Detour

SCATV Secret Stash

10:30pm Sunday, April 12

12:00am Letters of World War II at Council on Aging Student Health Survey, Trivia, & Discussion 1:30am 2:30am SomerViva en Espanol - Public Charge Fit 4 Life 2020 # Raising Families "Youth Vaping & Smoking" Talking Business 8:00am 8:30am City Alert: 4.9.20 Storytime with Anne 8:47am 9:00am 9:30am 11:00am Housing/City Update 3.27.20 Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 SomerViva en Español - Public Charge 11:30am School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 City Alert: 4.7.20 12:00pm 2:30pm SomerViva em Português´- March 2020 3:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 4:00pm Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 5:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm Storytime with Anne Faith In a City: Faith & Community 7:15pm SPD Ride Along 8:00pm City Council Meeting 4.7.20

Monday, April 13 12:00am

School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 City Alert: 4.7.20 Talking Business 2:34am Middlesex Update w/Marian Ryan 8:00am Storytime with Anne 8:30am Hall St. Infrastructure Community Meeting Spring Hill Sewer Separation Meeting Fit-4-Life #2 9:00am 11:00am Hall St. Infrastructure Community Meeting 11:30am City Council Meeting 4.7.20 12:00pm

Fit-4-Life #2 Derechos de Inquilinos Letters of World War II at Council on Aging SPD Ride Along Storytime with Anne School Committee Meeting 4.6.20 Faith In a City: Faith & Community SPD Ride Along

The World Fusion Show

Box House Productions Presents

**Totally Working Out** 

SCATV Secret Stash

11:30pm Tuesday, April 14

9:00pm

10:00pm

11:00pm

4:30pm

6:00pm

7:15pm

7:30pm

8:00pm

10:30pm

12:00am

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9:00pm

Greek Independence Day 2019 Spring Hill Sewer Separation Meeting Student Health Survey, Trivia, & Discussion Spring Hill Sewer Separation Meeting City Council Spotlight - Mark Niedergang Senator Ed Markey's Town Hall at SHS Fit-4-Life #3 City Alert: 4.9.20 12:00pm Public Charge Presentation 3.5.20 The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism Storytime with Anne Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 Return to Italy Hall St. Infrastructure Community Meeting Storytime with Anne Letters of World War II at Council on Aging Council on Aging Update 3.30.20 City Alert: 4.7.20 SomerViva en Español - Public Charge Derechos de Inquilinos SPD Ride Along

Wednesday, April 15

12:01am Senior Circuit - "Shape Up Somerville" 12:30am Hall St. Infrastructure Community Meeting Haitian Cultural Celebration 2020 1:01am 2:00am SomerViva en Espanol - Public Charge

Faith In a City: Faith & Community

### **Educational TV 15 Schedule**

### Wednesday, April 8 8:00am

6:30pm 8:30pm

9:00pm

11:00pm

10:00am SHS Boys Soccer v Marblehead 11:30am Northeastern Conference Cheer Invitational 12:30pm SHS Hockey v Lynn C. 2:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Beverly SHS Girls Basketball vs Swampscott 3:30pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Salem 5:00pm 7:00pm SHS Football vs Peabody 9:00pm SHS Boys Soccer v Marblehead 10:30pm Northeastern Conference Cheer Invitational SHS Hockey v Lynn C. 11:30pm

Thursday, April 9 SHS Girls Lacrosse vs Matignon 8:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs Matignon 11:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs Matignon 1:00pm SHS Hockey vs Matignon El Sistema Spring Concert Cam/Som Girls Hockey vs CC 2:05pm 3:00pm 4:30pm 6:00pm SHS Hockey vs Medford SHS Girls Lacrosse vs Matignon 7:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Matignon 9:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Matignon 11:00pm SHS Hockey vs Matignon

Friday, April 10

El Sistema Spring Concert 12:05am 1:00am Cam/Som Girls' Hockey vs CC

8:00am SHS Spring Concert 10:00am El Sistema Spring Concert '18 11:00am All City Middle School Spring Concert 18 Brown School Spring Concert 5/18 Argenziano School Spring Concert 1:00pm 3:00pm All-City Middle School Spring Concert 5/19 SHS Spring Concert 4:00pm 5:00pm El Sistema Spring Concert '18 All City Middle School Spring Concert 18 7:00pm 8:00pm 10:00pm Brown School Spring Concert 5/18

Saturday, April 11 12:00am

Argenziano School Spring Concert All-City Middle School Spring Concert 5/19 SHS Winter Concert 2/19 1:00am 8:00am SHS Chamber Concert 5/19 10:00am SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn E. 11:00am 1:00pm 2:00pm SHS Boys Lacrosse vs Lynn C. SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical 4:00pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical 6:00pm SHS Winter Concert 2019 8:00pm SHS Chamber Concert 5/19 SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn F. 9:00pm 11:00pm SHS Boys Lacrosse vs Lýnn C.

Sunday, April 12 12:00am

SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn Classical 1:35am SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical Public Domain Theater 3:00am

Boys Middle School Basketball Finals 2018 9:00am 10:00am Girls' Middle School Intramural Soccer 11:00am Boys' Middle School Intramural Soccer Boys Intramural Basketball Championship 12:00pm 1:00pm Girls Intramural Basketball Championship 2:00pm Girls Indoor Soccer Finals 3:00pm Boys Indoor Soccer Finals 2018 4:00pm 6:00pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Algonquin Girls Middle School Basketball Finals '18 Boys Middle School Basketball Finals 2018 Girls Middle School Intramural Soccer 7:00pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm Boys Middle School Intramural Soccer Boys Intramural Basketball Championship 11:00pm Girls Intramural Basketball Championship Monday, April 13

12:00am 1:00am

Boys' Indoor Soccer Finals 2018 SHS Boys Basketball vs Algonquin 2:00am 8:00am SHS Football vs Peabody SHS Football v Lynn Classical 10:00am 12:05pm SHS Football v Triton Reg'l SHS Football 2017 2:30pm 3:00pm SHS Football vs Medford SHS Football vs Peabody 6:02pm SHS Football v Lynn Classical 8:00pm SHS Football v Triton Reg'l 10:05pm Tuesday, April 14

Girls Indoor Soccer Finals

11:30am 12:00pm 10:00pm 10:30pm 11:00pm

SHS Football 2006 SHS Football 2017 SHS Football vs Medford SHS Football 2006 SHS Girls Basketball 2017-18 SHS Boys Basketball 2017-18 SHS Football 2017 Highlander Football 2018 SHS Highlander Boys Basketball 2018-19 SHS Highlander Girls Basketball 2018-19 SHS Football 2019 Highlights SHS Boys Basketball Highlights 2016-17 SHS Girls Basketball Highlights 2016-17 SHS Football 2016 SHS Football 2006 SHS Football 2006 SHS Girls Basketball 2017-18 SHS Boys Basketball 2017-18 SHS Football 2017 Highlander Football 2018 SHS Highlander Boys Basketball 2018-19 SHS Highlander Girls Basketball 2018-19 SHS Football 2019 Highlights SHS Bovs Basketball Highlights 2016-17 SHS Girls Basketball Highlights 2016-17

SHS Football 2016

SHS Football 2006

# lyrica **SOMERVILLE** edited by Doug Holder

Julia Carlson is a longtime member of the Somerville Bagel Bards, that now resides in the land of Zoom.

#### Face Mask

(for Kitty)



When my mother passed away my Dad, clearing out the dining room hutch, found a stack of white damask napkins. "These were your Great Grandmother's. Do you want them?" he said. I took them, that was 32 years ago, took them when I moved from New England to down South and then back home. Once in a while I'd use one, and if it was frayed or torn, toss it into the rag bucket or the trash. This week one of my friends said, It's The Pandemic, why aren't your writing any poems? You have to write one! I read a poem in which the poet said she made pies when no words would come. But I'm sick of cooking after three weeks of social distancing. So, this morning on my list of things to do, "Get a face mask!" How? since I can't find one for love or money. Google found me the pattern. I looked at my collection of scarves and kerchiefs but they were too nice to cut up. And two were presents from my daughter and grandson. But at the back of the dresser was that stack of my great grandmother's linen napkins. A couple hours later, after cutting and sewing here I sit getting ready to post a selfie on Instagram, fighting off The 21st Century Plague with a hundred year old napkin.

— Julia Carlson

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

### OFF THE SHEL

by Doug Holder

### Somerville's Alex Kern: A spiritual leader with a calling for poetry

Alexander Levering Kern is a Somerville-based poet, educator, organizer, and Quaker chaplain who directs the Center for Spirituality, Dialogue, and Service at Northeastern University in Boston. He is completing a book manuscript of poems based on twenty years living in Somerville, celebrating the city's extraordinary diversity, strength, history, and character. Alex's poems and nonfiction have been published widely and he is editor of the anthology Becoming Fire. He co-edits the new interfaith/intercultural publication Pensive: A Global Journal of Spirituality and the Arts, which is currently seeking submissions.

Doug Holder: You are a Quaker chaplain. How would a Quaker chaplain approach things differently from a Catholic or Protestant one?

Alexander Levering Kern: Excellent question, Doug. Thank you. First off, Quaker chaplaincy has nothing to do with oats! Secondly, I suspect there are as many different approaches to chaplaincy as there are chaplains. I happen to be a Quaker who serves an interfaith community of people from all major religious, spiritual, and humanist worldviews - people of all faiths and none. Quakers tend to approach ministry from a place of "answering that of God in everyone," that is, recognizing and reverencing the divine Light and Life in each person. Quaker chaplaincy emphasizes the value of deep listening and expectant silence as the rich soil from which words spring and wisdom grows.

Quaker chaplaincy also foregrounds the communal and socially-engaged role of faith, drawing upon the historic Quaker testimonies of peace, equality, simplicity, integrity, and community. By developing programs of dialogue and civic engagement, Quaker chaplains strive to promote wellness and wholeness in wider society, what our Jewish friends call tikkun olam, or repairing the world in the direction of shalom, a more just, sustainable, peaceable "kin-dom" of God on earth, or what Dr. King called the Beloved Community, extended to all living things. The field of chaplaincy varies across traditions, but most of us who've been to seminary or completed Clinical Pastoral Education internships in hospitals see the heart of chaplaincy as "spiritual accompaniment" and providing "a non-anxious relational presence," at least in one-on-one pastoral care.

In the University setting, chaplaincy involves not only support for individuals in times of need, struggle, or celebration, but also serving as the "public face" of religion and spirituality on campus – facilitating vigils and memorial services, offering inclusive interfaith prayer at commencements, responding to crises such as the Boston Marathon bombing or the current coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. A Quaker University chaplain educates students about world faiths and the ways they shape culture and current affairs. As educators, Quaker chaplains invite learners to look within to discover the "Inward Teacher," and look beyond the classroom to experiential learning settings as disparate as Boston's homeless shelters, the Arizona-Mexico borderlands, or the streets of Selma and Ferguson, Missouri. At our best, chaplains build structures of interfaith understanding and cooperation, challenge religious bigotry, encourage vocational discernment and deep ethical reflection, and tend to the soul of the University and the heart of a hurting planet.

DH: You have lived in Somerville for twenty years. How does Somerville differ from other places that you have lived? What makes it unique?

ALK: Place is extremely important to me as a poet and writer, a neighbor, a citizen of this bioregion/watershed and of the wider global village. I grew up in Washington, DC, with six generations of family roots there, and other roots in my grandparents' orchard in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. I've studied and lived in Poughkeepsie, Atlanta, Greensboro, and Philadelphia, and traveled, studied, and served on five continents. Somerville is distinct from each of these places, with echoes of many of them (we even have hills here, if not necessarily mountains!) What distinguishes Somerville is its extraordinary diversity, with 80,000 people packed into four square miles and many circles that for some reason are called squares! We are a microcosm - quite literally a "little world" - mirroring wider society, coexisting in generally symbiotic ways. While we have a long way to go to address challenges such as affordable housing and climate change, Somerville is a wonderful place to live, to learn, and to write.



DH: I would think that a sense of spirituality would be essential now during this pandemic.

ALK: Absolutely. Early on in the pandemic, I wrote a piece called Caring for Self and Others in Times of Trouble: Some Spiritual Tools and Tips, which is widely available online. At a time when our very life and breath is threatened, spirituality reminds us to pause and breathe. Indeed, the word "spirituality" comes from the Latin for breath, wind, or spirit. Anyone who breathes has access to the spirituality. Whether one chooses prayer, mindfulness, yoga, creative writing, congregational worship, walking in the woods, or any range of other spiritual practices, there is a grounding and centering available through spirituality that offers comfort, courage, hope, and healing connection.

**DH:** Tell us about the online journal you co-edit, *Pensive*: A Global Journal of Spirituality and the Arts.

ALK: It's super exciting. I am working with an editorial board of students, sniffing out the finest spiritual writing and art we can find. Already we have submissions from some of the best known spiritual writers in the US, and from exciting voices from around the world. In a time when religion so often is a catalyst of conflict, it is gratifying to discover artistic expression that promotes the best in our shared humanity. The arts are good medicine, especially now.

DH: Tell us a bit about the process you used to develop your manuscript about Somerville?

ALK: It's been an amazing journey, sixteen years in the making. Honestly, I did not begin to feel fully at home in Somerville until our son Elias was born and I began to see the city through his wide-open imaginative eyes: its playgrounds, playgroups, buses, trains, and firetrucks. Writing poems about Somerville has helped me experience the city more deeply - the beautiful, the wild, the surreal, the sacred. The book is a product of contemplation and action, sitting still and taking walks, sheltering in place and sometimes, when needed, marching on Boston. Sitting on my front porch, I've found myself listening to the world of Somerville - the language of its streets, the distant highway, the bagpiper who plays at dusk. Taking a walk on any given day, I encounter Irish and Italian-American old timers, Sikh gentlemen chatting in Union Square, new immigrant schoolkids from across the planet, homeless street vendors, artists and creatives of every stripe, and Steampunk young people riding tall bikes in top hats! The book is as much about people as place, and often it is about people standing up for their neighbors in our city and around the world. I can't wait to share this love song to Somerville, my adopted home, a place of many hills and squares!

DH: You are an accomplished poet. What was the germ of the idea that led you to poetry?

ALK: I began writing poetry early on during the second Iraq war, to make sense of the world and my place in it. I was auditing a course at a seminary on the Hebrew prophets and modern poetry. Our professor encouraged us to keep a notebook and to notice our lives - the strange, the awful, the sublime. At the same time, my son Elias was just learning to speak, discovering the power of language. While being with him, I found myself falling in love with poetry, reading and writing it, telling fanciful bedtime stories, developing new ways to speak about war, parenting, the natural world, and this wondrous, fraught business of being alive.

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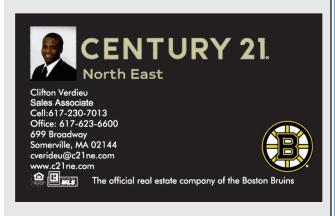
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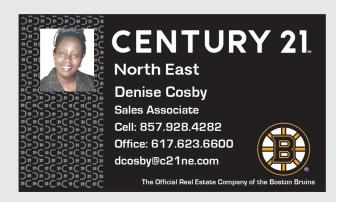
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