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SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Somerville petitions for domestic partnership benefits



Legal equity for domestic partners was a topic addressed at the latest meeting of the Somerville City Council's Legislative Matters Committee.

By Joe Creason

Long standing debates around several proposed ordinances were revisited by the City Council during their Legislative Matters Committee meeting on May 6.

City Councilors submitted a proposal for the forward-thinking Domestic Partnership Ordinance, which redefines some legal definitions around spousal relationships in Somerville. Among other reasons, interest in the proposal was driven by people who experienced difficulty visiting those they considered family while at hospitals, amid the Covid pandemic.

"We have lots of people who live in the city and recognize their relationship as more than two adults," said Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis.

Both state and Federal laws provide many privileges to married couples with spousal status. According to Davis, the

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Dance in the Street at the Union Square Farmers Market

Union Square Main Streets kicks off the 17th season of the Union Square Farmers Market in Somerville this Saturday, May 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with a big change. The market will move from Union Square Plaza, its home for 16 years, to Somerville Avenue, in order to provide businesses and their outdoor patios the vital opportunity to welcome Union Square lovers.

Since 2005, the Union Square Farmers Market has helped shoppers fill their homes with top-quality, fresh, local food while serving as a catalyst for vibrancy, economic activity, and neighborhood connection.

Thanks to the City of Somerville's support, customers can shop local in open air at the COVID-19 Prepared Market, now on Somerville Avenue, which will be closed to motor vehicles between Carlton and Hawkins Streets. Market goers can navigate to the market using the address 366 Somerville Avenue and are reminded that Union Square is best explored by foot, bike, and public transit.

"Orchestrating a market of this scale is always a dance," said Jessica Eshleman,

Continued on page 9



Join in the dance as the Union Square Farmers Market opens its 17th season at its new location on Somerville, this Saturday, May 15.

IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE

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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.

We hear the **Somerville High School Class of 2021 Graduation** will take place on **June 7** at **Dilboy Stadium**, with each student being able to have two guests. We will update as more becomes available.

The **City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department** is partnering with **Riverside Trauma Center** to offer a free two-day virtual training in **Psychological First Aid and Post-Traumatic Stress Management** for individuals who live or work in Somerville. Participants will learn basic behavioral health disaster-response skills in order to support youth and adults impacted by a traumatic event. This training would be beneficial for school staff, youth workers and service providers, human service workers, nurses, juvenile justice and law enforcement personnel, clergy, social workers, and anyone providing services in a support capacity. Training sessions will be held **Friday, June 4**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and **Friday, June 11**, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Participants must attend both sessions. Learn more and register at somerville-ma.gov/HHS.

The **City of Somerville** moved into a **modified Phase 4, Step 1** of the state’s reopening plan on **Friday, May 7**. This means that indoor capacity for several businesses will be increased significantly, something that the local economy desperately needs. For specific details and general guidelines, go to <https://www.somervillema.gov/reopeningphase4>. **Additional reopening steps**, beyond the modified Phase 4, Step 1, will go into effect on **Tuesday, June 1**. All of the newly allowed activities will be subject to regular city permitting and safety rules and sector-specific COVID-19 guidelines. Dance floors will be allowed at private events, but facial coverings must be worn and there should be social distancing between households. Food and drinks will be allowed with recreational activities, but they must remain in one location. This means, for example, movie-goers can have snacks and drinks at their seats during a screening or bowlers can have food at their lane. *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 12 – May 18 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday <i>May 12</i>	Partly Cloudy	61°/44°	5%	8%	NW 17 mph
Thursday <i>May 13</i>	Sunny	69°/50°	3%	5%	NW 11 mph
Friday <i>May 14</i>	Cloudy	66°/49°	15%	9%	WSW 10 mph
Saturday <i>May 15</i>	Partly Cloudy	68°/49°	15%	10%	W 11 mph
Sunday <i>May 16</i>	Partly Cloudy	68°/51°	22%	13%	NE 10 mph
Monday <i>May 17</i>	Partly Cloudy	68°/52°	25%	12%	ENE 11 mph
Tuesday <i>May 18</i>	Partly Cloudy	70°/55°	19%	10%	SW 12 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: **Matthew Buchanan selected as next Somerville High School Principal**

Monique says:
Somerville’s gain, PPSD’s loss.

Response to: **Somerville Fire Department, LT John ‘Moose’ Byrne retires**

Steve Keenan says:
Best wishes to John. A perfect gentleman and one of the best!

Response to: **Outdoor face covering rules relaxed starting April 30**

cbd powder says:
Finally, our Somerville began to loosen quarantine measures a little. This was necessary for children who like to spend a lot of time outside, especially in such weather, I believe that soon we will overcome the coronavirus and all restrictions will be lifted for us, I have been waiting for this for so long, but I believe that soon we will get this coronavirus and we will be fine! The main thing is to believe and do everything so as not to infect other people!

Response to: **Somerville joins the Civil War**

Patrick Dorant says:
Very interesting Jimmy. Just love reading your articles.

Response to: **Job #1**

Vera Gropper says:
Jimmy- Thanks for the memories!!!
Vera

BMac says:
When people found out you worked at Polaroid, they immediately asked you to get them a free camera.
I don’t know how many times I explained to people that they bought the camera for the same price I did, but that I could get them the film cheap.

BMac says:
The Brighams in Davis, at least for some period of time, was run by the dad of my classmate. They lived on Sterling street back then.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Ooh that smell!



I actually almost went nuts trying to find a photo of the Kemp's factory that used to be in Somerville. I can't imagine how many times I drove past the building and smelled that heavenly aroma of roasting peanuts, cashews and more. If you went down Walnut St. from Highland Ave., or from Medford St., past the building on your left after the bridge, the smell was soothing and yummy.

The Kemp Nuts factory, formerly at 19 Walnut St., was among other buildings in Somerville built by the Edward F. Kemp company which he founded in Somerville in 1915. The other buildings were at 152 School St. and 226 Pearl St. where Kemp actually lived. That three-story brick building is a state historic asset which is currently Pearl St. Studios.

Many Somerville people remember that sweet aroma as they walked by the building at 19 Walnut St. on their way back and forth from the high school (before everyone's parents dropped them off and picked them up). Today it's the beautiful Edward Leathers Park, but many Somerville long timers worked there, or had family members who worked there. Thank you to my friends who shared their Kemp's memories with us.

"My Mom worked there as a teen packing peanut butter!"

"My aunt worked there in the 50's and, trust me, we always had snacks in the house when she did!"

"When I was in high school, I heard if you walked in there they would give you free nuts. I tried it and I got some. But I didn't really do it too often. I wish I did it more."

"I used to work there it was the best, when they were roasting the nuts."

"All the nuts you could eat! I think that triggered my love for cashews!"

"My mom worked there until she married in 1948. My wife worked there for a short time after we married and there were some of the same people 30 years later that had worked with my mom."

"Lived across the street from 1965 until 1983 can still smell the nuts."

"You could buy nuts there. The place smelled amazing."

The factory shut down, the building was condemned and finally torn down. Kemp's, along with the Hostess company, formerly on Lowell St., provided the world with two products from Somerville ... Twinkies and nuts. Actually three Twinkies, nuts and a whole lotta Fluff! But most of all, a lot of nice, and scrumptious memories.

Be sure to check the beautiful Edward Leathers Community Park at 19 Walnut St.

Thank you Mike Devereaux for sharing the photos of the building.



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Looking for a fight at the Mexican grill

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to Maya Sol Mexican Grill on Broadway last Sunday evening on reports of a man allegedly trying to pick fights with people inside the restaurant.

As the Somerville Police officers arrived on the scene, they observed a State Trooper walking the suspect, Victor Moya, of Everett, out the door of the establishment.

According to reports, Moya appeared to be in an agitated state. The officers told him that he was free to leave and that he was no longer welcome inside the restaurant due to his behavior.

Moya then reportedly took one step away, turned around, and began to walk towards the officers, who took a step back and used one of their arms to keep Moya at a safer distance.

An officer was forced to push Moya back twice while telling him to back up as he continued to advance towards him.

Moya reportedly stated that he was a big guy and smiled as he charged towards us. He continued to mumble and the officers were unable to distinguish what he was saying.

All of the patrons inside the restaurant had gathered at the front door and large windows. Cars which had stopped at the red light continued to sit even when the light had turned green.

Moya advanced towards the officer a third time and pushed past his outreached arm and forcefully chest bumped him, pushing him backwards.

The officer used his momentum and utilized an arm bar take down, and Moya was taken to the ground. Multiple nips of alcohol spilled out of Moya's sweatshirt onto the sidewalk.

Moya tensed up his arms but the officers were able to handcuff him without incident, and he was advised that he was then now under arrest.

A transport unit was called to take Moya to headquarters for booking. While seated, Moya reportedly tried to slip out of the handcuffs and attempted to break them.

The officers questioned patrons and staff of Maya Sol, and many of the patrons said that they had never seen Moya before. On this evening he came inside and was trying to fight multiple people, including an older gentleman who appeared distraught but did not wish to talk to the officers.

Moya was subsequently booked on charges of assault and battery on a police officer and disorderly conduct.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG				
Arrests:	Somerville Ave. on a courtesy booking.	Concord Ave. on charges of destruction of property over \$1200 and larceny over \$1200, and on warrant	charges of receiving a stolen credit card and improper use of credit card over \$1200.	May 9, 9:02 p.m., arrested at Broadway on charges of assault and battery on a police officer and disorderly conduct.
Standly Miranda, May 6, 6:06 a.m., arrested at	Anthony Quinones, May 9, 1:23 p.m., arrested at		Victor Moya, of Everett,	

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Somerville petitions for domestic partnership benefits

CONT. FROM PG 1

Domestic Partnership Ordinance adjusts the existing municipal code by amending the concept that a domestic partnership has to be just two people and by using the term spouse and domestic partner interchangeably.

The new ordinance is attempting to secure many of the privileges which have typically been granted to married couples with regards to dependency status, taxation, and healthcare coverage. However there have been some complications with regards to the General Insurance Commission (GIC).

"I think this is an excellent reason to reassess our commitment to the GIC as a whole," Davis said.

The GIC is a state-run organization which provides health insurance to employees of the Commonwealth and participating municipalities within Massachusetts. When the City of Boston tried to pass a similar domestic partnership ordinance, they were blocked by state courts citing that the language around the GIC is clear and domestic partners do not count as spouses.

According to City Councilors, the GIC service is unpopular with many in Somerville.

"In terms of the GIC, a lot of unions might say that they were kind of coerced into agreeing to it, I don't think they're fans of GIC," said Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, "We should include them in the conversation and they might be willing to consider this option because GIC compared with Cambridge Healthcare system, is not as good."

While the Domestic Partnership Ordinance may not be able to affect the healthcare coverage status of Somerville employees dependents and partners, a home rule petition proposed by the city has the chance to carry more governing authority.

A home rule provides flexibility to local governments by petitioning the Massachusetts General Court under the Home Rule for special legislation affecting their community. According to the City Council, their petition is a two-part request to recognize any member of a domestic partnership as a dependent under GIC coverage and to treat domestic partners as spouses in other applied contexts

The City Council is continuing its debate around the decriminalization and deprioritizing of drug possession offenses by means of a city ordinance. New information has come to light since the issue was last brought up in committee.

"Could the city pass an ordinance decriminalizing drug possession? The answer is no. Somerville, as a body politic, lacks the authority to make an ordinance which conflicts with the enforcement of state law," said Assistant City Solicitor Hannah Pappenheim.

Pappenheim would go on to explain that the ordinance has issues which include encroaching on the executive authority vested in the Somerville Police Department, as well as contradicting Massachusetts State drug laws.

In Pappenheim's assessment, the best way to address the issue in an enforceable way moving forward would be to implement an official policing policy with regards to the deprioritizing of drug possession offenses.

"I want the world to know that we're doing the right thing and that is the best way forward for the country, so I want the strongest possible policy in place," Councilor McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin says he would like formal recognition of the policy and that SPD Officers know this as a priority.

Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clinigan posed a question as to why states were able to pass laws in violation of Federal statutes, using the legalization of cannabis as an example.

"The state is generally given police power, so most criminal statutes will be found under state law. There are some larger issues like inter-state commerce that have Federal criminal law effects which people are still at risk for," Pappenheim said.

Some agenda items were kept in committee, though the Council moved to approve the long-debated Leaf Blower Ordinance.

The Somerville milk bottle collection

By Peter Lesses

As originally published in the March 2021 issue of *The Milk Route*

In June 2018 I donated an extensive collection of Somerville milk bottles and go-withs to the Somerville Museum, a small museum in the city of Somerville, Massachusetts. I wrote *The Somerville, Mass. Dairy Collection* booklet to document the collection and to explain the history of the Somerville dairy industry for New England collectors.

Barbara Mangum, the museum's director, approved the accession and the publication of the booklet, while the trustees secured any necessary copyrights, especially for the pictures.

The booklet relies on the two newer Massachusetts dairy lists: *Massachusetts Milk Bottles by Town in Ascending Order*, originally assembled by Lou Schadlich and Bill Devine, and later updated by Carl Smith. Another source was the set of

Somerville Business Directories in the Somerville Public Library from 1872-1933, with some unfortunate gaps.

Three members of the Merrimack Valley Bottle Club deserve credit for helping to find rare bottles and go-withs: Al Morin of Lowell, MA, Jim George of Milford, NH, and Bob Strand of Groton, MA. I spent a whole afternoon with Al taking notes on machine bottle marks, his specialty.

The Milk Route subscribers are familiar with his contributions to Bill Lockhart's articles on the origin of milk bottles. I'd also like to thank Brad Blodget of Holden, MA, who specializes in Worcester County dairies. Brad sent me a copy of his article on the Bellows Falls Co-operative Creamery (BFCC) from the May 2008 issue of *The Milk Route*.

This article cleared up confusion over the common milk bottles from First National Stores – Boston; the company was actually in Somerville. The article also mentions that Calvin Coolidge was a stock holder in the newly formed BFCC.

The Somerville bottle collection

The collection represents 64 of the known 75 diaries.

- Six bottles presumably had tin tops: Philip Koen, E. Everett Giles; two different Highland Milk - D. A. Paige; Fred Smith, which has a tooled top; and F.S. Barnard, an acid etched pint "So2," which has an odd-looking straight neck.



- Examples from seven other diaries are included because they distributed milk in Somerville: a half pint tin top with the original closure from Hampden Dairy of Everett, Mass., acid etched "So5" for delivery in this city; Elm Farm from Boston, owned by Whiting's of Charlestown, which had a large store where the Goodyear Tire is currently located in Union Square; Cherry Valley Dairy of Everett, which had an agent at 53 Prescott Street that was just a home; W. H. Munhall and Harvard Farms, which were both located in Cambridge. Research proved that the William, who lived in Cambridge, and Martin, who lived in Somerville, owned a farm in New Hampshire, but W.H. had a license to sell milk in both cities; the Harvard

Farms Somerville pint VR as well as the more familiar pint with Cambridge embossed on it.

- The most common bottles were Herlihy Bros. at 65 Somerville, Ave.; National Creamery Co. across the street at 66; F.S. Cummings; Giroux Bros.; Noble's; Seven Oaks; and First National Stores. F.S. Cummings bottles usually have an embossed triangle upside down with the letters "F C S" across the front, with the C in the middle of the triangle; however, there is a half pint in the collection with the triangle right side up.
- In 2002 I came across a clear half pint cream bottle embossed "Lakeside Farm Dairy Co. Somerville" with a Mass "BB" Seal. The name was a puzzle because the city has no lakes; the only body of water in close prox-

imity is the Mystic River, which flows along the northern border and empties into the harbor surrounding Boston.

10 VOLUME 486 The Somerville Milk Bottle Collection (continued)

A Few Anecdotes

- Brian Cohen told me a story about how his grandfather Sam Cohen, along with Sam's brothers Phillip and Benjamin, started National Creamery Company (NCCo) in the early 1930s. They specialized in different kinds of cream cheese, some milk, and cream. The dairy operated for about 20 years until the National Dairy Company in Chicago, which became Kraft Foods, acquired them, along with NCCo's fierce competitor Breakstone's.

The comptroller for NCCo was William

Continued on page 9



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Carrot Salad

This salad is great all year round. It's refreshing and light and goes perfectly with chicken or fish. It has great texture, a hint of sweetness with a hint of heat and a touch of tartness. These flavors are a true treat that will surely have you going in for seconds.

For the Salad

- 5 Cups Shredded Carrots
- 1/2 Cup Raisins
- 1/2 Cup Slivered Toasted Almonds
- 1/2 Cup Combined, Minced Parsley, Mint & Cilantro
- 1/4 Teaspoon Salt
- Pinch of Black Pepper

For the Dressing

- Zest of 1 Lemon
- Juice of 1 Lemon
- 1/2 Cup Olive Oil

Pinch of Salt & Pepper

1 Tablespoon Honey

1/2 Teaspoon Aleppo Pepper

Shred the carrots using a food processor. If you don't have one, you can purchase pre-shredded at your local supermarket. In a large bowl, combine the shredded carrots, raisins, almonds, herbs, salt and pepper. In a small bowl, add the zest and juice of the lemon, while whisking, add the olive oil, honey, salt and pepper and the Aleppo pepper.

Taste the dressing, if it's too acidic, add a little more olive oil. Pour the dressing into the salad mix, toss to coat. Place in the refrigerator for about 1/2 hour prior to serving. The Aleppo pepper spice can be found at Penzeys Spice if you're unable to find it at the local supermarket. The Aleppo Pepper has a slight heat and a mild



sweetness, making it a perfect pairing with this salad.

Visit Dorothy's website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix.com/thymethief>.

Public Private Partnership considered for new Public Safety Building

By Alex Reidy

The latest meeting of the Public Safety Building Project Building Committee on May 5 continued where it left off last time, by discussing the possibility of a PPP, (Public Private Partnership), that could be added onto the new PSB (Public Safety Building).

A PPP would mean that in addition to the PSB that is being proposed to be built on 90 Washington St., the leftover square footage could be used for an additional building. Examples were shown of affordable housing, labs, etc., in order to create proper use of all additional space available.

These additions could be placed to the side of the PSB or on top of it. That is where issues of funding and technical problems could come into play as high-rise steel would be needed to create anything above the two-story PSB. More conversation about the possibility of a PPP was hinted at taking place

in the future when more substantial progress has been made on the PSB itself.

As of last meeting, the Committee voted to remove parking offices, constituent services, and decreased officer shower rooms from two to one. They agreed upon coordinated office and work station types with the building master of the project, and with shared conference, work, and breakrooms on both floors. Currently the project is at an estimated 84,000 sq. feet but concerns about a realistic budget and defensible position were prominent in discussions about bringing the proposal before the City Council.

Rooms that were voted upon in the meeting were the Training Spaces, Wellness Center, Community Policing, Simulation and Tactical Training, Evidence and Processing, Fire Administration, Fire Investigations.

Training spaces included classroom style rooms both bookable by the Police and Fire Department. The Well-



The Public Safety Committee recently met and discussed possibilities for inclusion of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) into the new Public Safety Building.

ness Center is essentially a gym available to officers and staff. Its area is 4000 sq ft, which is a massive improvement over the current gym in the current PSB. Community Policing is an office space for the 7 ward community police officers. Simulation and Tacti-

cal training is a room for simulation training technology that includes firearms training and real life tactical situations.

Evidence and Processing is the in-house evidence storage. Fire Administration would be an office space for the Fire Chief, and Fire Investigations

would be an office for the investigations of the causes of fires and interfacing with constituents for when reports of insurance claims are needed.

All rooms were voted for and approved by the Committee. No public comments were made.

Rep. Barber secures critical local funding in FY22 House Budget

Representative Christine P. Barber of Somerville and Medford voted with other House members to enact the fiscal year 2022 House Budget, which makes key investments in schools, early education, affordable housing, economic development, public health, food security, services for people with disabilities and other priorities for economic recovery.

In addition to statewide programs, Rep. Barber also prioritized the needs of the 34th Middlesex District. Pedestrian safety and traffic calming are major issues in Somerville and Medford, particularly on the roads controlled by the state MassDOT and DCR. Rep. Barber was able to secure funding to improve pedestrian safety both on Alewife Brook Parkway near Dilboy Field and on Mystic Avenue in Somerville, along I-93. This funding bolsters other allocations, for a safer crosswalk and bus stop work at Mystic Ave at Shore Drive and a new intersection at Powder House

Boulevard and Alewife Brook Parkway.

“Pedestrian safety is critically important to our communities now more than ever. This funding will help reduce risk for people who are outside enjoying our neighborhoods. I am incredibly happy that I was able to secure funding to improve community infrastructure and safety,” Rep. Barber said.

Representative Barber also worked to address the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, particularly in the areas of public health and health care services. She was successful in including a budget amendment to ensure that the Autism Commission compile data and make recommendations on the impact of the pandemic on communities of color with autism. The pandemic has severely impacted people with autism and families of color have been shown more likely to experience additional barriers related to accessing remote services and impacts from COVID-19.

In addition, Rep. Barber secured funding for the Health Care for All Helpline, a free multilingual statewide service that helps people with questions about medical bills, getting health care and finding a vaccine. Rep. Barber also worked with Greentown Labs to ensure that new state investments in wind energy will include energy startups and fund nonprofits and schools through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.

The FY22 House budget made critical investments to strengthen the capacity of emergency homeless assistance and prevention programs to help combat the eviction crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis. The House provided \$22 million in direct appropriations for the Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) and \$148 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) Program. This funding, which assists families living in Somerville and Medford, is a down payment on

upcoming federal funds which will also be targeted at housing security. (The budget does not appropriate American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, as the state awaits more information on spending parameters by the federal government.)

In addition, the budget supported efforts to address food insecurity and ensure low-income residents have access to cash benefits during the economic downturn. The budget included \$30 million for Emergency Food Assistance and \$13 million for the Healthy Incentives Program, which fund local food banks, along with \$771.1 million in funding for the Department of Transitional Assistance to shore up investments in families, at-risk parents, victims of intergenerational trauma, the elderly, the disabled, and communities most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Other budget highlights include:

- Funding and a mandate to test a backlog of sexual assault



State Rep. Christine P. Barber

evidence kits, after it was discovered that over six thousand rape kits remained untested by the state over the past many years

- Investments of \$20 million in early education rate increases for child care providers across Massachusetts

- \$35 million for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (civil legal aid), increases for Prisoners’ Legal Services and Mental Health Legal Advisors.

The budget now goes to the Senate.

— The Office of Rep. Christine P. Barber

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COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Getting back to normal...sort of.

Our View Of The Times



The excruciatingly slow process of gradually bringing our lives and lifestyles back to normal post-pandemic continues to inch along at its own deliberate and extra-cautious pace.

The recent movement by the city into a modified Phase 4, Step 1 of the state’s reopening plan has breathed new life into the hearts and minds of all who have been affected by the lockdowns and re-

strictions set forth as an intended means of protecting everyone from the further spread of COVID-19 throughout the community.

We appreciate the caution, but we sure yearn for a return to normalcy – or as much of it that is possible in the near future.

The simple things we used to take for granted, such as gathering together for

recreation and entertainment, seem so precious to us now. Will we ever return to that jaded state where these essential pleasures once again become under-appreciated? It’s hard to imagine that it could, but human nature being what it is, who knows?

One thing’s for sure, as the restrictions continue to be lifted – and more of that is on the way – a spirit of celebration will

underlie our day-to-day goings on as we once again take up those cherished activities and finally feel at ease when it comes to all of us getting back together again.

Of course, we still need to exercise caution. Keep wearing those masks and practice social distancing whenever it is called for. And yes, go get yourself vaccinated if you can. It’s the biggest game in town right now, and well worth playing.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

For more information and regular COVID-19 updates, visit www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus and sign up for city alerts at www.somervillema.gov/Alerts. Community members are encouraged to sign up for every alert method: phone call, text, email. Also follow [FB.com/SomervilleCity](https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCity) and [@SomervilleCity](https://www.instagram.com/SomervilleCity).

Katjana For Mayor of Somerville Virtual Campaign Kickoff. Katjana Ballantyne will be holding a virtual campaign kickoff, **May 12** from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Here is the kickoff event link to join: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/katjanakickoff>.

To those celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to **Melissa Hurley**, who is celebrating this week. A nice person, we hope she has a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Donald Chamberlain**, we wish him the best. Happy birthday to **Caroline Shea Rosas**, who is also celebrating this week. Happy birthday to local attorney **Neil Berman**. We hope Neil has a great birthday. To another great local attorney, **Edwin Smith**, we wish him nothing but the best as well. A great guy, and one of the best real estate

attorneys here in Somerville. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Mary Ellen Myhr**, **Diane Murphy Sullivan**, **Donny Caprigno** and **Beth Foley Delacruz** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The **Somerville Arts Council** and **Metropolitan Area Planning Council** are conducting two surveys to find out if Somerville artists have stable access to space for their work. There are two surveys: one for individuals and one for organizations. Artists who live or work in Somerville are invited to take whichever applies to them. Each survey takes five to 10 minutes to complete, and the data collected will be used to identify the risks arts spaces face, to inform city policies, and to establish programs that help preserve and develop arts spaces. Both surveys can be found at www.somervilleartscouncil.org and will be open until **May 24**.

Save the date: The next **GLX General Public Meeting** is planned for **June 30**, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting format will be virtual, and a link will be

posted soon on the GLX website. The meeting will include updates on: Construction Status, Recent Project Milestones, Testing and Commissioning of GLX service. For project information, please visit www.Mass.gov/GLX.

If a vehicle is **booted**, all unpaid parking tickets must be paid in full within 48 hours to have it released, otherwise the vehicle will be towed. While the **Parking Department office** remains closed to the public, payments can be made online at somervillema.gov/parking, over the phone (call 1-844-807-9069), or by placing a certified bank check made out to “City of Somerville” in the secure drop box outside the Parking office at 133 Holland Street. For more information, please visit somervillema.gov/parking.

The **City of Somerville** continues to monitor COVID case trends, vaccination rates, and other related data on a daily basis. As more people are vaccinated there is hope for further reopening in the near future. All persons age 16 or older are currently eligible for vaccination. For information on how to schedule an appointment, visit www.somervillema.gov/vaccine or call the statewide

helpline at 2-1-1.

Do you have ideas on how to **keep cool in the heat**? The **City of Somerville**, in partnership with the **Metropolitan Area Planning Council**, is now accepting applications for the **Keep Cool Somerville Community Projects Grant Program** to support creative and impactful cooling solutions this summer. Residents and community groups are invited to propose small-scale pilot projects to improve resilience to hot weather. A handful of projects will be funded to be implemented over the summer. No project is too small. Grants can range from several hundred dollars to just under \$10,000. Potential projects could seek to raise awareness of extreme heat risks and coping strategies, improve access to cooling resources, promote mutual aid during heat waves, or any other idea that improves community resilience to hot weather, especially among residents most likely to be impacted. Grant applicants are encouraged, but not required, to draw on the **Cooling Strategies Toolkit** for inspiration. There are several opportunities for interested applicants to get feedback or assistance before submitting a proposal. *Continued on page 11*

Survey highlights impact of Meals on Wheels during COVID

By Nathan Lamb

Meals on Wheels helps older adults live independently, and it also reduces food insecurity and isolation, according to a recent survey conducted by Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES).

Out of more than 250 survey respondents, 87 percent said the meals help them live independently.

More than 70 percent of respondents said Meals on Wheels is their main meal of the day. Nearly half said they would have a food shortage without it.

Half of the respondents indicated they live alone, with no one to check on them but their driver. Roughly two-thirds said their driver makes them feel less lonely.

“Isolation and food security have been major challenges for many older adults during the

pandemic, and it is really heartening to hear we are making a difference there,” said SCES Nutrition Director Meghan Ostrander.

The Meals on Wheels survey is conducted annually to help measure the impact and quality of services.

SCES Meals on Wheels delivers roughly 1,000 meals per day during the week. Ostrander added that demand temporarily jumped by more than 20 percent last spring, as things shut down because of the pandemic.

“We had a lot of calls last spring from people with critical and desperate need,” said Ostrander. “It was the main food source for these people who were trying to shelter in place and avoid crowded spaces.”

Ostrander also thanked the Meals on Wheels drivers for their reliability and resilience

during the pandemic.

“The drivers have been really amazing,” said Ostrander. “They were out there delivering meals for 30 or 40 people each day, and these survey responses really highlight how essential their work is.”

Other key findings from the survey include:

Meals on Wheels supports health

• 78 percent said the meals improve their health

• 78 percent said the meals help them eat healthier

• 78 percent said the meals help them maintain a healthy weight

• 85 percent said the meals make them feel better

Client satisfaction

• 87 percent said they would recommend the meals to a friend.

• 90 percent said the experience with their driver was excellent or good.

SCES Meals on Wheels is open



Meals on Wheels Driver Martha Crowley packs meals for morning delivery at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services.

to residents of Cambridge and Somerville who are age 60 or over. Meals on Wheels is also available for client spouses or dependents with disabilities who may be under 60. There is no charge, but a voluntary donation is requested to help support the program.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Ser-

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

Dance in the Street at the Union Square Farmers Market

CONT. FROM PG 1

Executive Director of Union Square Main Streets, the non-profit who produces the market. “This year is no exception as we invite the community to join in the street to patronize their favorite local food producers in a new set up that doesn’t conflict with beloved, local restaurants recovering from severe pandemic impacts. It’s exciting that customers can return to safe Saturday open-air outings in Union: shop, then brunch or lunch throughout the Square.”

The Union Square Farmers Market is a destination for award-winning chefs, scores of neighbors near and far, and customers vulnerable to food insecurity, making it a deep source

of community pride. The market is also a critical marketplace for some 30 local farms and food producers including Somerville businesses such as Tasting Counter, Deano’s Pasta, Hooked Fish Shop, Mahalab Bakery, and Foundation Kitchen’s Bagel Guild. These elements in particular resonate with the 2021 Union Square Farmers Market Season Sponsor, Boynton Yards, a DLJ and Leggat McCall Project.

“The Union Square Farmers Market is both a meaningful and essential service for the residents of Somerville during this time of optimism for the community, and the Boynton Yards team is humbled to support this effort again this year,” said John

Fenton, development managing partner of DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners. “The perseverance of Union Square Main Streets to move forward with the market in a timely and responsible manner speaks volumes about their work and commitment to the City of Somerville.”

The market also plays a critical role in Somerville’s food security system, having provided SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) customers with a match since its creation in 2005. Through a partnership with City of Somerville and the Somerville Farmers Market Coalition (in collaboration with Shape Up Somerville, Mass

Farmers Markets, and Somerville Winter Farmers Market), the SNAP match has now increased to a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$15 per market. This increase is thanks to the Somerville Community Development Block Grant, which establishes a city-wide SNAP match for the first time.

This year’s market again emphasizes friendly safety over friendly gathering. Shoppers are asked to keep it clean and keep it quick by making selections as efficiently as possible, maintaining social distancing, and following public health mandates, including masks which must be worn at all times.

While emphasis has shifted

from gathering to safety, the intrinsic link between the Union Square Farmers Market and Somerville’s local economy has not. Shoppers should share pride supporting independent food producers in convenient proximity to nearby Square businesses who keep infinite hope in Union.

The Union Square Farmers Market is made possible for a second year thanks to generous support from Boynton-Yards, a DLJ and Leggat McCall Project, its 2021 Season Sponsor; a Somerville Community Development Block Grant; and donors who contribute to help make the SNAP Match possible.

The Somerville milk bottle collection

CONT. FROM PG 5

“Billy” Bloomberg (the father of Michael Bloomberg, the mayor of New York City from 2002-2013). Brian Cohen’s father Harold (the future owner of the Somerville Lumber chain) returned from business school at Indiana University and learned that Billy Bloomberg was giving away inside information to National Dairy. After a heated argument, Harold punched Billy in the nose. Michael Bloomberg, who was 13 at the time, remembers that his blessing had to be postponed, since his father had

a black eye.

• In 1932 the Boston Globe reported on the robbery of 65-year-old Joseph Herlihy, the treasurer of the Herlihy Bros. Dairy. The robbery occurred while Herlihy, a partner for 40 years in the business, was driving through Charlestown on his way to make a deposit at a branch of the First National Bank of Boston.

Four assailants had trailed Herlihy from the Somerville plant and waited until he was blocked by traffic. When the robbers entered his car, Herlihy re-

fused to hand over a leather bag and engaged in a furious struggle with one of the armed robbers, John E. “Muggsy” Morris. Herlihy managed to wrest a pistol from the robber, but not before a shot from the gun wounded a 17-year-old spectator.

While Morris was struggling with Herlihy, another robber removed a black leather bag from the other side of the car, containing \$1,500 in cash and \$500 in checks. This robber and two accomplices escaped on foot, abandoning their car,

which was reported stolen an hour later. When the men first accosted Herlihy, one stepped into the car and said, “How do you do, Mr. Herlihy?” As Herlihy asked, “Who do you happen to be?” the holdup man pressed a .45-calibre pistol against Herlihy’s side and struck him a heavy blow on the mouth. Herlihy grabbed the gun away from the robber as a shot was fired, accidentally grazing the leg of a startled bystander.

As a small crowd began to gather, Muggsy Morris tried to

escape but was brought to the ground with a flying tackle by Robert Bradley, an auto mechanic who worked nearby. Thomas Herlihy, Joseph’s son, had seen the holdup men’s car following his father leaving the dairy, so he followed and he reached the scene of the crime just as it was occurring. He assisted in holding Morris until Traffic Officer William Sheehan arrived and placed Morris under arrest. Joseph Herlihy said, “If I was 25 instead of 65, I could have done a better job than I did today.”

LEGAL NOTICES

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

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 18 Irving Street, LLC to CSLF Alamosa, LLC, dated **February 15, 2019** and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 72248, Page 363, as assigned to SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP dated July 22, 2020 and recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 75181, Page 413, and as assigned to Commonwealth Real Estate Holdings, LLC dated March 5, 2021 and recorded with Middlesex Registry of Deeds in Book 77147, Page 397, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder , for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at 10:00AM, on May 27, 2021 on the mortgaged premises being known as 18 Irving Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

The land with the buildings thereon situated in Somerville, Middlesex, Massachusetts being numbered 18 on the present numbering of Irving Street and being Lot 74 on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Somerville, Massachusetts belonging to Jesse Simpson, March 6, 1872, Wm. S. Barbour and A. Hodges C.E." Recorded in Middlesex South District Deeds, Books of Plans 21, Plan 44, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHEASTERLY: on said Street, fifty (50) feet;
SOUTHWESTERLY: on Lot 75 on said plan, ninety (90) feet;
NORTHWESTERLY: on Lot 90 on said plan, fifty (50) feet; and
NORTHEASTERLY: on Lot 73 on said plan, ninety (90) feet.

Containing four thousand five hundred (4,500) square feet.

For Grantor's title see deed recorded with said Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 71268, Page 124.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of 18 Irving Street, LLC, dated June 25, 2018, recorded with Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds, Book 71288 , Page 124 .

The premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, municipal or zoning regulations or requirements, outstanding tax titles, condominium charges, fees, or assessments, municipal or other public or governmental taxes, assessments, outstanding orders of condition or any municipal requirements, and any liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, and the rights of tenants and occupants of the premises, if any there be. No representation is made as to the status of any improvements on the mortgaged premises and the Buyer purchases subject to all requirements related thereto.

The premises are being sold with the express acknowledgment that the Mortgagee makes no representation or warranty as to the presence or absence to any wetlands or environmental issue at all, or related to the septic or well systems, if any, or as to any contaminants or other substances, as noted under M.G.L. C21E or any other Massachusetts Statute, Code or Regulation does exist, the correction thereof will be at the Buyer's sole cost and expense, and shall be separate from the purchase price. The Buyer shall indemnify and hold harmless the Mortgagee from any and all costs, expenses or liability related to any of the aforesaid.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of \$25,000.00 DOLLARS shall be paid by the successful bidder to the Mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 189 Wells Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.

Dated: April 28, 2021

Signed: Commonwealth Real Estate Holdings, LLC

Present Holder of said Mortgage

By its Attorneys,
Barsh and Cohen, P.C.

Neil S. Cohen, Esquire
Attorney for the Mortgagee
189 Wells Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459
(617) 332-4700

4/28/21, 5/5/21, 5/12/21 The Somerville Times

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 47.5 feet on an overall 50-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 153 Highland Avenue, Somerville, Middlesex County, MA 02143. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: *Trileaf Corp, Amber, a.plummer@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128 ext.909.*

5/12/21 The Somerville Times

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



NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

May 12, 2021
City of Somerville
93 Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02143

On or about **May 20, 2021** the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake projects under the Neighborhood Infrastructure Program which seeks to enhance and improve the urban environment. The project will focus on making infrastructure, streetscape, and multi-modal safety improvements including traffic calming, ADA improvements, and utility improvements in underserved and income eligible areas. Target areas for the project include East Somerville, Union Square and Central Broadway. Activities will include streetscape and infrastructure investments that will improve pedestrian and multi-modal safety and provide equitable access to transit. The City will seek opportunities to invest in utility improvements, when and if needed. Approximately 375,000 dollars CDBG funds are allocated for the activities.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not included under this program notice when addresses become known. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this program is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be reviewed via request to ospcd@somervillema.gov Due to COVID restrictions the offices are closed for in person requests.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. All comments received by May 19, 2021 will be considered by the City of Somerville prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Somerville certifies to HUD that Joseph Curtatone in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Somerville to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Somerville's certification for a period of fifteen days following its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville; (b) the City has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to HUD Office of Community Planning and Development at Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Federal Building 10 Causeway Street, 5th Floor Boston, MA 02222-1092 or via email: CPD_COVID-190EE-BOS@hud.gov Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor of the City of Somerville

5/12/21 The Somerville Times



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Somerville, MA 02143

On or about **May 20, 2021** the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) authorized by Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Act (NAHA) of 1990, as amended, to undertake a project known as the Housing Preservation and Rehabilitation Program, for the purpose of assisting low income households that will participate in the 100 Homes Program, The program acquires and rehabilitates properties across a wide range of size and type. The City of Somerville will also continue to operate its traditional housing rehab program which is available to low and moderate income residents across the city to access funds to address code violations and critical rehabilitation needs. The program also specifically targets seniors who are in need of assistance with heating system replacements. Individual reviews will be conducted and available for review as addresses are identified. Approximately 650,000 dollars of CDBG will be utilized for these activities.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Additional environmental factors will be reviewed as project sites are identified. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be reviewed via request to ospcd@somervillema.gov Due to COVID restrictions the offices are closed for in person requests.

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SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

THE SOMERVILLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL CONDUCT
A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S FY2022 BUDGET

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M.
Via the GoToWebinar Online Meeting Platform

Please use this updated web address to join the Budget Hearing:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2820603981813791246>

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

Andre Green, Chair
Somerville School Committee

Ilana Krepchin, Chair
Finance and Facilities Subcommittee

Mary Skipper
Superintendent of Schools

For questions regarding the Budget Hearing, please contact your School Committee Ward Member:
<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee>

Budget information will be posted on the Somerville Public School website prior to the Budget hearing here:
<https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/central-administration/finance-and-facilities>

4/28/21, 5/5/21, 5/12/21 The Somerville Times

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The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not included under this program notice when addresses become known. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this program is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be and may be reviewed via request to ospcd@somervillema.gov. Due to COVID restrictions the offices are closed for in person requests.

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The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. Site specific reviews will be completed for those laws and authorities not included under this program notice when addresses become known. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this program is on file at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA and may be reviewed via request to ospcd@somervillema.gov. Due to COVID restrictions the offices are closed for in person requests.

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Mary Cassesso, fourth candidate for mayor of Somerville



Mary Cassesso of CHA has announced her run for Somerville mayor. Cassesso took out nomination papers on Monday as a candidate for mayor of Somerville.

Stop by Ricky's Flowers



Ricky's Flowers Market, 238 Washington St., Somerville, is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. They have a new variety of plants this week. Stop by and visit them. — Doug Holder

NOTICE:

Free: Sofa, seats 3,
off white in pristine condition.
If interested call Paul 781-396-9350.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Multilingual assistance is available. Applications are due **Wednesday, May 26**. For more information, including application instructions, virtual event links, and the **Cooling Strategies Toolkit**, visit somerville-ma.gov/keepcool.

CHA Somerville Hospital offers free testing at **Assembly Row**. To make an appointment, call 617-665-2928 (Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). The **mobile COVID-19 testing unit** offers testing for all in our neighborhoods. To make a mobile appointment, call 617-682-0583. Mobile testing schedules, as they become available, and more testing information can be found at somer-villema.gov/covidtesting. The state's **Stop the Spread** testing sites are also an option, including in the nearby communities of

Chelsea and Everett. For more information, visit the state's web-site: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test>.

Applications are now available for the **Mayor's Summer Jobs Program**. Applications will be accepted **through Friday, May 14**. Employment opportunities are available in the **Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, and other city departments**. Some positions can be done remotely or in a hybrid of remote and in-person work. Youth who are hired can expect to work 20 hours for approximately six weeks **starting in late June or early July**. All positions pay the city's living wage rate, which is currently at \$15.46 per hour.

Youth who would like to apply can do so by visiting <http://bit.ly/SomerJobs2021>. Interviews will be held on a rolling basis upon receipt of applications.

Hate incidents impact victims as well as the community. In an effort to make reporting hate incidents easier for the residents of Somerville, you may now report them using an online form. Visit the **Somerville Police website** under the Home tab and submit your Hate Incident report: www.somervillepd.com/home/.

If you need **assistance accessing food**, there are several resources available to you locally. Visit the COVID-19 Help page at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/covid-19-help-food-housing-and-financial-assistance> to learn

more. There you will find a chart that includes local food pantry schedules, contact information, languages spoken at the food pantry, and whether or not you need to bring ID.

Reminder: **city buildings** are still closed to the public. Although city buildings remain closed to the public, a number of city services are still available online or by calling 311. Check the **"City Service Status"** tab on the city's COVID-19 page for more information.

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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.

Virtual Wang Theatre Tour – Thursday, May 13 starting at 1:00 p.m. - Join Scott Towers as he takes us on a never before seen tour of the Wang Theatre. The Boch Center Wang Theatre is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been one of the premier theatrical destinations in Boston since opening in 1925. Learn about the theatre’s architectural highlights and unique history – from its hotel roots and glamorous days as a movie “cathedral”, to today’s role as an impressive venue for performances and events. Visit the same dressing rooms and hallways once walked by entertainers like Ella Fitzgerald, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Queen, Elton John, Lady Gaga, Liza Minnelli and more! Your experience will include a live walkthrough of the theatre as well as historic images and prerecorded content. Tour will take place via Zoom. Please RSVP to Maureen by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email her at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov. Space is limited.

Music & Munch – Wednesday, May 19 at noon-time. Why not pair your lunch with a celebration of music? This 45-minute session via Zoom will treat you to a playlist of diverse musical offerings: a little jazz, some "oldies but goodies," a smid-gen of classical, a dip into barbershop, a trip to Broadway. The music is taped but the experience is live. Your guide is Somerville Resident, Laura Zoll, trained as a medieval musicologist and with a life-long love of all things musical. Your preferences will help shape the session. Learn a little, sing-along, relax and enjoy some Music while you Munch. 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.

Music & Movement – Wednesday, May 19 at 10:30. 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. Join Steve as he shows us that exercise can come in all different forms and movements. Please 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.

Senior Lunch Box Pick Up – Thursday, May 20 beginning at 10:30 am. 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 call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. Masks required.

Zoom Book Club – Friday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m. - Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. The book that we will be discussing is: Rivera Gold by Laurie R. King. 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, May 25 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 called 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail Natasha at NNaim@Somervillema.gov.

ONGOING EVENTS

Taxi Rides - Do you need a ride? The COA has a program just for you. Taxi Rides for Somerville Residents 60 and Over Rides can be used for: Grocery Shopping in Somerville Pharmacy Prescription pick up in Somerville, Routine Medical Appointments in the follow areas: Somerville, Cambridge, Medford, Boston or the V.A. in Jamaica Plain or West Roxbury. Two Days Advanced Notice Required. For more info, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

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 volun-

teers 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, 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

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



I wish Covid-19 had started in Las Vegas, because what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.

On This Day in History
May 12

- 0254 – St. Stephen I begins his reign as Catholic Pope.
- 1780 – Charleston, South Carolina falls to British forces.
- 1865 – The last land battle of the Civil war occurs at Palmito Ranch, Texas. It is a Confederate victory.
- 1926 – The Airship Norge becomes the first vessel to fly over the North Pole.
- 1932 – The body of Charles Lindbergh's baby is found.
- 1935 – Alcoholics Anonymous is founded in Akron, Ohio
- 1940 – The Nazi conquest of France begins with the crossing Musee River.
- 1943 – Axis forces in North Africa surrender.
- 1949 – The Berlin Blockade ends.
- 1969 – Viet Cong sappers try unsuccessfully to overrun Landing Zone Snoopy in Vietnam.

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Tova Speter and her chain of empathy

I caught up with Tova Speter recently. She told me about a fascinating project she is involved with that links words with art. As a poet, I found this fascinating, so I connected with her.

Tova Speter is an artist, art therapist, art educator, and arts consultant with roots in Somerville, now based at Gorse Mill Studios in Needham. The scope of her work ranges from the facilitation of art workshops to consultation with community organizations on ways to incorporate the arts into their programming, as well as the engagement of various groups in creating collaborative murals. Tova also offers art therapy and mental health counseling services through her private practice and works as a practicing painter and installation artist. All of her work is based on her belief that engaging in art-making is inherently therapeutic and formative. In her own work she paints on scrap wood to highlight the often-overlooked beauty that will shine through when the time is taken to shift to a new perspective. In her work with others, she strives to provide “perspective-shifting” opportunities for individuals and groups to find the beauty, talent, and pride they may not yet be aware that they possess. Follow her on Instagram @TovaSpeter and learn more at www.tovaspeter.com.

Doug Holder: Tell us about your Somerville connection, and how that supported or inspired your work?

Tova Speter: I rented my first art studio in Somerville back in 2002 and was a Vernon Street artist for 15 years. The art community I found in Somerville was, and continues to be, an important part of my work as an artist. I sold my first art in Somerville, participated in 20+ exhibits, facilitated 6 community mural projects in the city, and collaborated with countless other Somerville artists and community members. Needless to say, Somerville was the place where I truly developed as an artist and I will always feel connected to the community there.

DH: Having worked at McLean Hospital for many years, and running poetry workshops for patients, I was interested to find out you are an art therapist. Can you tell us a bit about art as a therapeutic tool?

TS: Of course! There are many ways that art can be utilized in therapy. In my practice, I believe that engaging in artmaking is inherently therapeutic and I offer clients the opportunity to make art as part of our sessions. For some, the art offers grounding that enables clients to feel more at ease as they talk, for others it might be easier to talk about one's art than to talk about oneself, still others might enjoy the time to express themselves artistically or to create something that can be utilized as a coping tool. The prompts/artwork can also act as a metaphor for other things that might be able to be practiced being worked through using art materials, processed and reflected upon, and then reimagined. I offer a wide variety of media and encourage clients to explore, express, and reflect.

DH: You are all about working on art projects with many communities. You work with folks of all kinds of backgrounds and skills. Why were you drawn to this type of work in the arts.

TS: My first public mural over 20 years ago also became the last mural I painted by myself after a 5-minute encounter with a Kindergartner. After he very briefly engaged in painting, I witnessed a striking shift not only in the way this 6-year-old saw himself but also in the way his peers saw him. Experiencing the power of art to offer space for positive change compelled me to dedicate my life to bringing creative (and often collaborative) art experiences to as many people as possible. You never know what 5-minute chance happening might alter the trajectory of your career!

DH: Has making art helped you in your own life? Was it a balm during a time of trouble?

TS: I've always enjoyed art-making. Just having a stu-



dio space where I can go and be messy and leave out my supplies has been helpful as an escape. But I think I get the greatest personal benefit from the community art projects I facilitate. It feels like a gift every time I get to see a participant shift from feeling like they are “not an artist” to expressing that they are proud of something they created. And that fills me with positive energy that overrides any negative thoughts/feelings I may have been experiencing.

DH: Your latest project is “Translations: connected art reflecting empathy (c.a.r.e.)” Here you pair words and images in a chain of empathy. Instead of a chain as a burden, it brings people together in a positive way. Can you talk a bit about this?

TS: I love the metaphor you describe here; I hadn't thought about the positive/negative duality of the word “chains.” The goal was to offer artists the opportunity to create individual art that was inspired by and would go on to inspire other artists despite being in isolation due to the pandemic. Though we couldn't make art together, this was still a way to make art that was connected. Wanting it to be accessible to all artists (as well as those who hadn't previously considered themselves artists) I encouraged people to participate in the modality of their choosing. Amazingly, the essence of the prompt carried through translations of words, images, music, etc. which made the whole chain that much more impactful. While each individual link in the chain is a piece of art in and of itself, there is an energy and strength that is revealed when they are all experienced together. Art can connect us in ways we cannot explain, and art can overcome 6 links of physical distance.

DH: As a poet, I am interested to ask you--if you have written poetry, or are involved with a community of writers?

TS: I am not a writer, but I have been amazed at the poetry created when you read just the titles of the links in a chain. One of my favorites is:

Spread Hope and Positivity
In All Directions
At the Center
Hope
Connected
A delicate bridge

DH: How can we participate in this project?

TS: All are welcome to participate in their preferred modality including completing a chain by “translating” someone else's artwork into a word/phrase. You can view the chains at <https://www.tovaspeter.com/translations-care> and scroll down to the orange button to sign up to participate. I have a goal to facilitate the creation of 19 chains as a way to continue to feel connected despite the impacts of Covid-19. Over 75 artists have already contributed to 13 chains that have already been completed and 6 more are currently underway and in need of some additional links. After signing up you will receive an email from me (might be within a few days or a few weeks) with a link to someone else's artwork to inspire you to create something which will then be sent on to inspire another artist in another modality.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Allie Hastings is a student at Endicott College working toward her bachelor's degree in English, with a concentration in Creative Writing and a minor in Communications. She values time spent with family and friends and appreciates all the blessings in her life. Her debut poetry and short story collection, *Querencia*, was selected in 2018 to be featured in Endicott's Young Writer Series, and her short story *The Deceptive Nature of Love* was printed in *Teen Ink*'s February 2018 issue. When she is not writing or reading, she enjoys listening to music, singing, playing the piano, doing yoga, and baking cupcakes.



Effloresce

April
Unwraps its silvery bow
And feather-dusts the world with
The promise of pink-toned
Hues.

May
Glitters iridescent blue
Fluttering on the wind, it carries
The hope of renewal upon angel-dipped
Wings.

June
Spreads a warmth through my toes
A dazzling honey-lemon nectar, and I sense
That the season of bountiful exuberance
Has arrived.

— Allie Hastings

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

Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

1. The New York Mets	7. Umbrellas
2. Shawn Thornton	8. Venice
3. Dhaka	9. Ginger
4. I Love To Eat	10. Ravens
5. Tangerine and Peach	11. Phil Hartman
6. 1863	12. Dice



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