VOL. 11 NO. 20

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023

**TWENTY-FIVE CENTS** 

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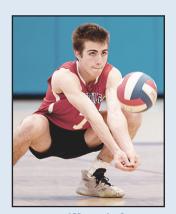
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# Assembly Square's 74M life sciences building celebrates topping out



Mayor Katjana Ballantyne attended the topping out ceremony at 74M building at Assembly Square last week.

— Photo by Daniel Phillips

Last week, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne joined Greystar and Consigli to celebrate the topping out of 74M, a 17-story, 465,000 square foot purpose-built lab office building in the Assembly Square district of Somerville, which is redefining itself as a hub for research and development.

Speaking to the construction workers gathered at the celebration, Mayor Ballantyne said, "You've added a whole new picture to the city of Somerville. Watching the lights on this project in the evening over the last week, watching the cranes building more. I just want to thank you for giving us this tapestry to enjoy. Many residents come to City Hall and they stand at the top of the hill to watch this. There have been tremendous ooohs and aaahs because they're so amazed by the work

# The Annual Union Square Farmers Market is open for the season

#### By Beatriz Leite

Join the local vendors on Union Square and enjoy the fresh, organic and innovative products they have to offer for the season. The 19th edition of the Annual Union Square Farmers Market is officially active every Saturday from May 13 until October 28. The market has over 50 local vendors with a large variety of products from all around Massachusetts. The market takes place at Union Square Plaza from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Since 2005, the city of Somerville has hosted this local farmer's market that attracts shoppers from all over the Greater Boston area. This event opens an opportunity for local businesses to thrive and prosper, with new customers looking for organic, natural, and fresh produce and Continued on page 23



The 2023 season of the Union Square Farmers Market is now open and will run every Saturday through October 28. — Photos by Beatriz Leite





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

The information session for proposed Fiscal Year 2024 water and sewer rates took place on Monday, but written testimony will be accepted until 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22, and can be emailed to water@somervillema.gov or mailed to: Water and Sewer Department, ATTN: Hearing, 17 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145. The information session and public hearing will rebroadcast on GovTV (channel 13 on RCN, channel 22 on Comcast) and on the City's YouTube channel, youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV.

In honor of Haiti's Flag Day, the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs and the Haitian Club will be hosting a parade and official raising of Haiti's flag on May 18. The parade will start from Somerville Public Library and end at Somerville City Hall. Immediately after the parade there will be remarks from Mayor Ballantyne, Leptune Paul, Haitian Services Coordinator, and other community leaders. At the end of remarks, the Haitian flag will be raised. Participants are asked to meet at the Somerville Public Library (79 Highland Ave.) at 2:45pm to walk to City Hall (93 Highland Ave.). For questions or more information, please reach out to Leptune Paul at lpaul@somervillema.gov

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to Feargal O'Toole. We wish him the very best on this his birthday. Happy birthday to Vinny Vicente. We wish him the best. Happy birthday to Brian Roche. We hope he enjoys his day.

# The Somerville Times

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## **Somerville Weather Forecast**

for the week of May 17 – May 23 as provided by the National Weather Service

|     | DAY                 | CONDITIONS    | HIGH/LOW | PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY | WIND       |
|-----|---------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
|     | Wednesday<br>May 17 | Partly Cloudy | 62°/40°  | 20%           | 13%      | NNW 19 mph |
| *   | Thursday<br>May 18  | Sunny         | 66°/46°  | 1%            | 0%       | WSW 13 mph |
| *   | Friday<br>May 19    | Sunny         | 72°/53°  | 2%            | 1%       | SSW 15 mph |
| ••• | Saturday<br>May 20  | Rain          | 70°/57°  | 47%           | 36%      | S 13 mph   |
| ••  | Sunday<br>May 21    | Rain          | 77°/60°  | 34%           | 21%      | W 10 mph   |
|     | Monday<br>May 22    | Partly Cloudy | 70°/50°  | 5%            | 2%       | N 11 mph   |
| *   | Tuesday<br>May 23   | Sunny         | 67°/50°  | 0%            | 0%       | ENE 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: Letter to the Editor – May 10

Joe Lynch says:

As I testified at a January, 2023 public hearing on the proposed Somerville City Charter overhaul, the all or nothing approach, as seems to be the mantra of Nate Clauser, will fail passage on Beacon Hill. Rather, the Somerville City Councilors, although each had their own personal views going into the process, have elected to listen carefully to the recommendations of the Charter Review Committee. And some have altered their original stance. Why? Because most of them are smart enough NOT to take a "all or nothing" approach which will ensure failure to pass the requested charter changes at the state level. For the city councilors to change their minds about an issue is not uncommon. It happens when they are provided the facts, evaluate the risk of an ideological approach, and listen to the majority of their constituents. I, for one, like that in a city councilor.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

# The Just in Time Initiative

The Just-in-Time Initiative welcomes back Cambridge, MA Police Commissioner Christine Eloe. Commissioner Eloe will speak about community, youth and violence. Denise Cosby and family will recognize the 14th year of her son Justin D. C. Cosby's murder. The Initiative will also share information about surviving murder and "The Call" that no family ever wishes to receive. We provide support for one another, and heal together as a community just in time to embrace the light that still shines within, JUST IN TIME is not only  $\mbox{ Just-inTime Initiative }$ A PLACE FOR REFLECTION, Just in Time is a place that offers DIREC-



TION. Please join us. All are welcome. You do not have to be a victim to join in. Join us on Zoom: Sunday, May 21 @ 6:00 p.m. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86550079796?pwd=SUhBaWZrcEIrNVBRaFVWRlRLY1lqQT09&fbclid=IwAR0Du7wC0qp12vwSLMLFpW6qMADfpaTd-NXsHiuaurPmQGqNMeKSO6dSi-Wg#success

# Life in the by Jimmy Del Ponte

# **CrowdFest**



Last weekend's Porch-Fest was a complete success except for the problem of hundreds of people taking to the streets. Everyone had a blast and there were tons of great acts

to listen to and watch. My two sons' band Mallcops actually made it on to Channel 5 News Facebook page and on the news. They got thousands of views. My opinion is that they should have some more Porta Potties strategically placed around the city and maybe some more cops to direct traffic. Crossing the bike path in a vehicle at Willow Ave. was almost impossible.

I asked my social media friends for their thoughts on this year's spectacular Porchfest. Comments are in quotes.

"We were riding down Cedar Street, and the same thing when we made it to the bike path. They should of had police directing pedestrians and traffic!"

"They should have several streets blocked off. Have a block party in every



— Photos courtesy of WCVB-TV

section of the city. Someone is going to get hurt the way it is set up now."

"Insane!! I couldn't find a spot to park! Lots of talent in Somerville. "Porchfest is a fine idea as long as everyone plays by the rules. There were Porta Potties provided, and they were marked on the website/links. It seems like a lot of the two-hour limits were ignored. The audiences have to remember that they are guests, and do not have the right to block traffic and the forget about civility. At least it's only one day a year."

"Porchfest itself is a wonderful idea but there is absolutely no enforcement of traffic, open containers, littering, following times established, etc. Tried to leave my house after it was supposed to be over and crowd WOULD NOT MOVE! Had to exit my street going in the wrong direction towards oncoming traffic. Not cool."

Well, there you have it. Another Porch-Fest fest in the books. Hopefully we can solve the problems that we had this year and make next year's Porchfest go smoother. I might put together my old band and play in our driveway next year!



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# By Jim Clark

# He shouldn't have touched the wife

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to Trader Joe's on Middlesex Avenue last Sunday on reports of a fight with possible injuries.

Upon arrival, the officers observed a heavyset male, later identified as Frederick Marmolejos, standing over a man identified as the victim of the incident. Marmolejos reportedly had both hands grabbing the front of the victim's shirt.

The officers immediately ordered Marmolejos off of the victim and escorted him to the front of the parked vehicles.

Marmolejos had no shoes on, just black socks that were partially off, was extremely agitated and screamed that the victim had grabbed his wife.

Marmolejos was reportedly yelling that he could not relax because he was so mad and continued pacing and yelling for his wife.

At this point, the officers conducted a pat-frisk of Mar-

molejos for weapons, but none were found.

EMT personnel arrived and attended to the victim, who drifted in and out of consciousness and was unable to speak. He was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital.

Due to the victim's injuries, Somerville Police detectives were called to the scene.

Mr. Marmolejos eventually calmed down enough to tell police what was going on. He stated that he and his wife went to the Nike store to buy some shoes. When they left, they could not remember exactly where they parked so they were searching around the parking lot for their vehicle.

Marmolejos reportedly told his wife that they parked near a shopping cart station and then pointed out a van that he thought was his. While they walked up to the vehicle, Marmolejos noticed a man, later designated as the victim, sitting inside the driver's side seat of the vehicle. His first thought was that it wasn't his vehicle but as he got closer, he saw the Dominican flag hanging from the rear-view mirror and noticed that it was his vehicle.

Marmolejos used the automatic unlock fob to see if the vehicle was his. The man inside exited the vehicle and said he only took a dollar. Marmolejos told his wife to call the police. The victim then reportedly attempted to take Marmolejos' wife's phone, grabbed her, and shoved her.

Marmolejos then reportedly grabbed the victim by the pants, threw him to the ground and began punching him. When asked where his shoes were, he said that he didn't know because he kicked them off when he went to grab the victim, after he pushed his wife, because he was tripping, as he was wearing opentoed sandals.

Marmolejos added, "I grabbed him right away because I didn't want to try to run after him, because I'm a big boy, I can't run after him." He said he does not really know what happened after that because he was extremely angry that the victim put his hands on his wife.

Mrs. Marmolejos substantially corroborated her husband's story. It was she who called 911 to report the incident. Through an interpreter at the scene, she told police dispatch that it looked like Marmolejos was trying to kill the victim. She also said that the victim stated that he could not breathe.

Police dispatch received multiple other calls with the callers stating similar things. One caller stated that he needed an ambulance and appeared to have a head injury.

The officers spoke with a witness who said she observed Marmolejos stomp on the victim's head and chest non-stop. She also said that at one point,

Marmolejos was choking the victim, with one hand against the car, and the other around the victim's neck, stating that the victim could not breathe.

Another witness told police that Marmolejos was trying to kill the victim. He stated that he choked him until he couldn't breathe. When asked how he choked him, the witness said with two hands, then with one hand. He also stated that Marmolejos grabbed the victim's head and slammed it on the ground multiple times.

Marmolejos was subsequently placed under arrest on charges of aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and strangulation or suffocation.

A criminal complaint against the victim will also be filed on charges of felony daytime breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, assault and battery, and witness intimidation.

# Text-A-Tip

Text a Tip to the SPD from anywhere!

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Simply text the phone number "TIP411" (847411) and put "617spd" at the beginning of your text message. If your message requires an emergency response PLEASE DO NOT TEXT and instead call 9-1-1.



# Assembly Square's 74M life sciences building celebrates topping out

CONT. FROM PG 1

you're doing and the transformation that's happening in Somerville."

Greystar formalized its entry into the life sciences sector with the start of vertical construction of 74 Middlesex Avenue ("74M") in June 2022. Located at 74 Middlesex Avenue in Somerville's Assembly Square district, 74M and future projects in planning will strengthen the emerging life sciences cluster forming there, which already includes more than a million square feet

of permitted projects.

74M is a 465,000 square-foot, 15-story life science building intelligently designed by Elkus Manfredi Architects and built by Consigli. The purpose-built lab development incorporates elements for the next generation of tenants, targeting LEED Platinum, WELL Platinum, Wired-Score Platinum, and Smart-Score certification.

Tenants of 74M will benefit from a vibrant, transit-oriented location and best-in-class amenities including an expansive 2,000 square-foot rooftop terrace, conference/function rooms, a health and wellness center, ground floor retail, dedicated bicycle storage/entrance, and unobstructed views of the Boston/Cambridge skyline and Mystic River.

The building is prominently positioned as a new link between the Assembly Square and East Somerville neighborhood, offering tenants immediate access to 1,500+ residential units, an award-winning hotel, and a

series of restaurants, bars, and retail destinations. It also offers immediate proximity to the Assembly MBTA Orange Line station and unparalleled visibility adjacent to I-93.

In choosing Assembly Square as home to the first development in their new life science vertical, Greystar has committed to the neighborhood with a sizeable financial and strategic investment. This includes the concurrent construction of a new neighborhood park located

directly south of the building at 0 Kensington Avenue.

The neighborhood park will deliver an accessible, sustainable, and multi-generational public space that will serve as a gateway into the Assembly Square neighborhood and will provide generous pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure that connects Foley Street to the Kensington Underpass, and the Stop and Shop and Garfield Avenue neighborhood to the west.

# **Somerville Traffic Commission addresses** city's parking and street marking issues

#### By Ana Celerier Salcedo

On Thursday, May 11, The Somerville Traffic Commission met and voted on seven different agenda items.

A request was made for accessible parking spaces at 125 Pennsylvania Ave. The motion was accepted with three votes, yes, and two members of the commission abstaining.

Item three on the agenda was tabled for further discussion in future meetings due to insufficient information to make a diligent decision. Commission members requested detailed models and drawings that could better illustrate the ordinance's effect if it were to be accepted.

Item three entailed the request to make the proposed changes to Article XII, Pedestrian Control Regulations, Section 12-1 Pedestrian crossing ways or roadways.

The current ordinance, which was previously appealed and amended, states as follows. "Pedestrians shall obey the directions of police officers directing traffic, and whenever there is an officer directing traffic, or a traffic control signal, no such pedestrian shall cross a way or roadway except within the limits of the marked crosswalk and as hereinafter provided in these regulations."

The May 2023 proposed amendment that was tabled would change the ordinance to the following language. "Pedestrians shall obey the direction of police officers directing traffic, and whenever there is an officer directing traffic or a traffic control signal within 300 feet of a pedestrian, no such pedestrian shall cross a way or roadway except within the limits of the marked crosswalk and as hereinafter provided in these regulations.

For the purpose of these regulations, a marked crosswalk shall be marked according to the "crosswalk markings" section of the currently approved addition of the MUTCD (currently section 3B.18 in the 2009 edition). There were concerns from commission members and members of the public about the 300foot distance and how that would look in practice. There were also questions of whether this is more of an issue about the number of crosswalks located across the city and if a request should be made to implement several new crosswalks for pedestrian ease.

The goal of item four on the agenda

was to improve safe arrival and dismissal options at the Argenziano School. The proposal was previously reviewed by the Mobility, Parking, and Fire Department before being brought in front of the commission. The Commission moved to accept the motion. Below is a screen capture of the proposed additional new arrival and dismissal zone for parents.

The motion now dictates that the curb on the west side of Lincoln Parkway has been converted from 40 ft of residential permit parking to active school arrival/ dismissal only between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and residential permit parking at all other times.

Union Square curb management was item five on The Traffic Commissioners' agenda. The committee approved the request to make the following changes to the curb in Union Square.

- a) Regarding the curb on the west side of Bow St from approximately 277 feet north of Warren Ave to approximately 297 feet north of Warren Ave, request to convert 20 feet of metered parking to accessible parking.
- b) Regarding the curb on the northside of Somerville Ave from approximately 50 feet east of Kilby St to approximately 94 feet east of Kilby St, request to convert 44 feet of metered parking to loading zone from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and metered parking from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- c) Regarding the curb on the south side of Somerville Ave from approximately 45 feet east of Webster Ave to approximately 85 feet east of Webster Ave, request to convert 40 feet of time-limited loading zone and metered parking to all day loading zone.

Item six regarding the Powder House Boulevard restriping was accepted by the committee allowing the following to go

- a) Regarding the curb on the north side of Powder House Boulevard opposite Leonard St, request to convert approximately 10 feet of Permit Parking Only to No Parking Anytime.
- b) Regarding the curb on the north side of Powder House Boulevard opposite Burnham St, request to convert approximately 40 feet of Permit Parking Only to No Parking Anytime.
- c) Regarding the curb on the north side of Powder House Boulevard opposite Mason St, request to convert approximately 50 feet of Permit Parking Only to No



Several parking and street marking amendments were considered and voted on at the latest meeting of the Somerville Traffic Commission.

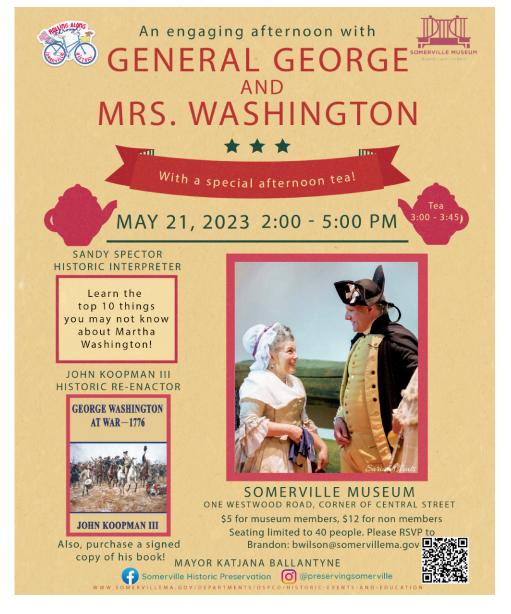
Parking Anytime.

d) Regarding the curb on the north side of Powder House Boulevard, from approximately 40 feet east of Packard Ave to 50 feet east of Packard Ave, request to convert 10 feet of Permit Parking Only to No Parking Anytime.

Item seven regarding East Broadway bus lanes and crosswalk improvements was

voted on by the committee and approved as well. The item implemented the crosswalk improvements as well as a number of other related amendments.

The committee thanked the public and board for their participation and announced that the next meeting is set for their usual meeting on the second Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m.



# **Beacon Hill Roll Call**



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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. This week's report is on the latest fundraising and expenditure numbers for the state's 40 senators' campaign committees from the latest filing period of April 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023. It also includes how much money each senator has on hand as of April 30, 2023. The numbers are from the Massachusetts Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

To get more information and details on any senator's fundraising and expenditures, go to www.ocpf.us Click on "Filer listing" under "Browse candidates"" and then type the name of your senator in the box that says "Filter by name" in the upper left-hand corner of the page.

#### MOST AMOUNT OF CASH ON HAND:

The senator with the most cash on hand is Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford) who currently has \$805,440.91 in his campaign account.

Rounding out the top ten senators with the most cash on hand are Sens. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) \$657,981.09; Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) \$462,453.49; Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) \$308,264.53; Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton) \$217,377.61; William Brownsberger (D-Belmont) \$210,789.49; Julian Cyr (D-Truro) \$197,654.27; Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) \$175,058.35; Michael Barrett (D-Lexington) \$154,132.47 and Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton) \$149,735.90.

#### LEAST AMOUNT OF CASH ON HAND:

The senator with the least cash on hand is Sen. Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence) whose campaign account currently has a balance of 258.81.

Rounding out the bottom five senators with the least cash on hand are Sens. Liz Miranda (D-Boston) \$1,089.79; Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) \$4,644.61; and Paul Feeney (D-Foxborough) \$7,528.63; and Michael Brady (D-Brockton) \$7,758.68.

#### **RAISED THE MOST MONEY:**

The senator who raised the most money is Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) who raised \$65,650.65.

Rounding out the top five senators who raised the most money are Sens. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett) \$34,836.98; Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) \$29,731.10; Mike Moore (D-Millbury) \$23,825.92; and Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) \$20,128.23.

#### RAISED THE LEAST MONEY:

There are eight senators who raised \$0: Sens. Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn); Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton); Edward Kennedy (D-Lowell); Joan Lovely (D-Salem); Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence); Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester); Walter Timilty (D-Milton); and John Velis

(D-Westfield).

#### **SPENT THE MOST MONEY:**

The senator who spent the most money is Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) who spent \$44,153.13.

Rounding out the top five senators who spent the most money are Sens. Nick Collins (D-Boston) \$10,800.73; Julian Cyr (D-Truro) \$7,439.99; Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) \$5,941.98; and Michael Moore (D-Millbury \$5407.21.

#### SPENT THE LEAST MONEY:

The senator who spent the least amount of money is Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Lowell) who spent \$0.

Rounding out the top five senators who spent the least money are Sens. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville) \$37.19; Pavel Payano (D-Lawrence) \$147.67; Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) \$223.53; and Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington) \$238.73.

#### TOTAL CASH ON HAND AS OF APRIL 30, 2023

Here is the total amount of cash your local senators have on hand.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen \$43,542.05

#### TOTAL MONEY RAISED IN APRIL 2023

Here is the total amount of money your local senators raised in April 2023.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen \$14.40

#### **TOTAL MONEY SPENT IN APRIL 2023**

Here is the total amount of money your local senators spent in April 2023.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen \$37.19

#### ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

DON'T MISS THIS HEALTHCARE EVENT ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 - Massachusetts health care survived many challenges during the COVID pandemic, but the sector now faces a new crisis: An acute labor shortage across the continuum of care as well as the prospect of difficult financial challenges.

Join MASSterList and the State House News Service for an important policy event focusing on the causes and possible solutions to treat Massachusetts' ailing health care system, featuring health care leaders and policymakers. The event is on the morning of Wednesday, May 24, at the MCLE in Boston (Downtown Crossing). Tickets and more information can be found here:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/critical-condition-challenges-for-healing-mass-health-care-system-tick-ets-628988350087

#### HOMEOWNERS WHO FACE FORECLOSURE

(S 921) – The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on legislation that would prohibit cities and towns that foreclose on properties on which the owner owes back property taxes, from keeping all of the profits when the city or town sells the property at auction. It would repeal the current law that allows municipalities to keep all of the profits – even if the amount of the profit far exceeds the amount of back taxes owed.

"Massachusetts foreclosure law wrongly takes away people's homes for even a small debt and allows municipalities to profit off their home equity well beyond the debt owed—leaving the homeowners vulnerable to housing and economic instability," said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "These homeowners are losing hardearned equity and life savings, losing homes with precious family memories and also facing housing instability due to predatory tax foreclosure practice."

#### MAKE IT EASIER TO SELL FOOD MADE AT

HOME (S 553) – The Agriculture Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would allow home cooks to sell their home-made foods that carry a low risk of foodborne illness—those that do not need to be temperature-controlled—without a local health department or zoning permit. These so-called "cottage foods" would only be allowed to be sold directly to the consumer in person, at farmers markets, public events, roadside stands, by telephone, Internet or mail delivery. Products include jams, uncut fruits and vegetables, pickled vegetables, hard candies, fudge, nut mixes, granola, coffee beans, popcorn and some baked goods including breads, biscuits, cookies, churros, pastries and tortillas.

"Technicalities should not prevent small businesses and farmers from stimulating rural economies and improving economic development," said sponsor Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow). "My legislation ... will break down the barriers that prevent rural small business owners from operating, spur competition in the market and create better prices for consumers.

Supporters, noting that 49 states allow cottage food sales, say that during the pandemic, selling cottage food provided a lifeline for unemployed Massachusetts residents and noted consumers also enjoy having access to local food. They argue that by following the lead of these 49 other states, Massachusetts can support food entrepreneurs, create economic opportunities and increase access to locally made food.

Continued on page 21

# **COMMENTARY**

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

**Illustrated by Jim Clark** 



Farmers markets season just kicked off in Somerville.

# **Our View Of The Times**



It seems as though we cannot get enough of the farmers market scene in Somerville. They have become time-honored traditions and perennial mainstays of alternative commerce in the city.

There is something special about shopping for fresh produce, discovering unique arts and crafts vendors, and enjoying live entertainment in the open air. We feel a sense of camaraderie, too, as we gather to take in the sights, sounds, flavors and aromas that permeate each market site.

The first markets of the season are in full operation now, and there is no better time to experience what they have to offer than in the high summer months, to come

The Union Square Farmers Market, operated by Union Square Main Streets, takes place every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Union Square Plaza and will run until October 28, and they proudly continue to offer their \$15 SNAP match.

The Davis Square Farmers Market is there for us, too, at the intersection of Day St. and Herbert St., across every Wednesday from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m., ongoing until November 22. The market accepts cash, credit/debit cards, WIC/Senior coupons, and EBT cards and offers a weekly \$15 SNAP Match. SNAP users can earn

additional benefits through the healthy incentives program (HIP) at the market! Spend \$40-\$80 per month (depending on household size) on fruits and vegetables at participating vendors and the money will be put back on your EBT card.

So you see, there is no shortage of good, old fashioned style trading available for all of us here in the city. Be sure to check them out and enjoy the feeling.

#### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Kevin D. Downey, Ken McIntyre, Helen Martino McCallum, Karen Keenan McCann, and Rick Driscoll 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.

This week's City Hall Community Meetings will be in Ward 7: Thursday, May 18, at West Somerville Neighborhood School (177 Powder House Blvd.) Join in person from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. to ask questions and get updates from the mayor and city staff. Swing by early at 6:00 p.m. for pizza and refreshments. Learn more at somervillema.gov/communitymeetings.

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission will be hosting Researching History of Your Family and Old House, at the West Branch Library, Davis Square, 40 College Ave., on Wednesday May 17, at 7:00 p.m. Other events this week will be the May 18 Docent Opening Milk Row Cemetery at 438 Somerville Ave., next to Market Basket, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.; Burials, Restoration, and Civil War Monument Talk at the Milk Row Cemetery, 438 Somerville Ave., on Tuesday, May 23, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.; and Spark for

the American Revolution - Raid on the Old Powder House talk at intersection of Liberty Ave. and Powderhouse Terrace. For more information, visit somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/historic-events-and-education.

The Mystic Learning Center, Inc. is hosting its 13th Annual Spring for Children Fundraiser on Thursday May 18, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. The event will include silent auction items, raffle baskets, music, delicious food, and a limited open bar, all in support of Mystic Learning Center, Inc.'s mission to improve the lives of low-income children and families who live in the Mystic Public Housing Development and surrounding neighborhoods. This year's fundraiser theme is in memory of a dear friend of the MLC community, Stephenson "Hollywood" Aman. Can't make it to the event but still would like to donate? Text 'Springfor Children 23' to 44-321. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Each year, Somerville celebrates our urban forest with a special Arbor Day event. This year, Somerville Arbor Day will be celebrated on May 20, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Playground at Glen Park (150 Glen Street, Continued on page 20

# **FUN & GAMES**

# Ms. Cam's lio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#874

- 1. Who founded the Boston Celtics?
- a telephone on his desk?
- 2. What is the name of the Boston Celtics mascot?
- 8. President Dwight Eisenhower's middle name was what?
- 3. Who is the Boston Celtics all-time highest point scorer?
- 9. Actor Nicolas Cage is the nephew of what famous director?
- 4. Who was billed as "The Human Mop"?
- 10. The first book in the Goosebumps series had what title?
- 5. What patent did Hyman Lipman create?
- 11. Who played Rick Deckard in Blade Runner?
- 6. What male vocalist had a 70s No 1 with You've Got A Friend?
- 12. Which regular member of the Friends cast starred in the Lost in Space film?

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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Answers on page 15

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#### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- 1. It's possible to lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs.
- 2. Pope John Paul II was an honorary Harlem Globetrotter.

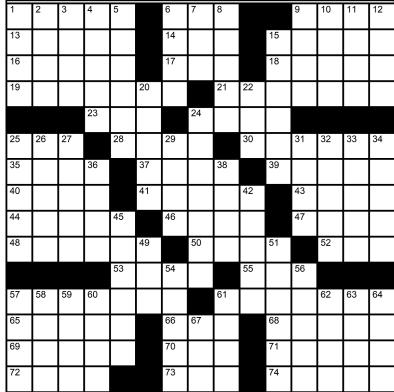
#### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Deep cavity
- 6. Weasel-related onomatopoeia
- 9. Supernatural life force
- 13. French treat
- 14. Snake-like fish
- 15. Major Italian city
- 16. Ring around the sun, pl.
- 17. Pitcher's stat
- 18. Donated part
- 19. Russian President
- 21. "Nevermind" band
- 23. "Walkin' on the \_ \_" by Smash
- 24. Google search tool
- 25. Took the bait
- 28. Between larva and adult
- 30. Data input device
- 35. U in I.C.U.
- 37. Dems' opponents
- 39. One of Florida Keys
- 40. Be furious
- 41. Canada/Mexico/U.S. trade agreement acronym
- 43. Agitate
- 44. Between free and freest
- 46. Molokai party
- 47. Telephone Tammy or Sky Dancer
- 48. Unquestioning ones
- 50. Greek muse's strings
- 52. Slightly insane
- 53. Messy substances
- 55. Santa \_\_\_\_ winds, CA
- 57. TV show with Central Perk
- 61. Popular Disney movie with a genie
- 65. Caterpillar precursor
- 66. Accompanies wisdom?
- 68. Pinky or The Brain
- 69. Architectural projection
- 70. Créme de cassis plus wine
- 71. Un-written exams
- 72. \_\_\_\_pool or \_\_\_\_pit
- 73. One or some or all
- 74. Find new tenant

#### **DOWN**

- \_ Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray
- 2. Highlands hillside



CROSSWORD



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- 3. Raise the roof
- 4. Leopard marks
- 5. Bungle (2 words)
- 6. Part of a hammer the land of the free..."
- 8. Heathrow craft
- 9. Type of missile, accr.
- 10. Aquarium organism
- 11. Indian bread
- 12. "\_\_\_\_ Kerenina" by Tolstoy
- 15. Breadcrumb, e.g.
- 20. Contain the ashes
- 22. Pen juice
- 24. Amount in one's lap, pl.
- 25. The Vampire Slayer
- 26. Accustom
- 27. "A \_\_\_\_ to Kill" and "Nick of \_
- 29. Bell sound
- 31. Front or back one
- 32. Factual evidence

- 33. Quick and nimble
- 34. First cloned mammal's name
- 36. Swarm like bees
- 38. Don't go
- 42. Pertaining to the ear
- 45. Pertaining to reign
- 49. Motion of assent
- 51. Bewitch
- 54. Port city in Japan
- 56. Christian Dior's "J'\_
- 57. Mass of particles
- 58. Of low density
- 59. Pupil controller
- 60. December 24 and 31
- 61. Bald eagle's nest
- 62. Two-fold
- 63. Same as island
- 64. TV show "Empty \_
- 67."\_\_\_\_ and Juice" by Snoop Dogg
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

# Free COVID-19 rapid tests and KN95 masks will remain available for Somerville community

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, ends today, May 11, 2023, as does the Commonwealth's COVID-19 public health emergency. As the country and state transitions to this next phase of the pandemic, the City of Somerville will continue to supply free masks and rapid tests to the community based on supply and resources.



"The end of the COVID-19 public health emergency does not mean COVID has

been eradicated, but instead that we are moving into a new phase of the pandemic," said Karin Carroll, Director of Somerville's Department of Health and Human Services. "The virus remains active and can pose significant health risks, especially for anyone at risk for severe illness. We urge anyone who needs masks or free rapid tests to use City resources for as long as they're available."

Free rapid tests and KN95 masks will be available for pick up at the following locations as long as supplies last:

- Somerville Central Library, 79 Highland Ave.
- + East Branch Library, 115 Broadway
- West Branch Library, 40 College Ave.
- + Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave.
- + City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Most tools like vaccines, treatments, and testing will remain available." However, important information for the Somerville community to be aware of includes:

COVID-19 vaccines: Vaccines continue to be recommended by the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, or death. Going forward, vaccines will generally be covered through private insurance, Medicare Part B, and Medicaid. Uninsured individuals can also receive free vaccines from the Somerville Health and Human Services Department. Visitcdc.gov/coronavirus for guidance on how to stay up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines andmass.gov/covid for information on where to get vaccinated.

Treatment expenses: The CDC notes that COVID treatments such as Paxlovid will remain free in the coming months as long as supplies last. After that, out-of-pocket costs will vary by insurance plans. Medicaid programs will continue to cover COVID-19 treatments without cost sharing through September 30, 2024. After that, coverage and cost sharing may vary by state.

Coverage for COVID-19 testing: Private insurers will no longer be required to cover testing without charge; Medicare Part B will cover laboratory testing ordered by a provider, but over the counter tests will no longer be free; Medicaid coverage will exist through September 2024. Free over the counter tests from the federal government will be available based on supply and resources. As noted, free rapid tests currently remain available via the City at the Somerville locations listed above.

Healthcare access: If you do not currently have a healthcare plan or if your coverage is impacted by the end of the emergency, City Health and Human Services staff can assist with identifying healthcare options for you or referrals to agencies who can help. Please use the online support request form atsomervillema.gov/support or call 311 (617-666-3311) to request to be connected to Human Services staff for assistance.

As the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends, Somerville's Health and Human Resources Department urges all residents to continue to follow CDC guidelines and take necessary precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones. We also encourage anyone who is not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines to do so as soon as possible.

For more information on the availability of free rapid tests and KN95 masks, as well as stay up to date on booster clinics, please visitsomervillema.gov/COVID19 or contact the Health and Human Services Department at (617) 625-6600 ext. 4320.

# The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

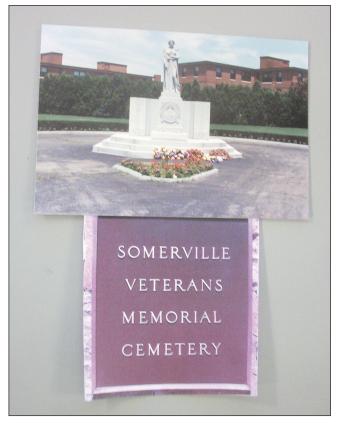


Eagle feathers #279

### Memorial Day

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

The tradition began in 1868 with the men of the Grand Army of the Republic. They designated May 30 as a day for decorating the graves of those who had fallen in the Civil War with flowers. It later became a day when parades and orations celebrated the victories of both Armies, the Blue and the Gray. The graves of these veterans numbered over 600,000, and they are found in thousands of their hometowns throughout the country.



In New England, Rhode Island first made it a legal holiday in 1874, followed by Vermont, New Hampshire, and in 1881 Massachusetts. Following World War I, the day of observance was changed to honor not only the Civil War dead, but all American veterans who lost their lives in all of her wars. Today, it is known as Memorial Day.



There are two cemeteries in Somerville. The newer cemetery is located on Broadway near the Arlington line and is one of the only veterans "killed in action" cemeteries in the nation. The older burial ground is located on Somerville Avenue opposite School Street. A fif-

teen-foot high, eagle-adorned monument stands prominently in its center and is dedicated to Somerville's slain Civil War soldiers.

It is inscribed with the names of the Continued on page 10

## **LEGAL NOTICES**

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



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

THOMAS F. GALLIGANI, JR. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

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

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

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

Registration URL:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6903872424703395674

Webinar ID: 661-470-211

#### **TO CALL IN**

Phone Number: 1 (914) 614-3221 Access Code: 700-697-704

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING

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

#### HPC.DMO 2023.10 – 25 Warwick Street

Applicant: Alec Charles Peralta Scheerer Owner: Alec Charles Peralta Scheerer & Ann WC Peralta

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of

75 years ago.

#### HPC.DMO 2023.11 – 246 Broadway

Applicant: Amineni Construction LLC

Owner: Same as Applicant

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of

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

#### HPC.DMO 2022.05 - 23 Glenwood Road

Applicant: Grace Spellenberg Revocable Living Trust

Owner: Same as Applicant

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of

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

5/10/23, 5/17/23 The Somerville Times



#### SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL PURLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 7:00 PM, regarding an application for recognition of the Gilman Square Neighborhood Council.

That this Council conduct a public hearing pursuant to Section 7-222 of the Code of Ordinances, on the application for recognition of the Gilman  $\,$ Square Neighborhood Council.

This meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, and by remote participation, using the GoToWebinar platform

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 High-
- Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting:

https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8051198514789370718. can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar

If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to cityclerk@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

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

KIMBERLY M. WELLS, CITY CLERK

CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

5/17/23 The Somerville Times

#### NOTICE OF INITIAL SITE INVESTIGATION AND TIER II CLASSIFICATION

120-128 AND 132 MIDDLESEX AVENUE (KNOWN AS 120 MIDDLESEX AVENUE) SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS RTN 3-37442

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. As a result of this investigation, the site has been classified as Tier II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. On <u>8 May 2023</u>, DWCH Assembly Row LLC filed a Tier II Classification Submittal with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact Katherine L Dilawari, P.E., LSP, Haley & Aldrich, Inc., 465 Medford Street, Suite 2200, Boston, Massachusetts, 617-886-7400.

The Tier II Classification Submittal and the disposal site file can be reviewed at MassDEP Northeast Regional Office, Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup, 150 Presidential Way, Woburn, Massachusetts, 01801, 978-

Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.

5/17/23 The Somerville Times



#### **ADVERTISEMENT TO BID**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Administration Building and Courtyard Site Improvements Project, Mystic River (200-2), DHCD Project #274151 in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the doc uments prepared by GCG Associates, Inc..

The Project consists of: Removal and reconstruction of the entire entrance way to the administration building. This includes removal and reconstruction of the following: Concrete sidewalks, handicap ramps, staircase, retaining walls, granite curbing, paving and landscaping. Removal of existing concrete walkways in a courtyard area and replacement with new concrete and stamped asphalt walkways.

The work is estimated to cost \$294,000.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30§39 & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

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

General Bids will be received until 11:00 AM on Thursday, 25 May 2023 and publicly opened online, forthwith

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

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

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

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

Plan deposits may be electronically paid or by check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders and for one set for sub-bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for \$50.00

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

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: NONE SITE VISIT BY APPOINT-

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

Somerville Housing Authority 30 Memorial Road Somerville, MA 02145

Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749

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Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website:

www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

#### Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

deceased Somerville heroes and the quote, "Their warfare is over, they sleep well." This obelisk is said to be the first stone erected and paid for by citizens as a public memorial to those who died in their country's service during the Civil War. Somerville has had a tragic list of her sons and daughters who gave the supreme sacrifice for our liberty. It reads:

| <u>War</u>      |        | Lives Lo | <u>ost</u> |  |
|-----------------|--------|----------|------------|--|
| Civil W         | ar     | 98       |            |  |
| World W         | ⁄ar I  | 148      |            |  |
| World W         | ar II  | 415      |            |  |
| Korean \        | War    | 30       |            |  |
| Vietnam War     |        | 33       |            |  |
| Beirut, Lebanon |        | 1        |            |  |
| Somerville's    | Marine | Sargent  | Henry      |  |

Hansen died ten days after helping raise

the flags of Iwo Jima. A small park on Medford Street honors him and the 7,000 Marines who died fighting for freedom on that island. A prayer on the memorial

"When you go home Tell them for us and say For your tomorrow We gave our today"



## **LEGAL NOTICES**

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



#### City of Somerville **PLANNING BOARD**

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a virtual public hearing on Thursday, June 1, 2023, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

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

#### TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2413851766089736800

Webinar ID: 423-176-747

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0052 Access code: 177-474-415

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

**16 & 20 Medford Street** Somerville Living, LLC seeks approval of a

Major Amendment to a previously approved general building in the MR4 zoning district (P&Z 21-057), which required Site Plan Approval and a Special Permit for Household

16 & 20 Medford Street Somerville Living, LLC seeks a Special Permit for Parking Relief from the minimum parking requirements in the MR4 zoning district.

366 Broadway

Somerville Living, LLC proposes to develop a four (4)-story LEED Gold and Net-Zero Ready apartment building and establish a Household Living principle use for 58 dwelling units in the Mid-Rise 4 (MR4) zoning district. This proposal requires Site Plan Approval and one (1) Special Permit for Household Living.

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

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;

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#### CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT RFP # 23-69

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites sealed bids for:

#### Language Access Services

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement, or from the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after Wednesday, May 10, 2023. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: 2:00 pm, Wednesday, May 31, 2023. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

> Felisa Garate **Procurement Analyst** 617-625-6600 x3406

5/17/23 The Somerville Times



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

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council on **Thursday, May** 25, 2023, at 7:00 PM, on a petition regarding transparency in the devel-

138 registered voters submitting a petition requesting a public hearing regarding transparency in the development process

This meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber, on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, and by remote participation, using the GoToWebinar platform.

You have three ways to be heard at this meeting:

- In person in the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue.
- Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8051198514789370718. can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
- If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to <a href="mailto:cityclerk@somervillema.gov">cityclerk@somervillema.gov</a>, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

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

KIMBERLY M. WELLS, CITY CLERK

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#### CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** RFP# 23-68

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

#### **Armory Tenant Relocation Services, Phase III**

The RFP package may be obtained online at https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress on or after: Monday, May 15, 2023. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: 2:00 pm, Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

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

Please email <u>iremy@somervillema.gov</u> for more information.

**Jordan Remy** Senior Procurement Manager 617-625-6600 x3400

5/17/23 The Somerville Times



#### SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL **COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC AND PARKING** PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Traffic and Parking on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 6:00 PM, on the proposed first-ever citywide Somerville Bike Network Plan.

Requesting approval of the Citywide Bicycle Network Plan.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the GoToWebinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

- Virtually through the GoToWebinar platform. Enter this link into your internet browser any time before the meeting: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4392561478585691221 You can also find this link on the City Council's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
- If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to cityclerk@somervillema.gov, send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or drop them into the secure drop box outside the back door on the School Street side of City Hall. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed

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

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

5/17/23 The Somerville Times



#### CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP# 23-71

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

#### **Immigrant Legal Services**

The RFP package may be obtained online at https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <a href="http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress">http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress</a> on or after: Wednesday, May 17th, 2023. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: 2:00 pm, Wednesday, June 7th,

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

Please email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang 617-625-6600 x3400

5/17/23 The Somerville Times

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

# Somerville PorchFest 2023

The City of Somerville and the Somerville Arts Council hosted another year of PorchFest on Saturday, May 13. People of all ages took to the streets to enjoy a day of beautiful weather, dancing and listening to all genres of music throughout the streets of Somerville.















# The Somerville Times









Photos by Claudia Ferro and Devon Moos







# **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.

# Quo Vadis? or the flight of the millionaires



#### By State Senator Pat Jehlen

The main argument given for reducing taxes is that we need to be competitive with other states. Some tax credits, like most of those the House and Senate initially approved last year [1], benefit people across income brackets.

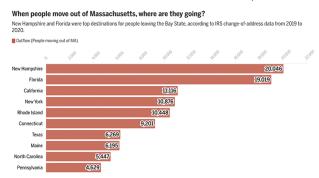
This year, Gov. Healey and the

House [2] added proposals for hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks for people with high income and profitable corporations. Without these tax cuts, it's argued, those people and businesses will leave, or avoid moving to, the state. They are said to be especially likely to leave because of the Fair Share Amendment, adopted by the voters last fall after a long campaign.

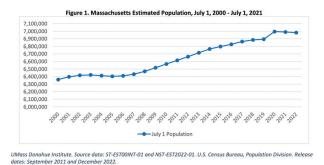
Some people say that 110,000 people have left the state since the beginning of COVID [3], and that the largest number have gone to New Hampshire and Florida, which don't have an income tax. For example, House Speaker Ron Mariano [4] "expressed concern about the out-migration in Massachusetts, with more than 110,000 leaving for other states since early 2020."

The 110,000 number is somewhat misleading, since people also moved into Massachusetts. The net loss in those two years, according to the Donahue Institute [5], is 47,975. Of that, all but 7,716 was in the first pandemic year.

(Graph from Boston Globe - from 2019-2020 - before the Fair Share Amendment was on the ballot)

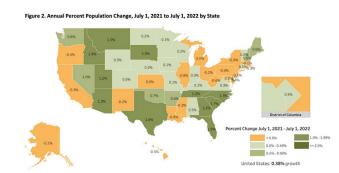


In January, the Donahue Institute at UMass Amherst reported [5], except for the pandemic years, Massachusetts has been gaining population.



Interestingly, another state with the same recent de-

cline in population is Alaska, which has neither an income tax nor a state sales tax.



#### Who's leaving and why?

However, it doesn't look like the problem is wealthy people leaving; it's workers.

Senator Jason Lewis of Winchester said it succinctly in a letter to the *Globe*: [6]

The problem with the gossiping and hand-wringing from some business leaders; accountants for the superrich; and the *Globe* about wealthy Bay Staters "fleeing" Massachusetts for tax havens is that they are entirely focused on the wrong challenge facing our state.

The real challenge is the young people who graduate from our excellent public and private colleges but cannot afford to stay in Massachusetts given their crushing student debt burden, high housing costs, and broken public transportation system.

The real challenge is the low- and middle-income working families who want to continue raising their children here but are struggling due to sky-high child-care costs and other unaffordable living expenses.

The real challenge is the seniors who have lived and worked in Massachusetts for decades and want to retire here but wonder if they will be able to do so with basic financial security and dignity.

Pursuing solutions to these real challenges is what Governor Maura Healey and state lawmakers need to focus on.

State Senator Jason Lewis

Craig Slatin of Medford also wrote a letter to the Globe: [6]

The *Globe* story about millionaires possibly leaving the state due to the fair share tax said that some of the extremely wealthy are angry that their contributions to the state are not being "rewarded and respected for what they've done."

Consider, who does more for the overall well-being of our Commonwealth than our sanitation workers? Without their literally back-breaking work, we would be living in filth and stench, at risk of many infectious diseases and surrounded by swarms of insects, rodents, and other animals endangering children and adults. Sanitation workers are our foundation of public health and, in that manner, democracy. Yet their rewards are not anything near the re-

quirement to pay the extra 4 percent income tax.

Others whose work is invaluable for sustaining the good life in Massachusetts are child-care workers, educational support professionals, teachers, nurses, librarians, supermarket employees, postal workers, and countless others whose rewards don't trigger paying the 4 percent surtax. And then there are the many mothers who raise children for no compensation.

No one amasses great wealth without the deep contributions of many workers and public infrastructure and services. So, to those wealthy individuals considering moving to a tax haven, please reflect on what the rest of us have provided for you and pay your fair share.

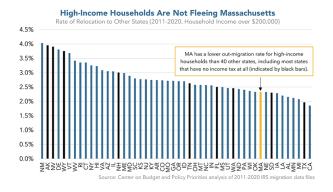
Craig Slatin

Some people seem to think "tax cuts" is a single thing. But it matters what the particular tax cut and its purpose are. Cutting the short-term capital gains tax or expanding the single sales factor [7] will not benefit the average worker.

A recent forum [8] hosted by the Boston Business Journal asked eight business leaders about the biggest challenges facing their industries. Only one mentioned taxes.

The Mass. Business Roundtable report, A Talent Agenda to Drive Massachusetts' Competitiveness [9], recommended 11 policies. One was unspecified tax changes. Others were major but unquantified investments in housing, transportation, broadband, caregivers, education, etc. It's hard to both decrease revenue and increase spending. Are there any studies about wealthy people fleeing taxes? Indeed there are!

Mass Budget [10] reported on a study of migration of households with over \$200,000 income from 2011-2020:



The American Sociological Review studied IRS data for all million-dollar income-earners in the US over 13 years. "Millionaire Migration and Taxation of the Elite" [11] found that "millionaire tax flight is occurring, but only at the margins of statistical and socioeconomic significance." "Outside of Florida, differences in tax rates between states have no effect on elite migration. Other low-tax states, such as Texas, Tennessee, and New Hampshire, do not draw away millionaires from high-tax states."

The same authors studied millionaire migration in California [12]. In 2005, California introduced the Mental Health Services Tax. This tax is 1% Continued on page 16

# **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.

# Op-ed: Somerville Affordable Housing Trust



By Wilfred Mbah Candidate for Somerville City Councilor at Large

Two weeks ago we listened in to the meeting of the city's Community Preservation Act Board, at which the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust made its annual update report. This account of the

key indicators and plans gave us the chance to reflect back on the programs and policies that the City Council enacted in 2018-2020. How are they succeeding? Are they achieving the outcomes that we anticipated?

#### Our original goals and expectations

In those months before COVID, the City Council was most concerned with the problems of affordability and displacement that were the results of accelerating economic growth, in-migrating higher-income households and transformative redevelopment.

We were guided by the Housing Needs Assessment of 2015, which had found that only 10% of the total housing stock was in the category of affordable – that is, for households under 80% of average median income. These included 3,066 affordable rental units and 112 affordable ownership units (out of the total number of 32,400 dwelling units of all types in the city.

Anticipating population growth, the 2015 study projected the need for up 9,000 new units of all rent/price levels by 2030. But because of rising costs of development and maintenance and the pressure of market demand, larger numbers of families would need assistance. The study set a goal of 20% of all units to be fixed at affordable levels. And it called for expanded programs of rent/mortgage assistance to help low and moderate income families pay for their housing and avoid displacement.

Following this guidance, the Council took actions in 2017, 2018 and 2019. In the Zoning Ordinance, we increased the inclusionary housing requirement to 20% of units in all new buildings with 8 dwelling units or more. In the Housing Overlay Zone regulations, we added the incentive of "bonus" floor area for developers who would provide more affordable units, and similarly offered bonus and dimensional adjustments to 3 or 4 family houses that would contain an affordable rental unit.

We expanded services for families facing eviction, foreclosure, and discriminatory practices by re-organizing the Office of Housing Stabilization. We redesigned the Housing Waiting List to make it easier for families to apply and participate in the lotteries for affordable units. And we looked for new sources of grants and subsidized loans for housing non-profits to build, rehabilitate and maintain affordable units.

#### Impacts of the COVID emergency and recovery

COVID initially disrupted these city initiatives, but the emergency actions of the state and the inflow of federal

funds allowed the city to get back on track fairly soon in FY 2021.

The emphasis of the housing programs shifted somewhat. Because the state had imposed a temporary moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, the problem of displacement of families was avoided for a while. This allowed the Housing Stability Office to focus on delivering help to families that lost jobs and income and fell behind on rent and mortgage payments. Funds from the federal emergency and recovery grants were directed into these programs. The city also designed and enacted a new program of city housing vouchers, which will start in fall of 2023. It will reach families, who are otherwise ineligible for federal Section 8 vouchers.

#### Where are we today?

The numbers provided by the Affordable Housing Trust and the city Housing Stabilization Office show both substantial progress and the challenging work that lies ahead. First, we can see slow but steady progress in raising the numbers of affordable units toward the 20% goal. By 2023, we seem to have reached a bit over 11.5% -- about 3,900 units out of the 33,500 total. In FY2024 we expect that this ratio will improve to over 12%:

Table 1: Expansion of Somerville Affordable Housing Stock since 2016

|  | Baseline | Added     | In           |                        |  |  |
|--|----------|-----------|--------------|------------------------|--|--|
|  | 2015     | 2016-2022 | construction | construction/permitted |  |  |
|  |          |           | 2023         | Future                 |  |  |
| Total housing stock                                | 31,555   | 2,400     | 700          | 700                    |  |  |
| Affordable units                                   | 3,341    | 396       | 202          | 401                    |  |  |
| Affordable housing development/management programs |          |           |              |                        |  |  |
| Inclusionary housing                               | 172      | 235       | 146          | 140                    |  |  |
| 100 Homes  |          | 117       | 32           |                        |  |  |
| Housing Authority                                  | 1,475    |           |              | 87                     |  |  |
| Non-profits  | 330      |           | 24           | 174                    |  |  |

The city has also made significant progress in finding revenue sources that can be directed into the affordable housing development and housing stabilization programs. The city has taken advantage of the available state and federal funding, as well as using its own budget surpluses (Free Cash and Stabilization accounts) to accumulate capital for housing construction, rent arrears assistance, subsidized loans and eviction/foreclosure and displacement protections.

# Table 2: Comparison of the Sources of Funding for Affordable Housing in Somerville

Sources: Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund FY2017 Report; Somerville CDBG website bi-annual Action Plans; Housing Stabilization Office report;, FY22-FY23 (Q3) update Affordable Housing Trust

|                        | FY2016    | FY2017  |       | FY22      | FY23      |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| CDBG Housing tranche   |           |         |       |           |           |
| Comm. Preservation Act | 1,800,000 | 880,000 |       | 1,491,000 | 1,618,000 |
| Linkage fee payments   | 1,092,000 | 869,000 |       | 2,300,000 | 3,900,000 |
| Loan                   |           |         |       | 575,000   | 436,000   |
| Repayment/Interest     |           |         |       |           |           |
| Bonding for 100 Homes  |           |         | 6,000 | ,000      |           |
| City budget            |           |         |       | 1,874,374 | 8,300,000 |
| appropriation          |           |         |       |           |           |
| ARPA/COVID grants      |           |         |       | 3,500,000 |           |

#### What remains to be done?

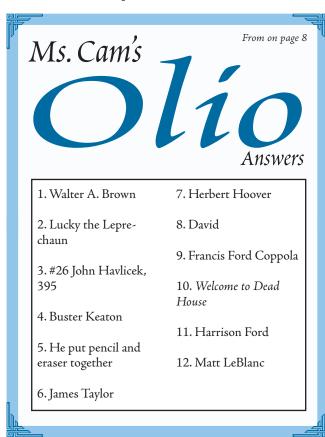
These indicators appear to show that the policies and programs that the City Council, put into place before

COVID, are proving their validity today. With excellent management by the city agency managers and staff, and with the continuing oversight of the Council Committees and Mayor's offices, steady progress is being made. We must keep in mind that the economic conditions of last few years have been somewhat unusual. The city has been able to draw resources from the strong regional economy and the many new investments and developments in the city. At the same time, the COVID emergency and recovery grants have offered a large one-time inflow of funds.

The COVID monies must be spent by the end of Fiscal Year 2025, and it is likely that declining development and productive activity in the region will cause our regular property tax and sur-tax (CBA) revenues as well as developer-generated fees to settle back to the 2016-2017 normal levels. Similarly, funding that reflects regional/national conditions – like the CDBG grants – will also receded somewhat.

City leadership, therefore, will need to maintain its commitment to affordable housing as the top priority – continuing to draw funds for housing from every available source of grants, developer payments, or unspent budget lines. The Council and Mayor have resubmitted to the state legislature the Home Rule proposals for the Real-Estate Transfer Tax; the Tenant Right of First Refusal when their unit or building is proposed for sale or condo conversion. They will also propose a system of Rent Stabilization (Control).

Neither of these legislative initiatives will sail easily through the state process and it will require persistence and strong cooperation of our Somerville officials with Boston, Cambridge and other cities, who have proposed similar Home Rule powers.

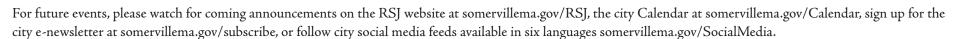


#### Somerville Community Invited to Join Public Safety for All Informational Series

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) invite residents to participate in the Public Safety for All (PSFA) Informational Series, which begins on Wednesday, May 17.

The series of live and pre-recorded webinars, hosted by RSJ, is designed to help inform the community about public safety systems, models, and pro-viders currently in place in Somerville in advance of the Public Safety for All Report.

The first webinar, scheduled for May 17, will be a live webinar about mental health and substance abuse recovery services with representatives from the Somerville Police Department's Community Outreach, Help and Recovery (COHR) program. Later webinars will cover topics including emergency response models, current public safety data in Somerville, conversations with other service providers in Somerville, and more. The PSFA Informational Series sessions will take place this Spring throughout May and June.



Registration for the first webinar session on May 17 is now open online. Registration links for later sessions will be shared on the RSJ website, the city calendar, and via city and RSJ social media feeds. Please contact the RSJ Department at rsj@somervillema.gov for more information or with any questions.

All sessions will be recorded and made available for later viewing by the city's GovTV team. Watch on-demand with optional closed-captioning (select the CC icon) on YouTube.com/SomervilleCityTV. Or watch on cable TV at GovTV Comcast Ch. 22 and GovTV Astound (RCN) Ch. 13 & 613. Videos generally post within one to two business days of recording.

#### Next Wave/Full Circle School celebrate 50 years

On May 18, at their new location at 81 Highland Ave. Full Circle and Next Wave School will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary with an open house from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Started by concerned students, parents, and educators to meet the needs of students who left traditional schools, Full Circle and Next Wave faced many challenges in the early years. From gaining certification, to securing operating costs through non-profits and the contributions of individuals, to finding a place to call home, students, parents, educators, community groups and members, school committee members and mayors all played a role in getting the school to where it is today. Next Wave/Full Circle today has become a tight-knit school community for students who have experienced academic setbacks and benefit from a personalized approach to learning. In order to meet the needs of their students the school emphasizes: Trusting Relationships, Authentic Learning Experiences, Growth Mindset and Student Voice and Choice, as essential components in daily work. Next Wave/Full Circle students graduate with the skill set needed to adapt to challenges and lead meaningful and productive lives.

## Quo Vadis? or the flight of the millionaires CONT. FROM PG 14

on amounts of taxable income greater than \$1 million. They found that "the highest-income Californians were less likely to leave the state after the millionaire tax was passed."

The Globe interviewed people on why "People are leaving." [13] They were all driven out by housing costs, not taxes. One woman, for example, moved to New York City to get "her own place, rent control, easy public transit access."

And here's a memo [14] by my chief of staff, Matt Hartman. Among his fascinating conclusions from census data is that intra-state migration is increasing segregation through white (and wealth) flight from the city center to wealthy suburbs. (view this Globe map with links) [13]

ZIP codes in Greater Boston saw more people leaving than moving in



Nevertheless, the number of millionaires in Boston has grown by 50% [15] in the past decade.

What's the real population problem?

Another Boston Globe article [16] this week reports on young workers fleeing the state because of high prices, especially for housing.

Most industries are facing labor shortages. John Regan, head of Associated Industries of Massachusetts, in his February annual address [17], said that, "the state currently has 115,000 more job openings than unemployed workers...By 2030, the number of jobs across Massachusetts is expected to grow 21%...but the workforce will expand just 1.5%." For direct care workers, who make very low wages, the shortages are dire, as I reported [18] in December.

Links:

- [1] https://www.masslive.com/politics/2022/07/mas-sachusetts-tax-relief-senate-unveils-changes-to-estate-tax-plus-child-care-credit-and-rental-deduction-capamong-other-cuts.html
- [2] https://www.natlawreview.com/article/massachusetts-house-approves-tax-reform-bill-significant-individual-corporate-tax
- [3] https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/04/08/business/theres-lots-talk-about-millionaires-leaving-massachusetts-will-they/
- [4] https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/04/11/metro/mass-house-unveils-tax-plan/?utm\_source=bside.beehiiv.com&utm\_medium=newsletter&utm\_campaign=tax-relief-on-the-brain
- [5] https://donahue.umass.edu/documents/UMDI\_ V2022\_State\_Population\_Estimates\_Summary\_Report.pdf
- [6] https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/04/16/opin-ion/about-millionaires-tax/?p1=BGSearch\_Advanced\_Results
- [7] https://www.massclu.org/wp-content/up-

loads/2020/04/clu\_publicgood\_taxcuts\_pf10.pdf

- [8] https://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2023/01/27/economic-outlook-state-ments-from-business-leaders.html
- [9] https://www.maroundtable.com/wp-content/up-loads/2022/12/MBR\_TalentAgenda2022.pdf
- [10] https://massbudget.org/2023/04/06/high-incomes-are-not-fleeing-ma/
- [11] https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0003122416639625?journalCode=asra
- [12] https://inequality.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/Varner-Young\_Millionaire\_Migration\_in\_CA.pdf
- [13] https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/02/18/business/people-are-leaving-massachusetts-has-lost-110000-residents-since-covid-began-is-life-better-out-there/?p1=Article\_Inline\_Text\_Link
- [15] https://www.nbcboston.com/boston-business-journal/bostons-millionaire-count-has-jumped-50-in-10-years/3025781/
- [16] https://apps.bostonglobe.com/2023/04/business/gen-z-cost-of-living-boston/main/
- [17] https://www.wgbh.org/news/lo-cal-news/2023/02/14/labor-shortage-a-grow-ing-threat-to-massachusetts-economy-business-lead-er-says#:~:text=Register%20Sign%20In-,Labor%20 shortage%20a%20growing%20threat%20to%20Massachusetts'%20economy%2C%20business%20leader,others%20retire%20and%20birthrates%20drop.
- [18] https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e=2a1a-9beef5&u=1afb18c1b75b287a2a3d610f-c&id=a5fe5c03b7

# Final Conway Park remediation public meeting

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott, and the City of Somerville Public Space and Urban Forestry Division invite you to the final virtual community meeting to conclude the remediation process at Conway Park.

Conway Park and the adjacent splash pad were closed in 2018 after soil testing conducted in advance of the proposed renovation of the park revealed contaminants. Over the following years, the City worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remediate the park in accordance with state and federal environmental regulations. After

five years of extensive soil testing and remediation, including the removal of 8,700 tons of contaminated soil, Somerville's Conway Park reopened in its entirety on Friday, May 27, 2022.

The remediation effort included a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) to keep the community informed about the process and solicit public comment. This meeting represents the final stage of the PIP process, during which City staff will present drafts of two documents to the public:

Activity and Use Limitation (AUL): A document recorded at the Registry of Deeds to provide information about any remaining contamination, the appropriateness of certain uses and activities, and a property owner's

obligations to ensure that the requirements of the AUL continue to be met.

Permanent Solution Statement (PSS): Once a condition of "No Significant Risk" has been demonstrated, the PSS provides a clear endpoint to the process so that future owners and tenants can find out what cleanup has been done at a site and access relevant documentation.

The meeting will take place Thursday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. Visit somervillema.gov/conway-pip to register to attend.

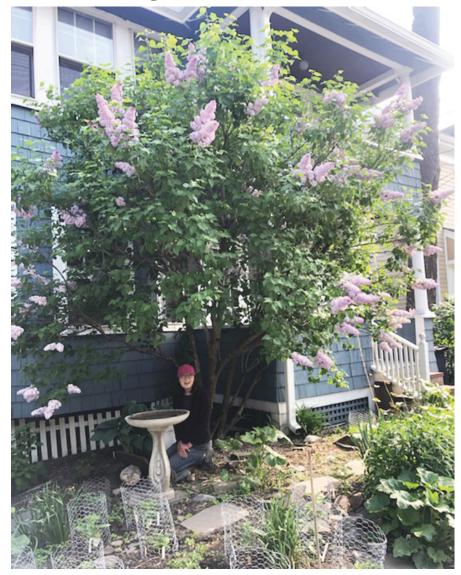
The Draft AUL and PSS will be available for public view beginning May 25 at somervillema. gov/conwaypip, via MassDEP's online database for disposal sites, and at each branch of the Somer-



ville Public Library.

A 20-day public comment period will follow the meeting, ending on June 14. Comments on the Draft AUL and PSS can be submitted to the City's Environmental Health Coordinator, Colin Zeigler via email at czeigler@somervillema.gov or mail at Inspectional Services Department, ATTN: Colin Zeigler, 1 Franey Rd., Somerville, MA 02145.

# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



A Somerville garden gnome in the wild...

— Photo by Denise Provost

# Free overdose-prevention training and Narcan distribution

The City of Somerville, in partnership with the Somerville Homeless Coalition and Fenway Health/ACCESS, is hosting Narcan distribution event on Tuesday, May 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Davis Square's Statue Park.

Swing by to participate in a brief overdose-prevention training and pick up free harm-reduction materials including Narcan, fentanyl test strips, CPR face shields, and syringe disposal containers. The training will cover the main signs and symptoms of an opioid-related overdose and ways to respond.

Distribution events are held monthly at various locations across the city. Follow @somervilleprevention on Instagram, sign up for the city newsletter at somervillema.gov/newsletter, or visit somervillema.gov/events for future dates.

The city also offers more in-depth hourlong overdose-prevention trainings virtually and in person for local groups and businesses. To learn more and schedule a training, contact Prevention Services Manager Matthew Mitchell at mmitchell@somervillema.gov.



# Follow us on Twitter





# **SHS Boys Varsity Ultimate Frisbee vs Arlington HS**

Somerville High School Boys Varsity Ultimate Frisbee took on Arlington High School on Monday, May 8, but came up short. Somerville is 3-2 on the season.

— Photos by Alex Fredette. To see more photos from this game visit: https://alexfredette.smugmug.com/Ultimate-Frisbee/SHS-UF-Arlington/













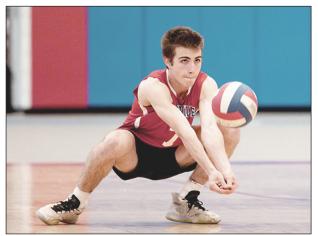
# Somerville High School Varsity Volleyball wins vs Everett

SHS Boys Varsity Volleyball won a thriller against Everett High School on Wednesday, May 10, to even their record to 7-7. Somerville took an early 2-0 lead, but Everett responded by winning two games of their own to make it 2-2. The final game came down to the wire. Tied at 14-14, Somerville scored two straight points to win the game 16-14 and beat Everett 3-2. — Photos by Alex Fredette. To see more photos from this game visit: https://alexfredette.smugmug.com/Volleyball/SHS-BVB-Everett/













# An Open Letter about the Walk for Hunger

#### By Nathan Lamb

I went to my first Project Bread Walk for Hunger expecting to make some great memories, but probably the best moment was a complete surprise.

It was a perfect Sunday morning and I was standing at the edge of Boston Common, waiting for my colleagues to arrive and holding a Team Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) sign.

"There's my team," said an unfamiliar voice, and I looked up to meet a longtime fan of SCES. After some quick introductions, we chatted a bit. She told me how our agency has helped her father maintain his independence and well-being for the past 12 years. She also praised his Home Care nurse and case manager, saying

they are immensely helpful and always happy to see them.

I thanked her for the kind words and told her I'd pass them along to her father's Home Care team. It was shortly before the walk commenced and we were going separate ways. A few moments later, I realized I forgot to ask who she was walking for. Rookie mistake, I'll be sure to ask her next year.

Our team - Nutrition Director Meghan Ostrander, Dietitian Andrea Svartstrom, Volunteer Coordinator Lindsey Smilack, and Home Care Case Manager Juan Bautista - was walking to support SCES Congregate Meals through the Walk for Hunger.

Congregate Meals is a great program. It supports food security and provides socialization for local older adults with no out-ofpocket cost. SCES served roughly 1,500 Congregate Meals per month in 2022. We expect that number will go up in the coming year, as food prices remain high and pandemic relief programs are winding down.

Congregate Meals is one of several SCES programs that rely on local revenues and fundraising, and that is why our team was walking. As of Sunday, we raised just over \$1,100. As a Commonwealth Walk for Hunger partner, 60% of those revenues will support SCES Congregate Meals. The remainder will support Project Bread's statewide advocacy efforts, which include a campaign to permanently make school lunch available free of charge for all students in the Bay State.

To everyone who supported



Team Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, from left, Juan Bautista, Nathan Lamb, Meghan Ostrander, Lindsey Smilack, and Andrea Svartstrom. Special thanks to our family members who walked too.

our team by walking or donating, please accept our sincerest thanks. If you would like to support our efforts, donations to Team SCES are being accepted through June 30.

The Walk for Hunger was a great day overall, made even better by a chance meeting that really underscored the impact of elder services in our community. Thank you again

Sincerely,

Nathan Lamb Director of Outreach and Community Relations Captain, Team Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services

#### SENIOR CENTER PPENINGS:

#### **Upcoming events:**

**Beginner's De-Cluttering Support Group** 

– June 5 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. This six-week group is open to residents of Somerville & Cambridge over the age of 60. RSVP to Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

**Travel Training Seminar** – Wednesday, May 31 – 10:00 a.m. to noon at our Holland Street Center. Has it been a while since you've been on a bus or train? If you are looking to become more comfortable using the MBTA look no further. For more information or to RSVP call Natasha Naim at 617-626-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov

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Project Outlook, Low Vision Group - 3rd Thursday of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie and socialization. Project Outlook has been active for over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. For more information, please contact Claudia Ferro at 857-237-1801.

Book Club – Meets the 3rd Friday of each month starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center. Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. Group meets in person and concurrently via Zoom. Please RSVP by calling Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 or email Natasha at nnaim@somervillema.gov.

Music & Munch Program - Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This 45- minute session will treat you to a playlist of diverse musical offerings: a little jazz, some "oldies but goodies," a smidgen 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. Learn a little, sing-along, relax and enjoy some Music while you Munch. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@ somervillema.gov You will then receive your email invitation to join the program via Zoom.

Veteran's Group - Meets Tuesday, May 23 at the Holland Street Center starting at 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Men's Group – Meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Holland Street Center from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

In-person Fit-4-Life Exercise Classes at the Holland Street Center – every Monday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Phelan Howell at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Phelan at phowell@somervillema.gov.

Tai Chi Returns – Fridays at 10:00 a.m., May 12, 19 & 26 Join Tarsha Bethel-Stacke in this six-week Tai Chi program as she leads coordinated movements, breathing and meditation. Stemming from Chinese medicine, philosophy and martial arts. All levels are welcome. RSVP Phelan Howell at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email Phelan at phowell@somervillema.gov

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

#### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Somerville, MA).

The mural ride is back. Join the Cyclopolitan and ESMS on Sunday, May 21, for the third annual mural bike tour through East Somerville and Assembly Row. This is a free event. Registration here: https://forms.gle/8gzxznT-696s5Ho6Y7.

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

Join the Somerville Public Library (MA) for their third annual Comix Con, a fanthemed day with programming from your favorite fandoms, stalls with local artists and vendors, cosplaying, and more. This event is free to attend and will take place on Saturday, May 20, at Somerville Public Library (79 Highland Ave.) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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

Stay in the loop with the latest news on Somerville's art spaces. Sign-up for the Art Space Updates from the Somerville Arts Council at tinyurl.com/SACArtSpace. To read past updates go to our website: somervilleartscouncil.org/artspace/updates.

On May 23 join East Somerville Main Streets at American Flatbread in Davis Square, 45 Day St. for a night of bowling, pizza, and drinks. Portions of the evening's proceeds will be donated to East Somerville Main Streets.

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

The Somerville Museum will host a Youth Comedy Workshop, Saturday, May 20, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., One Westwood Road, Somerville. Show Me The Funny: Stand Up Comedy Workshop (Somerville Edition) is led by Cedric Arno and will review the history of comedy while encouraging confidence and skills. Open to teenagers 16-24 years of age. Admission: Free. Sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council. RSVP: Space is limited, RSVP with link or by calling 774-253-01131.

Join The Somerville Museum and the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission for an engaging afternoon with General George and Mrs. Washington. Special afternoon tea will be served from 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. Featuring

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ington. Special afternoon tea will be served from 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. Featuring Sandy Spector, Historic Interpreter, and John Koopman III, Historic Re-enactor. Learn the top 10 things you may not know about Martha Wash-

ington. Purchase a signed copy of John

Koopman III's book. Admission: \$5 for Somerville Museum members; \$12 for non-members. RSVP: Space is limited, and advance reservations are required. Reserve your spot by emailing **Brandon Wilson** at bwilson@somervillema.gov. **Sunday, May 21**, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., 1 Westwood Rd, Somerville.

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

The Free Lockboxes for Seniors Program is intended to provide police, fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) access to your residence in the event of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor's lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available to police, fire or EMS personnel and used only during an emergency. The program is targeted towards Somerville residents who live alone and are aged 65+, or those who are disabled and/or suffer from major medical issues at any age. Individuals living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. For more information, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Musicians, where do you rehearse and perform? As part of their ongoing art space initiatives, the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) is interested in understanding where musicians rehearse and perform. If you are a Somerville musician, please fill out this short questionnaire: https://forms.office.com/g/0iMCFX-501D

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

The Welcome Project is excited to announce the 14th Annual YUM: A Taste of Immigrant City on June 7 at 6:30 pm. The event will be virtual. Please join in to celebrate the work of immigrants across the Boston area and highlight local restaurants that reflect the diverse and beautiful community Somerville has become. If you would like to be a sponsor of this event or purchase tickets, please use this link: https://bit.ly/YUM2023

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

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## Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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# On This Day in History May 17

1540 – Afghan chief Sher Khan defeats Mongul Emperor Humayun at Kanauj.

1630 - Italian Jesuit Niccolo Zucchi sees the belts on Jupiter's surface.

1756- Britain declares war on France.

1792 - Merchants form the New York Stock Exchange at 70 Wall Street.

1814 - Denmark cedes Norway to Sweden.

1863 – Union General Ulysses Grant continues his push towards Vicksburg at the Battle of the Big Black River Bridge.

1875 - The first Kentucky Derby is run in Louisville.

1881 - Frederick Douglass is appointed recorder of deeds for Washington, D.C.

1940 - Germany occupies Brussels, Belgium and begins the invasion of France.

1954 – The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously rules for school integration in Brown v. Board of Education.

1973 - The Senate Watergate Committee begins its hearings.

# **Fantasy Creatures for Unity**

# A School-based Approach to Interactive Youth Art in Somerville

Parama Chattopadhyay has worked at East Somerville Community School since July 2022 as a Pre-Calculus, Statistics, and Geometry teacher for the Calculus Project, an innovative national program serving minorities and aspiring them to become mathematical masterminds. She then continued at the school that she is so fond of as an interim 8th grade certified math teacher covering a colleague's paternity leave, and now as a general instructional support staff.

She has provided instructional support in Pre-K through 8th grade for all subjects, with a particular emphasis in art, music, and math classes. In addition to working full time at East Somerville Community



School, she also tutors Somerville youth at her SMART Academy through the Out of the Blue Art Gallery on the Armory basement floor.

Chattopadhyay, who goes by Ms. Chai at East Somerville Community School, was impressed with Ms. Gouvea's 7th grade homeroom whenever she has covered her class, so she figured the students deserved a chance to visit the Out of the Blue Art Gallery at the Armory.

The vibrant seventh graders went on full tours of the Gallery on May 10, with 4 floors of art, complete with Chattopadhyay telling the story of each of the 30 local artists' bios, artistic mediums, and connection to the Somerville community.

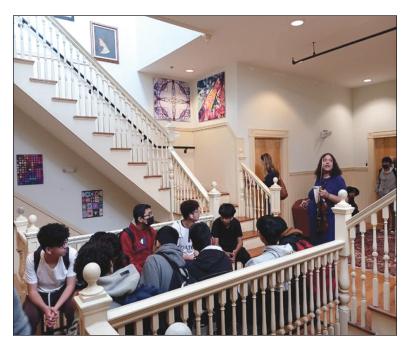
In addition, these same students got to see their peers' art works on show on the basement floor corridor walls. The East Somerville Community School now has approximately 30 works on show through the Out of the Blue Art Gallery entitled Fantasy Creatures from Unity.

Last month, Ms. Chai decided that she wanted to give

back to the East Somerville Community School which was so instrumental in completing her Sheltered English Immersion license to return as a full time-salaried teacher in the public school system.

So, she bought 30 canvases and a tackle box full of crayons, colored pencils, paintbrushes, and paints for the students to experiment to enter a competition to be on the Armory walls. Students had to submit a rough draft of their vision for a fantasy creature and, once approved, received a canvas and other art supplies to make their final product. True to Somerville's reputation of having brilliant student artists, their final products were marvelous. Come on by the Armory basement floor and check out their works, on display until the end of the school year.

Also, students on show and their families attended and participated in Somerville Open Studios on May 6-7. The Out of the Blue Art Gallery supplied handmade instruments, sketchpads, microphones, speaker systems, paint supplies and snacks



for the students and families to feel right at home. The Armory was abuzz with Somerville youth tinkering on instruments like a Blue Man Group installation of tube instruments on show. Other students came up to the third floor to watch an Out of the Blue-curated jazz band or tap on a 50's typewriter available for interactive writing and listening.

The East Somerville Community School participated not only at the youth level, but also

at the adult level as well. Ms. Chai was particularly excited to walk the Pre-K students through this exercise, emphasizing the importance of using various mediums on canvases, while getting pointers from lead Pre-K teacher Ms. Mancio.

In addition, teachers from the music department including band director Timothy Moyer partook in the festivities by closing Somerville Open Studios Saturday night with his band Gateway Jazz.

## Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

#### **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

"It took over a decade but as a result of this litigation and with credit due to the brave officers who filed this case, the commonwealth is now taking steps to create a police promotional exam that will fairly treat Black and Hispanic candidates. This outcome means the officers are going to get some substantial money." — Harold Lichten, lead attorney for the police officers who won a \$40 million settlement between the state and a class of minority police officers resolving claims made in the class action lawsuit that a promotional exam used by various police departments discriminates against minority police officers who took the exam.

"When valid alternative methods are available, there is absolutely no reason why we should allow any company to experiment on such precious creatures. This legislation will enhance protections for these animals and assure consumers that the products they purchase are not created to the detriment of these living beings." — Sen. Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford) on his legislation that would require companies to use non-animal-based testing methods for cosmetics and other household products.

"By allowing all eligible students to receive in-state tuition, Massachusetts would make college dramatically more affordable for tens of thousands of individuals currently without status in the commonwealth. Tuition equity would increase enrollment at state colleges and universities and create a stronger, more empowered workforce to drive our state's future." — Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) Coalition Executive Director Elizabeth Sweet on a Senate budget proposal that would allow some undocumented/illegal immigrants to qualify for lower in-state tuition rates if they attended high school in the Bay State for at least three years and graduated or completed high school Graduation Equivalency Degree.

#### HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and enate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet reg-

ularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of May 8-12, the House met for a total of 21 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 20 minutes.

Mon. May 8

House 11:04 a.m. to 11:16 a.m. Senate 11:10 a.m. to 11:18 a.m.

Tues. May 9

No House session No Senate session

Wed. May 10

No House session No Senate session

Thurs. May 11

House 11:00 a.m. to 11:09 a.m.

Fri. May 12 No House session No Senate session

Senate 11:04 a.m. to 11:16 a.m.

 $Bob\ Katzen\ welcomes\ feedback\ at\ bob@beaconhillrollcall.com$ 

# SOMERVILLE edited by Doug Holder

Nina Rubinstein Alonso's work has appeared in The New Yorker, Ploughshares, Nixes Mate, Sumac, New Boston Review, Broadkill Review, Writing in a Woman's Voice, etc. Her book This Body was published by David Godine Press, her chapbook Riot Wake by Cervena Barva Press, and her story collection Distractions En Route is being published by Ibbetson Street.



#### At Good Harbor Beach, Gloucester

Cool sunny day on Good Harbor Beach with Kathleen

friends for how many years comparing notes

about our exes drifting apart then reconnecting

our photo taken near the memorial for fishermen lost at sea

saving this moment feeling time pull while she goes swimming

though too cold for me plop on the sand reading my book watch her paddling along

as the wind picks up pondering parallels about change and sameness

## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

# Review of 'Joy and Pandemic'

A play by Taylor Mac

Joy and Pandemic
A play by Taylor Mac
At The Calderwood Pavilion/Huntington Theater
through May 21, 2023

Review by Andy Hoffman

In *Joy and Pandemic*, a world premiere at the Calderwood Pavilion of the Huntington Theater, playwright Taylor Mac locates the conflict between belief and reality in a children's art school in 1918 Philadelphia. Joy, the founder of the school, believes devoutly in Christian Science, which will run head first into the bursting Spanish Flu pandemic, which will kill over 50 million people as troops returned home from the last battles of World War I. This apocalyptic moment tried whole nations' faith in social hierarchies, in political solutions, and in moral values, but it fails to shake Joy's belief in the religion founded by Boston's own Mary Baker Eddy.

Played out in the storefront location of Joy's school on the day of the school's open house, *Joy and Pandemic* takes a ride on the narrow rail between realism and philosophy. In the first act, we meet Joy and her teenaged daughter Pilly. After the disappearance of Pilly's father, Joy has married Bradford, a wastrel and artist who came from a wealthy family. We also meet Bradford's mother, who has funded the school in a last-ditch effort to save Bradford from a completely wasted life.

Joy believes, as Christian Science prescribes, that illness, pain, and our human manifestation is simply an illusion, a test of our faith. If we believe fully, we will transcend that plane of reality and achieve our oneness with the perfect divine. Neither Bradford nor his mother embrace this notion, but they can see that the energy Joy's faith gives her imbues the school and gets passed along to the students as represented in five-year-old Marjory. While we don't meet the child, we see her painting, a wildly passionate abstract, and we meet her mother, Melanie, who comes to the open house early.

Melanie comes out of concern for Marjory's safety, as she has good reason to distrust Bradford. Also, Melanie's skin color – Marjory is the only Black student in the school – gives her extra cau-



tion in dealing with the white world. Through the storefront windows, we see the start of a parade, tinsel confetti fluttering to the ground. This piece of history – Philadelphia allowed a parade as the 1918 pandemic killed millions – files the conflict between fact and belief to a fine and cutting point. Both Melanie and Joy fall ill. We find out what becomes of them in the play's last act, after the intermission. We jump ahead to 1952. Joy and Pilly remain in the storefront, living their lives in plain sight, as Marjory points out to Pilly.

Joy and Pandemic offers insights into our contemporary pandemic and the social changes we have experienced, but always in a sidelong glance. Taylor Mac – a MacArthur award and Ibsen Prize winner – has constructed a fascinating feast of ideas and emotions, refusing us answers, as the best drama always does.

At the same time, as a world premiere, the play comes across as a bit unfinished and muddled. This always happens: plays must be performed to find their strengths and weaknesses. The strengths of this production are clear: excellent performances, a lovely and flexible set, and a well-built structure that poses questions that keep us guessing until the end. We receive revelations about what we owe our parents when mothers and daughters Melanie/ Marjory and Joy/Pilly are played by the same actresses, now 34 years later.

The weaknesses are more subtle. Bradford's mother provides too much exposition in the first act and Pilly does the same in the third act. The vaudevillian touches lighten the tone but add little to the show as a whole. And we don't realize

Continued on page 23

dinner at a seaside place love's silent breeze splashing bright waves even now that I'm somewhere else wandering another beach.

— Nina Rubinstein Alonso

# The Somerville Times

# The Annual Union Square Farmers Market is open for the season

**CONT. FROM PG 1** 

innovative ideas brought to the city by the vendors.

This year's edition has some new products, such as Urban Pharm, a business created in Cambridge by the couple Jill and Anne that focuses on mastering fruit-based syrups with vinegar to create flavorful mixers. The shrub can create cocktails or be added to sparkling water for flavor. "This is our first time in the market, and we are very excited," Jill mentioned as she served the thrilled new

customers

In the Union Square Farmers Market, shoppers can find produce, baked goods, beverages, prepared foods, and various other specialties. Not all vendors are at the market on a weekly basis. Some will be present biweekly, others monthly. On the official market website, interested customers can check the vendor's availability and their certified organic, HIP-approved, and SNAP Match-approved status.

The website also discloses a numbered map to assist buyers in finding the booths and where businesses will stay.

Valicenti Pasta Farm's sales representative highlights how the Union Square Farmers Market has given them growth opportunities. The business started by creating different tomato sauces from their farm. It has developed into more flavors and makes its own fresh pasta, all available for sale at the market.

The City of Somerville was

awarded a grant to distribute Green and Yellow Cab vouchers to help Somerville residents get food easier, for free, via a cab voucher. Vouchers can be used to go to any grocery store, food pantry, or farmers' market in Somerville. Additionally, vouchers can be used for doctor's appointments (non-emergency), vaccine appointments, prescription pickup, or other health-supporting activities as approved. To join, citizens must fill out a Google Form to get

their vouchers, which will last until October 2024.

Apart from the vouchers, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) shoppers are valued in the Union Square Farmers Market. The market offers a dollar-for-dollar SNAP match of up to \$15 per market.

This annual neighborhood event continues to serve as an economic opportunity for all Greater Boston vendors and allows more community connection in Union Square, Somerville.

































## Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

until after the intermission that Melanie's and Marjory's race actually matters; it seemed throughout the first and second acts that the play had been cast raceblind, when there were plenty of opportunities to make

it clear that we were watching America at its Jim Crow peak.

All of these flaws can be fixed during this run or before the play gets its future productions. It is well worth seeing this excellent play by a significant figure in American theater in its earliest stages. Applause to the Huntington for working with Taylor Mac on this premiere.

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