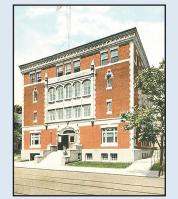
SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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VOL. 10 NO. 20



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Proposed bus network redesign bodes big changes to Somerville transport



The MBTA claims that its bus route reroutes will increase overall service while ensuring that routes complement – rather than duplicate – Somerville's service from the red, orange, and green lines.

— Photo by Molly Rains

By Molly Rains

On Monday, the MBTA released a preliminary draft of proposed modifications to bus routes and schedules across Somerville.

The draft marks the beginning phases of a bus network redesign throughout all of Greater Boston. The MBTA has allotted seven years for the planning and implementation of this project, which it claims will increase bus service while improving the equity and availability of high-frequency bus routes across neighborhoods and demographics.

The existing bus network in Somerville is extensive, with about 15 different routes serving the city. The MBTA's proposed redesign consolidates these into eight routes, six of which are modified high-frequency routes (buses "every 15 minutes or better," according to the draft plan).

Continued on page 5

'Art For All 3' fundraiser held to Support Latinx Immigrants

By Michael McHugh

This past Sunday, concerned citizens from Somerville, Chelsea, and beyond attended a fundraising event at Aeronaut Brewery to benefit the Latinx immigrant community. The *Art For All 3* art sale put on by the Boston For All community fundraising organization showcased original local art that has been donated personally by each artist, and could be purchased by attendees through a "pick your own price" policy.

100% of the over \$6,500 raised went towards La Colaborativa, a non-profit that works to empower and support Latinx immigrants through social services including housing security, community organizing, economic advancement, English lessons, citizenship pathways, and a wealth of other programs.

Aeronaut Brewery, which has Continued on page 4

The Art For All art sale held at Aeronaut Brewery in Somerville on Sunday raised more than \$6,500 to help fund the non-profit group La Colaborativa.

— Photo courtesy of Art For All Boston



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

Readers who pick up our print edition this week will notice a slight change in size that we are trying out. We will be covering the same local events and issues as always, but the leaner format will allow us to move forward with a number of changes for the better that we are striving for. Let us know what you think.

Join the Somerville Arts Council for a gathering of good cheer and light refreshments. Come out to meet the staff and board, provide feedback and ideas. Learn more about how they are easing into the reopening phase, as well as their upcoming programs and events, especially ArtBeat, SomerStreets, Nibble, Ignite, and much more. This also a good time to sign up to volunteer. If you want to find out more about their work and meet other folks, please come out: Wednesday, May 18, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (rain or shine). Location: Powder House Park.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) raised the COVID-19 Community Level for all of Middlesex County including Somerville to HIGH on Thursday evening, May 5. The city is strongly encouraging that high-quality masks be worn indoors in public while the CDC COVID-19 Community Level remains high and that all persons ensure they are up to date on vaccination. Free KN95 masks provided to Somerville by the Commonwealth are being offered to residents at all city libraries and at City Hall. For more information visit

The Somerville Times

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of May 18 – May 24 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
*	Wednesday May 18	Sunny	72°/51°	0%	0%	W 19 mph
	Thursday May 19	Cloudy	66°/55°	20%	17%	NW 15 mph
	Friday May 20	Partly Cloudy	82°/64°	5%	4%	SE 11 mph
*	Saturday May 21	Partly Cloudy	91°/67°	11%	9%	SSW 15 mph
··	Sunday May 22	Rain	80°/58°	35%	26%	SW 14 mph
	Monday May 23	Partly Cloudy	70°/54°	22%	16%	NNE 12 mph
S	Tuesday May 24	Partly Cloudy	67°/54°	7%	5%	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: Today: Senator Markey joins Somerville launch of Fair Share ballot campaign

TheoNa says:

There is no fairness in this so-called "Fair Share" initiative. The hidden agenda is to change the state constitution so that different discriminatory tax rates can be applied to different economic classes. Under the current system, somebody who earns twice as much as someone else pays twice the tax, someone who makes five times as much pays five times more tax, etc. Surely appears to be a fair tax. In fact, it's so fair that it was written into the state's constitution.

If this new tax law passes, the taxers will have an easier way to increase tax rates by only applying the increased rate to certain economic classes, thereby hoping to decrease voter resistance by only focusing on increasing the rate upon one group at a time. While this current proposal has a nice populace phrase by calling it a millionaire tax, the new law could be used to later apply a different tax rate only upon those making over \$200,00 a year, and then only upon those making over \$100,000 a year.

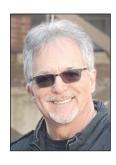
Inflation needs to be taken into account. Over time more and more people and families will reach the \$1 million threshold and get hit with a higher tax. There is already a precedent for this. In 1969 the Alternative Minimum Tax was created to increase taxes on high-income families earning more than \$30,000. Within a few years, especially the high inflation rate period during the late 1970's and early 1980's, more and more families started getting hit with this tax that "would only impact the wealthy."

Inflation also leads to an unfair tax burden as many gains, such as stock values, dividends, home values, and other values tend to rise in proportion to the inflation rate. For example, with the current rate of inflation now at 8%, a 5% gain in value is taxed as a gain, when in reality there is a loss of 3% in relative value. If we want fairness in our tax system, capital gains taxes and the tax rate on interests need to include adjustments for inflation.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

Day camp at the Y



Back in the 60's and 70's the Somerville YMCA offered a summer day camp program. I attended and it was a lot of fun. Mom would pack a nice lunch with bologna sandwiches and

I'd get dropped off at the YMCA for the day. I remember visiting Hood's Cherry Hill farm with all the cows, etc. I asked our readers to share their memories of YMCA Day Camp with us.

"God, the memories. Bus songs, first kisses, second and third kisses lol. I remember a sleep out at Hopkinton, I got mosquito bites so bad. I didn't sleep a wink. Did your moms wrap your tonic cans in tin foil?? Gosh, what good times."

"My sister Gail and I used to go to Y day camp when we were young. We took the bus up highland Avenue to attend. They had gym swim and crafts' two days a week where we would take swimming lessons part of the day. Other days we took field

trips - sometimes Tony was the bus driver for these outings. Tony would flicker the lights on the bus on and off when the campers sang 3 cheers got the bus driver. We had a great time and went to the beach - where we had to wear the dreaded yellow bathing caps so the counselors could keep track of us. Other trips were to the museum of science, transportation museum in Brookline, Lexington and Concord and other Boston landmarks. It was great and we had a blast."

"We went everywhere.

Beaches, state parks,

Wednesday's we'd stay at

the Y and swim"

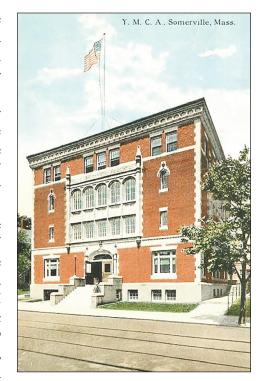
"Attended Y summer camp for 3-4 summers w/neighborhood friends. Remember getting lost at Breakheart during a thunderstorm!"

"Fishing at Spy Pond, field trip to the Hood Plant and the neat T shirt."

"It was so much fun! We even went to the police station had a tour of the station and watched a movie, had Hoodsies ice cream and one of the officers gave us a safety speech! It was great."

"I was a summer day camp counselor maybe 76-79. Had so much fun taking the kids to Salem willows, Hopkinton State Park the Aquarium etc. Had the age 5 to 7 group. What a handful! Was exhausted by the time I got home – lol."

"We went everywhere. Beaches, state parks, Wednesday's we'd stay at the Y and swim. If it rained, we went to the movies. We saw the fox and the hound one time – lol. That was '81 or '82 I think. Imagine what it would cost to get a bus load of kids in the movies today? I remember Hopkinton, Salem Willows, Wingaersheek beach, Singing beach, a dozen more. I lived on Highland above Apple Orchard and I'd walk up every morning to camp then home after some good days. 3 summers I believe. I'm pretty sure they grouped all of by age. I remember juniors and seniors as groups.



What a really fun time."

I can still taste the baloney sandwiches mom packed for me. I also remember waiting for the buses to take us to various venues. All in all, very pleasant memories of my days at YMCA day camp.



FabVille Maker Showcase, May 19



FabVille, the City of Somerville's digital fabrication lab, is hosting its first Maker Showcase to celebrate the local maker community and their diverse creations. All are welcome at this evening of free demonstrations, talks, networking, and refreshments.

The Showcase takes place Thursday, May 19, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Somerville High School, Room B032. Get a hands-on tutorial of the FabVille laser cutters and 3D printers, shop local wares and services, and meet BONK, the Somerville High School competition robot. Between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m., catch the speaker series, and at 7:00 p.m., enter to win a desktop 3D printer courtesy of Artisan's Asylum.

For more information and to register to attend, go to fabrille.org. Advanced registration is helpful but not required.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Arrests made in connection with Mystic Ave. shooting

On Sunday, May 1, at approximately 10:15 p.m., the Somerville Police Department received numerous 911 calls for shots fired in the area of 460 Mystic Avenue. Upon police arrival, neither suspects nor victims were present. In the days following, Somerville Detectives worked tirelessly to identify who was involved in this shooting. The Somerville Police have identified two juvenile victims and two suspects seen in the video at https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=iI1WqdnNhEE.

On Thursday, May 12, the Somerville Police Criminal Investigation Division, with the

assistance of the Boston Police Department's Tactical Team, Boston Police Department's Youth Violence Strike Force, and Massachusetts State Police executed a search warrant at a home in Dorchester. Pursuant to arrest warrants issued by the Somerville District Court and Middlesex County Juvenile Court arrested Teijhere Palmer (20) and a juvenile and charged both with unlawful possession of a firearm, armed assault with intent to murder and discharging a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling for their involvement in the shooting on May 1st at 460 Mystic Avenue in Somer-

ville. Also arrested were Devonte Bowden (24) of Dorchester charged with unlawful possession of firearm and ammunition and Laurian Slaughter (45) of Dorchester charged with unlawful possession of firearm and possession of a large capacity feeding device.

In addition, a search warrant executed at this dwelling in Dorchester lead to the recovery of four illegally possessed firearms as seen below one of which was capable of firing in a fully automatic mode. Somerville Police Chief, Charles Femino, praised members of Somerville Police, the Boston Police and Massachu-



setts State Police who worked safely, efficiently and professionally to identify victims, identify the alleged perpetrators and taking four illegally possessed guns off the streets.

'Art For All 3' fundraiser held to Support Latinx Immigrants

CONT. FROM PG 1

earned a reputation as the supportive host of countless community fundraisers, including 2019's *Art For All 2*, saw over thirty local artist's share their artwork with the community.

Differing from the somewhat more familiar art auction fundraiser, *Art For All* gives attendees the opportunity to pick their own price when purchasing the art, with no minimum price. "The magical part of it is, we let people put a price on the artwork, which is generous on the part of the artists but also generous on the part of the buyer. And it takes some of the pressure off, along with knowing it's going towards a good cause," said Silvina Mizrahi, an artist and organizer of this year's event.

This difference works to create a much less competitive environment where buyers feel more comfortable with making a donation that is within their means, and this is done very much intentionally by the organizers. "It's a unified movement," explains Jeremy Fischer, founder of Boston For All. "Nothing that we do is competitive, it's always a very low barrier to entry. Because our drive is for [the] community, and to be able to support people who are doing great work."

The Boston For All organization was created in the wake of the 2016 elections, as an almost direct response to the feeling of uncertainty that many felt as they had been thrust into a world where the most

vulnerable members of our community, especially the immigrant population, were under attack.

"In a very real way, under the Trump administration people like me are probably going to be fine. I'm a white guy who lives in Massachusetts and I'm alright, but it didn't feel like enough just to decide that we were okay. It was about making sure that we could also contribute to making our nation be okay, for all people," said Fischer.

"It's a good cause and it gave me a reason to come to Somerville grab some beer, and buy some art"

Fortunately, Boston For All has received wide support from community members such as Meghan O'Connor, who purchased a piece on Sunday to help the cause. "I'm really passionate about the work that La Colaborativa are doing, so I do anything I can do to help and make sure that as a non-profit they're supported and have enough money to stay afloat," said O'Connor.

"It was an easy decision to come, I saw it on social media and was like on of course!' It's a good cause and it gave me a reason to come to Somerville, grab some beer, and buy some art."

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Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Pickled Ramps

It's ramp season here in Massachusetts and this season will likely be shortened due to the warm weather we're experiencing this week. So, if you haven't ventured out to your local farmers market or grocery store yet, you may be out of luck. But if you're lucky enough to have some in your refrigerator and want to prolong their shelf life, pickling them will give you a few more weeks to enjoy these tasty wild leeks.

These wild leeks have a very unique, pungent garlicky onion flavor that I find to be quite satisfying and addictive. Ramps are only found in the wild and are becoming increasingly harder to find. I'm sure that was a factor for the substantial price increase this year. Just a couple of years ago, they were about \$15.00 per pound. This year they were pushing a jaw dropping \$30.00 per pound. For more information on foraging, harvesting, sustainability, and additional infor-

mation about storing and preserving, go to www.wildedible.com.

2-4 oz. Jars (*see note)

10 ramps, bulbs and leaves separated 2 garlic cloves roughly chopped, divided 2 pinches of red chili flakes, divided

1 teaspoon pickling spice, divided

2/3 cups cider vinegar

1/3 cups water

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon honey

Clean under cold water and dry with paper towels. I separated the leaves from the bulbs and cut off the roots. Place the bulbs, one chopped garlic clove, one pinch of red pepper flakes, and 1/2 teaspoon of pickling spice in one jar. In the other jar, place the leaves, the remaining garlic clove, red pepper flakes, and pickling spice. In a small saucepan, add the vinegar, water, salt and honey, and heat until the salt dissolves.

Pour the vinegar mixture in each jar and cover the contents. Cover, and let



sit on the counter for about a half hour, then place in the refrigerator. Let sit for a couple of days to fully infuse. Use in salads, on sandwiches, charcuterie board, or anything else you'd like.

(*Note - instead of using 2 - 4 oz. jars,

feel free to use 1-8 oz. jar. I just find it easier to have them in separate jars since I leave the leaves whole.)

Visit Dorothy's website at http://ddimarzo2002.wix.

Proposed bus network redesign bodes big changes to Somerville transport CONT. FROM PG 1

Frequency is a theme of the draft, in which every route except the unmodified 94 is projected to have service at least every 30 min-

Some routes that Somerville residents are familiar with will remain unmodified or simply receive a new name and increased frequency. These routes include

the 96 (becomes high-frequency route T96), the 101 (high-frequency route T101), the 86 (high-frequency route T109), the 90 (frequency increases to 30 minutes from hourly), the 83 (unchanged) and the portion of route 87 north of Davis Square (unchanged). Meanwhile, other routes in the area will change

significantly or disappear. This includes several routes along the incoming Green Line Extension, including the 80, 85, 88, and portions of the 87 south of Davis Square.

This draft is one step in what will likely be a multi-phase planning process. The MBTA has acknowledged the importance of

communication and education to the success of this project, claiming on their website that their "public information efforts during this time will be more extensive than any [they] have ever launched for a route change." They are currently accepting community feedback, including at a series of meetings, the next of which will be held virtually on this Thursday, May 19.

Visit the redesign's web page at mbta.com/bnrd to register for meetings, view maps of the proposed route changes, and learn about the process. You can also share questions or concerns with the MBTA at BetterBusProject@mbta.com.



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COMMENTARY

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

State legislature passes the Work and Family Mobility Act, and next steps to ensure justice for our immigrant communities



By State Representative Erika Uyterhoeven

In our Commonwealth, diversity is our greatest strength. Somerville is a shining example, where 25% of the community in our vibrant city are immigrants. Our city thrives on the many people and cultures in which we build community together.

As a daughter of a single mother from Japan, I grew up witnessing the contributions that immigrants provide to our communities every single day. I developed a profound respect for immigrant families, yet at the same time I lived through the immense challenges that recently resettled people are up against.

From a young age, my mom and I were frequently treated as outsiders in our own community. In addition to facing xenophobia and discrimination, many immigrants are marginalized by exclusionary state and federal policies designed to create fear. Immigrants deserve the same opportunities and protections as anyone else in the US. Fundamental human rights are universal, inherited at birth, and should not depend upon documentation status.

Too frequently, immigrants face the crippling decision to either seek public protections that guard our civil rights and risk separation from their families, or to remain silent and vulnerable. Immigrants should never suffer from unsafe working conditions, wage theft, wrongful eviction, reduced access to health care, sexual harassment and assault, or restricted opportunities for education because they fear accessing fundamental protections from discrimination. Fear has no place in our communities.

This spring I cast my vote to pass the Work and Family Mobility Act, and the Senate has now also voted in favor of providing drivers licenses for immigrants. Both chambers have approved the measure with a veto-proof majority, which means should Governor Baker decide to veto this important legislation (which he has previously expressed he may do), we have the votes to override him. I commend all the tireless work immigrants, organizers, and advocates of the Driving Families Forward Coalition, and the bill's lead sponsors,

including Somerville's own Rep. Barber, have done to ensure we have a veto-proof majority to pass this critical bill.

I am proud that we have taken steps to protect the right to move freely and provide people with a safe means to access employment and education, and support their families. As we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that all people, regardless of their immigration status, are able to access services, resources, and care, safely and without fear due to their lack of documents issued by the Massachusetts government.

Giving undocumented immigrants access to driver's licenses opens up many opportunities, ensuring our neighbors do more than survive, but thrive. This bill would allow for all qualified Massachusetts residents to apply for and receive either a standard Massachusetts driver's license or identification card, impacting over 200,000 residents in Massachusetts. To apply, residents must provide proper documentation and prove Massachusetts residency.

Without driver's licenses, our immigrants without status either lacked access to essential services or placed their health and their family's health at risk. Without this law, undocumented immigrants are forced to live in daily fear of

deportation over a routine traffic stop. This worry is compounded by racial profiling, increasing the likelihood of undocumented immigrants and people of color being pulled over, even if they were not doing anything illegal.

Not only will providing driver's licenses give peace of mind to undocumented immigrants, but it will also make our streets safer. When undocumented immigrants are granted legal access to driver's licenses, they will undergo the same testing that all other drivers do. This means that people who do not pass their driving test will not receive a driver's license, which in turn keeps unsafe drivers off the road, making our streets safer for all.

This vote is a monumental step in ensuring mobility and security for immigrants. Yet, there is so much more we need to do to protect immigrants in Massachusetts through state law. Immigrants deserve more than just the right to exist; they deserve the ability to thrive as full members of our community.

That's why I filed Somerville's Home Rule Petition that would allow non-citizen residents to vote in municipal elections. And at the beginning of the pandemic, I co-wrote a letter to Governor Baker demanding his administration to extend vaccination, PPE

resources to essential workers including translation and interpretation in multiple languages.

Both inside and beyond the State House, I have spent the past several years fighting alongside advocates and organizing support for the passage of the Safe Communities Act, to ensure that local police do not support, coordinate with, or get deputized by the federal immigration enforcement. The Safe Communities Act must be passed in order to protect immigrants rights.

And I am proud to support and advocate for H.1352 which would ensure tuition equity for all Massachusetts residents, regardless of immigration status. This would extend in-state rates to undocumented students in Massachusetts. We must ensure equal opportunity to public higher education for all high school graduates. Your documentation status should not affect your eligibility for in-state tuition or financial aid.

I will always stand up for legislation that grants immigrants full participation in everyday life and I am committed to transformative and empathetic immigration policies. We must do better for our undocumented neighbors and friends here in Somerville and across Massachusetts. Our fight for immigration justice is far from over.

Senator Markey joins Somerville launch of Fair Share Ballot Campaign

Senator Edward Markey joined dozens of local supporters of the Fair Share Amendment to launch the Somerville campaign for the statewide ballot question Sunday May 15. Teams of Fair Share advocates canvassed the Somerville's neighborhoods and speaking directly to voters. — Photos courtesy of State Representative Erika Uyterhoeven











COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



Our View Of The Times



This year's installment of PorchFest hit the city this past weekend. Those who have, in the past, taken notice of the event - and it is an event that is rather difficult not to notice – usually have fairly strong opinions of approval or distaste for the goings on. It was no different this time around.

For the uninitiated, PorchFest invites local musicians to give something of an informal concert outside their homes, either on a front or back porch, yard, garden, etc.

The event is organized and presented by the Somerville Arts Council, who register participants and provide interested parties with maps to the "stars" homes.

Some folks love it, others hate it, and of course there are plenty who fall in the middle. Naysayers complain that some of the participants get too loud, and that there is sometimes public drinking at certain loca-

tions that goes beyond legal limitations. Some complain that the "concerts" go on longer than the scheduled times and that they often evolve (or devolve) into full on block parties.

It is, of course, up to each individual participant to follow the guidelines and be responsible "promoters" of their own presentations. A few bad apples ideally shouldn't spoil the entire barrel.

With no road closures involved and a minimum amount of inconvenience to neighbors being reported, for the most part, PorchFest can be a pleasant experience for those who like to get out and hear some nice, original live music and rub elbows with some friends and neighbors.

So, for better or worse, it's a cheap show at twice the price. If you missed it this year there's always the next - or so we assume.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

https://www.somervillema.gov/ departments/programs/coronavirus-covid-19-information-and-resources.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to Mr. 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. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Kevin D. Downey, Ken McIntyre, Helen Martino Mccallum, Karen Keenan McCann, Rick Driscoll, Gene Duggan, Deirdre Grace, Shirley Valentine, Danielle Scrima and Iona O'Brien 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 is National Public Works Week. Join in this week in thanking the City of Somerville Department of Public Works (aka DPW) staff who every day (and sometimes overnight) care for our streets, walkways, public buildings, parks, trees, civic spaces and more in our city. When the roads are clear of snow, the trash is off our streets, free masks are stocked at the library, and the parks, playgrounds, and schools are cared for, it's the committed staff at DPW who got the job done. Thank you, DPW!

The City of Somerville, Somerville Community Corporation (SCC), Boynton Yards, and USQ are hosting a job and resource fair to connect residents with local employers and opportunities. The event will take place Thursday, May 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Avenue. Meet with representatives from nearly 30 local organizations across technology, hospitality, health care, construction, retail, education, and more. See the full list and register to attend at somervillema.

gov/jobfair. SCC's First Source Career Coaches are available to help with résumé development, interview practice, or other preparation. To learn more and schedule a coaching session, visit somervillecdc. org/firstsource.

Somerville residents who otherwise do not have a means of transportation can once again sign up for free taxi rides to access food and local medical care through the city's Taxi to Health program. Ride vouchers are also available to use in the future. To learn more, visit: https://tinyurl. com/somervillecab. Open to all over age 18. Residents aged 60 Continued on page 15

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's lio Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous

1. In which year were the Boston Bruins founded?

mixture, hodgepodge

- 2. Who holds the record for the most goals in Boston Bruins history?
- 3. Who holds the record for the most penalty minutes in Boston Bruins franchise history?
- 4. Who holds the record for the most points in a single season by a Boston Bruin with 152?
- 5. Who was Boston Celtics' first coach?
- 6. What player has the most points in a season in Boston Celtics history?

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- 7. What Boston Celtics player has scored the most points in a single game?
- 8. Who has made the most free throws in a Boston Celtics season?
- 9. Treehouse of Horror is the Halloween series of which popular animated show?
- 10. Who described the rings of Saturn as "ears of a teacup"?
- 11. Which two drummers played on Nirvana's first album, Bleach?
- 12. What was the original name of the band Green Day?

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- 1. One man set a world record by putting on 260 T-shirts at once.
- 2. There is a metallic asteroid shaped like a dog bone named "Kleopatra."

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD WEATHER 101

ACROSS

- 1. Found in Pandora's box
- 5. Kind of trip
- 8. Toothy freshwater fish
- 12. Medieval headdress
- 13. Ne on periodic table
- 14. Golfer's weapons
- 15. Biblical twin
- 16. Russian river or Russian mountains
- 17. Understand (2 words)
- 18. Moisture in the air
- 20. Law school test acronym
- 21. Layers in plywood
- 22. Trigonometry abbr.
- 23. Uses a laser
- 25. Squawked or crabbed
- 29. Bitty
- 30. Two dots above a letter
- 33. Jasmine of "Aladdin," e.g.
- 34. Forbidden, in Islam
- 36. Bruin legend Bobby
- 37. Lays in peace
- 38. "Metamorphoses" poet
- 39. Charge with crime
- 41. "For ____ a jolly..."
- 42. Easily irritated
- 44. No clouds
- 46. Gremlin or pixie
- 47. Check the weather before hitting this hiking path
- 49. Speech defect
- 51, Cloudy
- 54. Classic TV's Mrs. Brady
- 55. Same as island
- 56. "Cheers" regular
- 58. Elephant poacher's ware
- 59. Pb on periodic table
- 60. The first sign of rain?
- 61. Declare untrue
- 62. Pig's digs
- 63. MacFarlane or Rogen

DOWN

- 1. Road hazard
- 2. Eyelid hair
- 3. Oahu shindig
- 4. Assumes bad posture

42 59

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- © StatePoint Media
- 5. Chill-inducing
- 6. Bearded ruminants
- 7. Unrivaled
- 8. Barometer reading
- 9. Tiny bit
- 10. Purl partner
- 11. Three ahead of PST
- 13. Certain beachgoers' philosophy
- 14. Cold weather is needed for this melt-
- able home
- 19. Part of small intestine
- 22. Cathode-ray tube
- 23. Hit the road
- 24. Falcon's home
- 25. Mentor or expert
- 26. The Obamas' daughter
- 27. Bruce Lee's "____ the Dragon"
- 28. Treat without respect
- 29. Wallop

- 31. Scottish lake
- 32. Rainbow shape
- 35. Weather warning
- 37. Archeologist's find
- 39. Venom source
- 40. Filled with dread
- 43. State indirectly
- 45. African antelopes
- 47. Living room centerpiece?
- (2 words)
- 48.4 x 4 race
- 49. Cleanse
- 50. #14 Across, sing.
- 51. They don't mix with water
- 52. Sight for what eyes?
- 53. Between walk and canter
- 54. El ____ of medieval Spain
- 57. Knot alternative, acr.
- Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

Philip Henry Vokrot July 12, 1935 – April 29, 2022



Philip Henry Vokrot, 86, resident of Cobble Hill in Somerville, MA, died peacefully at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston on April 29, surrounded by his beloved wife and three children. Born in Pennsylvania to parents who emigrated from Latvia, Philip and his two sisters worked on the family's Bucks County farm growing up. Philip graduated from Quakertown High School and Ursinus College. His college years were interrupted by service in the United States Army. Philip began his working life in marketing at the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in Lancaster, PA. In 1975, Philip joined Cornell Dubilier Electronics (CDE), a New Bedford, MA corporation as Materials Manager for CDE's manufacturing plant in Taiwan. In 1979, he was promoted to General Manager and resided in Taiwan until 1982. Upon his return to the US, Philip held subsequent positions for several electronics companies in both Massachusetts and Florida before his retirement.

Philip's relocation abroad stoked a love of travel that he shared with his family, organizing trips to Greece, Italy, France, Thailand, The Philippines, and Hong Kong. He and his wife bowled competitively in leagues for many years, and he golfed as often as he could. Later in life, he developed a passion for rollercoasters and amusement parks. Philip was a devoted father to his three children. He had unending enthusiasm for their interests and proudly watched each one grow up and start families of their own. His Christian faith was a constant source of strength and inspiration.

Philip bequeathed his body to The University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, MA through the anatomical gift program. Internment at the Massachusetts National Cemetery will follow at a later date. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Anli Vokrot; daughters Stacey Vokrot-Mello (Alan); Chase Poffenberger (Brien); and son Peter Vokrot (Julie) and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Alida Vokrot, and his two sisters, Nellie Spacil and Naomi Anderson.

His gentle spirit will live on in everyone who knew and loved him.

Help count the herring

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MRWA) confirmed that the spring 2022 herring run has begun, with the first fish spotted on April 18 at the Mystic Lakes Dam in Medford. Every spring, 550,000+ river herring travel from the Atlantic Ocean into Boston Harbor and up the Mystic River to Mystic Lakes and Horn Pond to spawn. You can help count the herring online using the MWRA's underwater "fish cam" and counting platform. Documenting the herring run size provides important information to help advocate for a clean and healthy Mystic River, and for this unique species and the wildlife it supports. For more about the herring migration, and count, please visit https://www.mysticherring.org/video?blm_aid=1956875#/.

Somerville schools grapple with Covid-19 issues

By Kyle Dante

Covid-19 remains an issue in the community, especially in the schools. Rapid testing still remains in effect in the Somerville school system. In addition, if one tests positive, the isolation time sits at five days as of this time. An additional five days of masking is required to prevent spreading the virus. Masks will continually be provided to residents and students. To participate in sports, a Covid-19 vaccination is required.

Covid-19 metrics remain an issue. Despite the removal of the mask mandate, there is a possibility of its reintroduction. As of now, there is confusion on the procedures of handling a positive Covid-19 case. Specifically, if a family member or if their children are exposed or in close contact with an infected person.

As discussed at the May 9 School Committee meeting, mandating school masking is risky. Without a public masking policy, it risks alienating people. One possibility is masking particular grades with higher positive cases. At the same time,



it can be unfair. Somerville Elementary Schools only had two positive cases.

If there are cases, a mass emailing goes out to parents. It helps in keeping them in the know of what to do regarding the cases. A policy on a mask mandate, however, remains a compliance issue. After completing rapid testing administered every Monday and Wednesday, the parents learn of a potential positive case from school nursing. However, for confidentiality purposes, the Somerville websites publicly avoid bringing up any names. At the same time, there is no contact

tracing, under state law.

SomervilleMa.Gov will have more information on the Covid-19 pandemic on state and school regulations. As the pandemic runs rampant, the Somerville school system will closely monitor cases. If there is a rise in positive cases, there will be a return to discussing the mandating of masks in Somerville schools.

A few weeks ago, SPS families and staff were sent an email discussing the increase in cases after vacation and explained the temporary measures to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

Somerville High School incident

On Monday, May 9, during school dismissal, Somerville Police responded to a call from a relative for a family matter requiring a response to the entrance to Somerville High School.

The Department's Juvenile Officer and another uniformed Police Officer arrived at the High School. At the request and authorization of the child's mother, the juvenile initially agreed to travel with the officer home and willingly entered the Juvenile Officer's vehicle. As the Juvenile Officer prepared to leave, a crowd of students gathered around the scene. One student opened the rear door in an attempt to encourage the juvenile to exit the vehicle.

The uniformed Officer approached the second juvenile ordering him to move away. The juvenile backed away but refused to leave the area. The Officer further approached the second juvenile, placed himself between the juvenile and the unmarked police cruiser, and physical contact and a tussle ensued that resulted in the Officer bringing the juvenile to the ground.

As both the Officer and juvenile regained their footing and a short struggle continued, the Officer pushed the student back to create distance and disengage from the student at which time school staff stepped in to assist in deescalating the situation. The second juvenile was escorted away by an unknown female student with no further action by police at that time.

"Any use of force by a Police Officer is a serious matter. After a preliminary review of these circumstances, I have ordered the Professional Standards Office to begin an internal investigation," said Somerville Police Chief Charles Femino.

LEGAL NOTICES

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



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING Project File No. 608562

A Live Virtual Public Informational Meeting will be hosted on the Mass-DOT website below to provide an update of the design for the proposed Signal and Intersection Improvements at McGrath Highway (Route 28) / Mystic Avenue (Route 38) project as well as an update on early action construction improvements at the Mystic Avenue /McGrath Highway intersection in Somerville, MA.

WHEN: 6:30 PM. June 2, 2022

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with an update on the status and progress of the proposed Signal and Intersection Improvements at McGrath Highway (Route 28) / Mystic Avenue (Route 38) project. All views and comments submitted in response to the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of intersection improvements to improve safety for all users and to provide more efficient traffic operations in the immediate area of the intersection of McGrath Highway (Route 28) and Mystic Avenue (Route 38). This project will address the safety and operational deficiencies faced by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. The work will include new traffic signals; improved pedestrian accessibility and connections; improved transit accessibility; and updated signs and pavement markings.

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email at (MassDOT. CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

This Live Virtual Public Informational Meeting or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E. CHIEF ENGINEER

5/18/22 The Somerville Times





CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS REP# 22-63

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services

Department invites proposals for:

On-Call Lead Inspectors for Housing Rehabilitation Program

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: Wednesday, May 18, 2022. 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 8, 2022.

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.

 $Please\ email\ \underline{tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov}\ for\ more\ information.$

Thupten Chukhatsang Senior Procurement Manager 617-625-6600 x3400

5/18/22 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday**, **May 25**, **2022**, **at 6:00 PM**, on two petitions for New Used Car Dealer Class 2 Licenses:

Intercar Auto Sales Corp seeks a New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License at 39 Webster Ave. for 20 cars outside. 0 inside.

Top Speed Vehicles Inc seeks a New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License at 631 Somerville Ave, for 8 cars inside, 6 outside.

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

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8510940602217140491. You

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8510940602217140491. You can also find this link on the City website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the City Clerk at the address below, or by email to cityclerk@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Committee.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS CITY CLERK

5/18/22 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, June 1, 2022, at 6:00pm** through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4936486574412546574 Webinar ID: 164-023-867

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (213) 929-4212 Access code: 982-518-450

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

151 Linwood Street

U-Haul Center of Boston seeks multiple Hardship Variances to develop a 6-story commercial building within the Commercial Industry (CI) zoning district. The requested Hardship Variances include number of stories, building height, driveway width, driveway in frontage area, façade build out, principal entrance, curb cuts within 150′, loading activities encroaching on a sidewalk.

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

 $\frac{.}{https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions}$

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

5/18/22 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY 30 Memorial Road Somerville, Massachusetts 02145 Telephone (617) 625-1152 Fax (617) 628-7057 TDD (617) 628-8889

Request for Proposal
Rental Lease Agreement

Issued: Wednesday May 4, 2022

The Project and the Sponsor

The Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) has received a planning grant award from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), to undertake a mixed-income redevelopment of Clarendon Housing Development, a state-aided family public housing development. The redevelopment will be carried out with the Preservation of Affordable Housing, Redgate, and Somerville Community Corporation, the SHA's designated Developers. The resulting mixed-income community will require the SHA to relocate approximately 75 families into apartments not owned by the SHA.

The SHA is a public housing agency established by MGL c. 121B to provide housing to low-income residents in the City of Somerville. The SHA is not an agency of the City of Somerville; it owns and manages 1,415 Units throughout the City including family, elderly/disabled. In addition, the SHA administers a large rental assistance program (Section 8, MRVP, & AHVP).

Scope of Services

The SHA seeks multiple owners of developments or single rental units, proximate to Somerville, Massachusetts 02145 with preference given to those apartments in Somerville, MA with available 1, 2-, & 3 - bedroom units that will be vacant Between May 2022 and October 2024, to enter into a master lease agreement (Attachment B) with the SHA for 18 months with a month-to-month extensions following the lease period. The Tenant shall have the right of first refusal to extend up to 30 months. The SHA will pay Fair Market Rent (FMR) as the applicable payment standards for the units. The SHA will be entering into an agreement with multiple owners, to sublease approximately 75 units, with an agreement signed for each unit occupied. The FMR payment standard by bedroom size is as follows.

1-Bedroom units 2-Bedroom units 3-Bedroom units FMR \$ 1,986
 FMR \$ 2,399
 FMR \$ 2,966

To receive a full RFP Package please send a request via email to Kevin Bumpus at KevinB@sha-web.org on or after May 4th,2022. All questions should be directed to Kevin Bumpus at 617-625-1152 Ext. 321.

Completed proposals should be emailed to KevinB@sha-web.org
no later than 1:00 PM on Monday June 6th,2022. Proposals may also be mailed to The Somerville Housing Authority, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, Ma 02145 attention Kevin Bumpus.

5/4/22, 5/11/22, 5/18/22 The Somerville Times

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Ms. Cam's From on page 8 Answers

1. 1924

7. Larry Bird

2. John Bucyk

8. Paul Pierce

3. Terry O'Reilly, 2095

9. The Simpsons

10. Galileo

4. Phil Esposito

11. Dale Crover and Chad Channing

| 5. John "Honey" | Russell

12. Sweet Children

6. John Havlicek

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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 2, 2022, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5390285809521287435 Webinar ID: 378-667-611

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8321 Access code: 996-030-267

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

28-44 Broadway Ben Rogan proposes a 6-story LEED Platinum General Building with a Household Living principal use in the Mid Rise 6 district, which requires Site Plan Approval and a Special Permit.

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; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

5/18/22 The Somerville Times



Community Preservation Act Funds are available for Affordable Housing Development/Housing Support Programs in the City of Somerville

The Somerville Affordable Housing Trust Fund (SAHTF) is reopening its annual process of local distribution of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds that are designated for Somerville community housing projects and programs. Approximately \$298,382 in FY22 CPA Housing funds will be made available through one competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) processes to provide funding for:

• The support of affordable housing in Somerville by housing program providers (Tenancy Stabilization Programs and other housing programs).

The RFP will be posted and available starting on May 13th, 2022. The proposal submission deadline for the RFP is 12:00pm on June 6th, 2022.

Full instructions for proposal submission are included in the RFP. The RFP will be available for download at the City of Somerville's website at http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/affordable-housing-trust-fund by clicking on "Funding and Opportunities".

More information about eligible uses and funding priorities is available in pages 1-2 of the RFP. For questions please contact City of Somerville, (617) 625-6600 x2587 or by email at pgoldstein@somervillema.gov.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 109 feet on a 109-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 94 Beacon Street, Somerville, Middlesex County. MA 02143. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Monica Argueta, m.argueta@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to The Somerville Times. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com. The Somerville Times Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

The remaining businesses in the Arts at the Armory building since Eminent Domain will be coming together for a Town Hall Meeting in the next couple of days. Councilor Beatriz Gomez-Mouakad will be spearheading the meeting, while meeting logistics will be thought out through further discussion with her, the tenants, and Councilor at Large Willie Burnley, Jr. The Town Hall meeting will be held through Zoom, and details about the time of Town Hall Meeting will be released soon by the City Clerk.

The City has now owned the building for one year now. Originally, the City asked all businesses to leave the premises on December 31, 2021. Since then, a great deal of press, social media, lawyers, and politicians have been a part of the process of not throwing businesses out on New Years Eve. Tenants in "good graces" have been told that they can stay here now through December 31, 2022, but with absolutely no promises past that date. As such, we hope that there can be a larger discussion with the community, our clients, and the City to preserve the current businesses while new tenants move in through the "Armory Master Plan."

I, business owner of the Out of the Blue Art Gallery, have one lease ending for a living work space in April 2023 and another for my business performance space ending in March 2024. Other businesses have similar lengths of leases, and are uncertain whether the CIty will honor them. Currently, the City has hired a "consultant" to determine our futures. No updates about this consultant were provided to us tenants since September 23, 2021, and we have yet to meet this consultant. Our hope is that this consultant will be in attendance at the Town Hall Meeting so that he/she gets the full picture of how the Eminent Domain process has impacted our businesses and daily operations. I, for one, just want to complete my 2 lease durations and then work with a rehousing consultant to move the Gallery and myself elsewhere.

In the meanwhile, Somerville Arts Council management has started to move in artists to the vacant spaces in the building. We have all found these artists to be kindhearted and forward thinking. I just hope us current tenants can work with the SAC management in the Armory to also be included in the future of the building. The businesses existing here before and since the Eminent Domain process include: Dead Moon Audio, Henley Design, Out of the Blue Art Gallery, Acoustic Strings of New England, and the Center for Arabic Culture radio station. We hope that there will be a fair process moving forward to help protect the current businesses through the duration of their leases while accommodating newer artists chosen by the SAC management team.

Thank you, community of Somerville, for taking the time to sign the petition for a Town Hall meeting. We have reached the threshold for registered voters, and we look forward to a future Armory where we "make new friends, and keep the old," just like the Girl Scouts of America taught me! For more details about the nature of the petition, please find it here: www.outoftheblueartgallery.com.

The Out of the Blue Art Gallery is continuing to curate art shows specific to the Gallery artists on the Armory walls, while also providing a comfortable space for national acts to display their comedy, theater, music, and community gathering talents in our leased performance space. We look forward to keeping our presence in Somerville. However, if we or other current businesses need to move on as the "Armory Master Plan" develops, we hope the City can provide us with essential rehoming costs and support. If the intention in taking this building was to "preserve arts," please note that small arts businesses live hand to mouth financially, and we need all the advice and mentorship for us to operate long term.

Sincerely, Parama

Business Manager and Owner, Out of the Blue Community Arts Director, Violinist, Vocalist, Producer: Parma Chai

Somerville Job and Resource Fair

The City of Somerville, Somerville Community Corporation (SCC), Boynton Yards, and USQ are hosting a job and resource fair to connect residents with local employers and opportunities.

The event will take place Thursday, May 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Mystic Activity Center, 530 Mystic Avenue. Meet with representatives from nearly 30 local organizations across technology, hospitality, health care, construction, retail, education, and more. See the full list and register to attend at somervillema.gov/jobfair.



SCC's First Source Career Coaches are available to help with résumé development, interview practice, or other preparation. To learn more and schedule a coaching session, visit somervillecdc.org/firstsource.

PorchFest 2022: Bringing the jams all back home

This year's edition of Somerville's annual PorchFest event took place last Saturday on porches, in driveways, and across front lawns across the city. Local musicians showed off their skills and appreciative onlookers took it in, danced to it and sang along.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



















Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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To advertise in The Somerville Times call Bobbie Toner 857-488-5138

On This Day in History May 18

1652 – A law is passed in Rhode Island banning slavery in the colonies but it causes little stir and seems unlikely to be enforced.

1860 – Abraham Lincoln is nominated for president.

1896 – The Supreme Court's decision on Plessy v. Ferguson upholds the "separate but equal" policy in the United States.

1917 – The U.S. Congress passes the Selective Service act, calling up soldiers to fight World War I.

1942 - New York ends night baseball games for the rest of World War II.

1951 - The United Nations moves its headquarters to New York city.

1974 - India becomes the sixth nation to explode an atomic bomb.

1980 – After rumbling for two months, Mount Saint Helens, in Washington, erupts 3 times in 24 hours.

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.

Death and deterioration in Davis Square



By Jack Connolly Jackconnolly422@gmail.com

If you are not aware, last Wednesday morning around 8AM (5/10/22) a lifeless body of a Davis Sq. a regular hang-out guy was found near JP Licks Ice Cream in the Davis Sq, Plaza. Fellow drinking and drugging pals lamented the loss of 'Mike', who was well known to all of us who live and work in or around Davis Sq. by daily sightings, as he and others huddled about, taking care of business outside of the 7-11 store.

Interesting to note that the Davis Sq Facebook Group was full of comments, mostly sad about

the untimely demise, likely an overdose COD (cause of death) It wasn't until Friday AM was there any reporting of the death, (though word on the street circulated rapidly around town) when Somerville Patch broke the story.

Neighbors, both residents and businesses were not surprised; Most everyone opined it was 'only a matter of time'.

Because of the death likely due to a drug overdose, several folks also commented on the need for a Safe Consumption Center (aka supervised drug injection drug site) where addicts could bring their 'previously obtained' (aka illegal drugs) where trained staff would be present to supervise the drug injection, and assist with medical attention if necessary (including use of NARCAN, which would counter the effect of the drug).

In addition, Ward Six City Councilor Lance Davis commented when someone inquired when a supervised use site was coming, he remarked" that he had this conversation with the Mayor yesterday. Soon, but not nearly soon enough." OK for Councilor Davis, and no doubt many other elected officials, who likely feel the same about the need for such a consumption center.

Now the big question; WHERE would this Safe Consumption Center (aka Drug injection site) be located? Shouldn't residents and businesses have some input?

According to a report by WBUR back in March, the City of Somerville has contracted (estimated cost @\$40K) with a local non-profit, Fenway Health Alliance, headed up by a former Somerville State Representative Carl Sciortino, to evaluate the possible location of such a facility in East Somerville or Davis Sq. Check out the City website: www.somervillema.gov Somerville-supervised-consumption-site-report.

Why the big secret? What does the Somerville Board of Health have to say about this possibility? How about the Mayor, who has a large 'Public information' Dept., informing the Davis Sq. community? Any City Council members willing to take a stand?

Looks like this could be a further decline in the once much-desired Davis Sq., that Utne magazine once labeled as one of the coolest places in the US, "the Paris of the Nineties".

Now Assembly Sq. and Union Sq. are the primary focus of the City, as economic and infrastructure attention to Davis Sq. has sadly diminished.

Check out the crumbling-asphalt-patched crosswalks at Highland and College Ave., Day St. to the island in front of Mike's Restaurant, or from Dover St. to the Davis sq. Plaza: Don't forget to watch your step walking on the Elm St. And College Ave. sidewalks, as loose bricks are either popping up or are out of place. Now the City wants to eliminate parking on both sides of College Ave from the T stop to Morrison Ave. for what else? Barrier-protected bike lanes.

Coming out of the misery of

Covid, this is what the City thinks is prudent? Make it more difficult for people to come to Davis Sq., especially nights, weekends, and bad weather days and nights? Looks like something out of the Field of Dreams movie: "if you build it, they will come."

One more problem facing Davis Sq. is the departure of The City's Director of Office of Special Planning and Community Development George Proakis, who is taking his many talents to nearby Watertown. Proakis had earlier in the year told the Chamber of Commerce he would make Davis Sq. a priority working with the new Mayor and her team.

The question facing the City now is: How do you prevent further drug-related and economic death in Davis Sq.? Stay tuned.

Editors' note: Jack Connolly is a native Somervillian, a Davis Sq. resident and insurance agent: He is also a former Somerville Ward Six and At Large Alderman (known now as City Councilor).

Somerville will participate in Regional Gun Buy Back Initiative 2022

The City of Somerville Police Department and the Middlesex Sheriff's Office will partner to host the Somerville gun buyback initiative Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Somerville Department of Public Works Yard located at 1 Franey Road. The regional initiative includes several communities in the Middlesex county over the past couple of years. The focus is on providing residents with a safe and secure way of removing unwanted firearms from their homes.

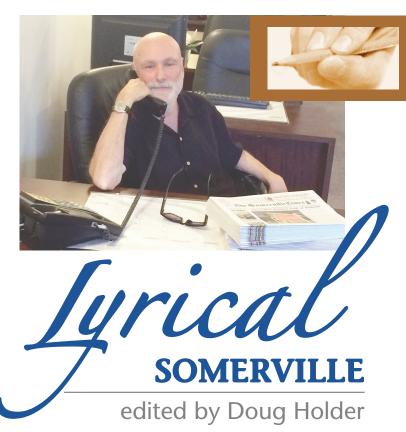
The Somerville Police Department and Middlesex Sheriff's Office ask that the following steps be taken for anyone interested in disposing their firearms at the event.

- Please bring firearms unloaded with the safety engaged in a bag, box or case.
- Leave the unloaded firearms inside the trunk of your vehicle upon arrival at the Somerville Department of Public Works Yard located at 1 Franey Rd. Please note the following details for the event.
- Receive up to \$200 in gift cards per firearm.
- + BB guns/Air Guns and ammunition do not qualify for gift cards but can be turned in for disposal.



The Middlesex Sheriff's Office and Massachusetts State Police will safely destroy all guns collected at the event.

The Somerville Police encourages residents to take advantage of this opportunity to help prevent accidents and injuries in our homes and community.



A month after her family put down the family cat, Chloe, 12-year-old Maisy Flynn penned a tribute to the companion she had known all her life. This one's for Chloe. Maisy Flynn is a 12 year old girl who lives with her mother, father and brother. When not at Middle School, Maisy can be found hanging out with



friends, enjoying time with her family or working on arts and crafts. She is the beloved granddaughter of Paul Steven Stone, a local writer and member of the Bagel Bards writers group.

Blind Eyes

A Tribute to Chloe Flynn

Soft fur, sweet meows, and a warm heart...Chloe The cutest cat you will ever lay your eyes upon The calmest meows you will ever hear The softest fur you will ever touch...

When I look into her hazel eyes, the color of an emerald, I see love in her eyes

I see eyes that tell me she will protect me at all cost I see eyes that make me feel warm and hopeful

And when she looks in my eyes, I know that she can see the love in my eyes too

I would never have thought that those eyes would not be the same ever again

She was my best friend My role model

My sister

My pet

My life.

I loved her more than anything else in the world.

When I would go to bed she'd climb right in beside me and purr When I packed for vacation, she'd sit right in my suitcase When I ate dinner, she would eat right next to me

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'This Costly Season' by John Okrent

This Costly Season
By John Okrent
Arrowsmith, 2021. 62 pp. \$20.00

Review by Ruth Hoberman

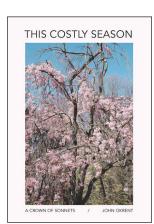
In March 2020, the Northwest and the Northeast shared a peculiar horror: that first onslaught of deathly ill people, the sirens and scrambling for masks and ventilators, the fear of contagion – all weirdly juxtaposed with daffodils and nesting birds. John Okrent's recent collection of sonnets, *This Costly Season*, recreates the anxiety, despair, and rare glimmers of hope so many of us felt during that time.

A physician as well as a poet, Okrent practices family medicine at a community health center in Tacoma, Washington – the state where the first coronavirus case in the United States was confirmed on January 21, followed in late February by the first death.

By March 17, the date of Okrent's first poem (each poem is titled only by its date), the U.S. death toll had surpassed one hundred: "Driving to clinic," the poem opens, "— on the radio a pulmonologist/in Italy tells of choosing among the dying/which ones not to save." Fear is becoming the norm. The gun shop is packed, the poem notes, and "Everyone's eyes seemed wider/above their face masks."

Okrent's experiences as a doctor give him credibility, but he turns his attention mainly to what he sees going to and from the clinic, and to the pandemic's

impact on his family. "Home from clinic," he writes in *March* 19, 2020, "I throw my clothes/straight in the wash and get in the shower/before I touch my wife and daughter." He'd like to think he can protect his family: "From our cabin we keep the world,"



the poem opens. But its ending acknowledges that home can't be partitioned off: "In our cabin we keep the world." The poem that follows, *March* 20, 2020, elaborates on our interconnectedness, "We keep the world, the world keeps us." And *March* 27, 2020: "If you die, I die too."

Okrent's book is subtitled A Crown of Sonnets, evoking the sonnet's long history of exploring love and time. While his poems deviate from the traditional rhyme scheme and meter, they retain the form's fourteen lines, meditative pace, and narrow focus. Some include internal rhymes, and many end with a turn or summation that has some of the feel of Shakespeare's concluding couplets.

Most powerful, though, is the repetitive impact of the crown: as one poem's last line becomes the first line of the next poem, the scene darkens and intensifies. That first poem, for example, which opens with the Italian pulmonologist, shifts to *Continued on page 15*

And when I was upset, she would come right up to me and purr

She knew just what I needed and she made me so happy

As I said before, I loved her more than anything else in the world I would protect her at all cost

I would protect her at all cos Until the dreaded day came

Her eyes, once the color of an emerald, turned to a blurry black color, the color of coal
She crashed into walls and chairs and tables
When I looked into her eyes, I couldn't see the joy
I couldn't see the hope
I couldn't feel the warmth
But I could still feel the love

My parents came to me and my brother

Sadness spilling out of them Then the news hit me It felt as if I was punched in the gut, We were putting her down.

Thursday, January 12

The day that Chloe would leave us, Forever She looked into my eyes and I could see the love I looked her back in the eyes and I couldn't look back I would never get to see those eyes again

Her fur once soft and warm, turned a bitter cold But I will always remember her

I will never forget that day and I will never forget the cat and one thing for sure,

I will never forget how much I loved her and that's all that matters.

— Maisy Flynn

The Davis Square Farmers Market opens May 18

Located near the commercial and cultural hub that is Somerville's Davis Square, this long-running market features over two dozen Massachusetts farmers and food producers offering a vibrant selection of delicious produce, protein, baked goods, ready-to-eat meals, alongside a host of other locally made products. This beloved weekly event takes place across from American Flatbread in the municipal parking lot adjacent to the Davis Square Plaza. Stop by and support your local food system.



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. All SNAP users are automatically enrolled in this program. Visit the market manager's booth to learn more.

The Davis Square Farmers Market is a Mass Farmers Market managed market. MFM is a non-profit organization that has been working to enhance farmers markets and support locally grown food for over forty years.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 14

an image of Walt Whitman tending to Union soldiers amid "the smell of dead/or dying flesh. And in all the dooryards, the smell of lilacs." The image evokes the book's project as a whole – to salvage what there is of beauty during fearful times. But it also sets us up for the poem's ending, which imagines the man working at the busy gun shop in his "latex gloves the color of lilacs, only darker."

And then *March 18*, 2020 opens "The color of lilacs, only darker – the clouds/that cover the top of Mt. Rainier this evening/like a shroud." Those echoing lines create a sense of claustrophobia, of consequences unfolding, of contagion.

Okrent's title comes from W. D. Snodgrass's *April Inventory*, a poem quoted in the book's epigraph and again in *April 20, 2020*:

That time of year when every crow you see carries clump of hair or twig or tuft of down into the trees. They brood and hover over our duress while spring repays last summer's debts. "We shall afford our costly seasons," said Snodgrass. But this one? Like a stain, desperation seeps into things: the grocery bag, the steering wheel, little hand in my hand, midnight bowl of cereal.

Spring's bank account is full; our own, emptied by loss.

The allusion to Shakespeare's *That Time of Year* is equally bleak: Shakespeare links winter, fall, and twilight to the approach of death. For Okrent, however, death is already there at daybreak: "The mist hangs low around the whole horizon/like the lid of an eye that's closing. But it's only morning."

Unless morning means there's time still to hope? Okrent's forty-eight sonnets mention disasters besides the pandemic – the murder of George Floyd, hurricanes, wildfire, a divisive President – and also hints of change, like the Black Lives Matter movement. In *June 1*, 2020, he calls for "more gentle/more genital, more wrestling with angels, more asphyxia's opposite."

June 5, 2020 notes, of a protestor knocked down by po-

lice, "blood leaked like a secret from his ear." And the next begins, "From the ear, to please the muses, music/reaches for more music"; the speaker and his family, newly tested for Covid, visit family "for the first time in months." Ultimately, Okrent suggests, in the book's final poem, "Nothing is wasted,/love least of all." That poem concludes, as so many others have begun, with the words "Driving to clinic." But this time, there is no mist like the "lid of an eye that's closing." Instead, "day breaks its glass of light on the harbor/and I take it – like a chance – like a cure."

With their repetitive box-like form and those reverberating final lines, Okrent's poems are at times despairing, but always graceful and controlled. There's a muffled quality to them that I found added to their impact, as if the speaker were too stunned to probe too deeply or to let loose emotionally. If, in ten years, we've forgotten what these last few years have felt like, This Costly Season will be there to remind us: "I bow my head to the gun/of the infrared thermometer, then enter the clinic" (April 23, 2020).

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

60 and over can book rides directly by calling Connie Lorenti at the Council on Aging: 617-625-6600 ext. 2319.

The mural bike tour is back! Join Cyclopolitan and Assembly Connect on Sunday, May 22, for a beautiful, mural-filled ride through East Somerville and Assembly. Added Bonus: the ride will make a stop at the East Somerville farmers market. Follow the link to register: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeb-Mmkn4P8psWIxO8Ce7YzS-r993I4bNg60Z5-567YCcM_Ghag/viewform?fbclid=IwAR3U-Mb4FLut-FkO7gU9ejA9Ll0AoA5aGLYKQT-fkP38uRZ9M2TmmMUrm45c4

Throughout the month of May, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC) partners with other local organizations to host events honoring

Somerville's history and historic assets. All events are open to the public, ADA accessible, and free. Thursday, May 19, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.: Docent Tour of Milk Row Cemetery. Saturday, May 21, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Docent Tour of Prospect Hill Tower.

Somerville Council on Aging will host Movie Matinee and Pizza. Wednesday, May 25, at 10:00 a.m. at the Ralph and Jenny Center, 9 New Washington St. (behind the Holiday Inn). Showing will be: Moneyball, starring Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill and Phillip Seymour Hoffman. Oakland A's general manager Billy Beane's successful attempt to assemble a baseball team on a lean budget by employing computer-generated analysis to acquire new players. \$2 for Pizza. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov. Grab and Go Lunch Available after the movie.

East Somerville Carnaval is back. Sunday June 5, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Broadway. Music from Lookie Lookie, Grupo Los Nitidos, Lechuga Fresca, Grooversity and more to be announced. Food from many East Somerville restaurants will be available, plus ice cream from Tipping Cow. Family friendly activities with Somerville Youth Soccer, Parkour, Esh Circus, Play with Clay at Mudflat, Somerville Recreation and a Dunk Tank.

Somerville Council on Aging's May Boxed Lunch Pick Up, Friday, May 20, at the Ralph and Jenny Center, 9 New Washington St. (behind the Holiday Inn) starting at 10:30 a.m. They hope you can stop by. Please reserve your lunch by calling Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

System Flushing Program has begun and will conclude in late October. This annual program flushes pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Flushing will be done on Mondays and Thursdays between 6:00 p.m. and midnight to minimize disruptions to water service. In most cases, residents will not notice any changes to their water service. Residents will be notified via signage when their neighborhood will be affected by the Flushing Program. For more information, please contact the Water Department by email at water@somervillema.gov, or call 617-625-6600 ext. 5850.

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