Somerville cafe owner sued by Department of Labor

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

Sound Bites Cafe, located in Ball Square, has been open for more than two decades. Two weeks ago, the Department of Labor sued Yasser Mirza, Sound Bites’ owner, over alleged stolen wages and death threats.

An investigation had been launched into working conditions at the Ball Square Cafe. In legal documents obtained by The Somerville Times, the Department of Labor also accused Mirza of trying to convince employees to lie to investigators. The department is currently seeking a temporary restraining order against Mirza in order to prevent any interference from him in the investigation.

The Wage Theft Advisory Committee set up by the City of Somerville to address the owner of Sound Bites Cafe is currently under investigation by the city’s Wage Theft Advisory Committee for allegations of wage theft and employee intimidation. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

Ensemble Chaconne returns for Somerville performance

By Mina Morales

Ensemble Chaconne performed in Somerville at the public library on Thursday, May 19, for the first time since the pandemic began in March 2020.

The group arrived an hour and 15 minutes before their event started at 7:00 p.m. at the Somerville Public Library East Branch. Branch manager Marita Coombs cleared the room and began setting up for the event while the instrumentalists rehearsed for the event.

Ensemble Chaconne consists of the following three players: Peter H. Bloom, Olav Chris Henriksen, and Carol Lewis. The group was founded on 1985 and have been together for 37 concert seasons. They use replicas of the historical instruments from the 18th century to recreate the original sounds of the time. The group is like a family, which

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We’ll get you home safely. Please don’t drink and drive.
**Somerville Weather Forecast**

for the week of May 25 – May 31 as provided by the National Weather Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>CONDITIONS</th>
<th>HIGH/LOW</th>
<th>PRECIPITATION</th>
<th>HUMIDITY</th>
<th>WIND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong> &lt;br&gt;May 25</td>
<td>Partly Cloudy</td>
<td>64°/51°</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>E 12 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong> &lt;br&gt;May 26</td>
<td>Cloudy</td>
<td>71°/63°</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>SSE 15 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong> &lt;br&gt;May 27</td>
<td>Rain</td>
<td>72°/59°</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>SSW 13 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong> &lt;br&gt;May 28</td>
<td>Sunny</td>
<td>73°/57°</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>W 14 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong> &lt;br&gt;May 29</td>
<td>Partly Cloudy</td>
<td>76°/58°</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>E 12 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong> &lt;br&gt;May 30</td>
<td>Partly Cloudy</td>
<td>80°/65°</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>SSE 12 mph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong> &lt;br&gt;May 31</td>
<td>Partly Cloudy</td>
<td>78°/61°</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>NNE 12 mph</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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**Response to: Proposed bus network redesign bodes big changes to Somerville transport**

Tom says:

When all the dust settles, will it be possible to take a bus from Ball Square to Assembly Square? How about from Ball Square to Union Square? The Assembly Square Orange Line stop has been open for years. Unless you live in Assembly Square (or perhaps Ten Hills) it is essentially impossible to get to without a car from anywhere in Somerville.

I enthusiastically welcome the arrival of the Green Line to Ball Square and Tufts. I remain dismayed by the abysmal state of the MBTA and especially its buses.

The state should spend more time and taxes on restoring passenger rail service that is safe, convenient, comfortable, and affordable. This focus on buses is little more than a dagger intended to finish the job of killing passenger rail service in Massachusetts.

Andromeda says:

The MBTA bus network redesign site includes an extremely helpful trip planner that lets you compare routes under the current and proposed networks: https://www.mbta.com/trip-compare

I found this a lot easier to understand than the bus system maps.

Tim K. says:

How about a direct bus route from Union Square to Assembly (a 2 mi. distance).

Andrew says:

The 83 is proposed to change – it will go to Kendall instead of Central.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments
There’s a new Lechmere station for the Green Line, but a lot of us remember standing in that cave of a station waiting for a bus or a train. Maybe we were going to Lechmere Sales to buy a Walkman or cassette tape. Maybe you worked at Lechmere, as many of my Somerville friends have. I asked our readers to share the memories of the old Lechmere station.

“I worked at the Museum of Science and took the bus home most days from Lechmere. The thing I remember most was the smell of chocolate and or caramel coming from across the street.” (There was a candy factory directly across from the station)

“Waiting for the bus home in the winter with the wind whipping through. I swear it was the coldest place on earth!”

“Cold wind ripping through the open waiting area and the (terrible) smell in the enclosed waiting room.”

“The pigeons up above your head while waiting for the bus, praying they didn’t poop on you before the bus came, the smell ... UGH!”

“Smell of sugar from nearby candy factory and the squeaking sound of the trolley wheels.”

“I would take either the Somerville Ave. or Highland Ave. bus. Whichever came first.”

“It was dirty, sometimes smelly. Had a little waiting room and a phone booth.

“I don’t remember any bad smell … just the freezing, whipping wind. I lived near the high school so the Highland Ave. or the Medford St. bus, whichever came first, I’d take it! Brrr ... that wind would go right through you!”

“Lol! I was stuck there 3 hours in the Blizzard of ’78, trying get home from Prudential. Cold and Smelly waiting room.”

I used to take a Lechmere bus and the Greenline to Emerson College in the 70’s. I also remember my mom taking me and my brother and sister in to see The Enchanted Village. It was cold! It wasn’t any warmer in that enclosed waiting room.

The store known as Lechmere Sales also had fond memories of the old days. One Christmas, around 1965, we got our first color TV set. My father set it up Christmas morning so that when we got up it was on and we watched colorful cartoons. My brother especially loved that TV. I remember him watching Bewitched and I Dream of Jeannie in beautiful color.

So, when I go down that area of Somerville/Cambridge I think of all the stuff we got from Lechmere Sales, and we still have a Kenmore washing machine from Lechmere.

And don’t forget that smell of nuts roasting when you went down McGrath Highway past the nut factory. That smell combined with the old smell of the candy factory made for a delicious ride.

I can’t wait to take the train from Park Street to Ball Square. I will especially be paying attention to the surroundings where I basically grew up. It will be cool to get that aspect of the scenery on the ride. Progress can be fun.
Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Broadway location last week in response to a 9-1-1 report of an assault.

The victim told the 9-1-1 operator that a man had pulled a knife on him and that the man had left the area and went towards Stop & Shop on McGrath Hwy.

Upon their arrival, the officers spoke with the victim, who said that he went to Maya Sol Restaurant to inquire if the owner of the restaurant had video cameras outside. The victim told the officers that his tools had been stolen from his work van and he wanted to know if the incident had been recorded on video.

According to the victim, a heavy-set Brazilian man was sitting at the restaurant and overheard his conversation with a restaurant employee. The man followed the victim to his home, pulled out a folding knife, aimed it at him, and said in Portuguese, “I’m going to get you, I’m going to kill you.”

Police located a man identified as Luciano Delira, who matched the description provided by the victim, walking from Kensington Ave. onto Broadway. This corroborated the victim’s statement of the defendant fleeing toward Stop & Shop.

It appeared that Delira walked back to Broadway after seeing two State Troopers on a road detail outside the Stop & Shop. An officer read Delira his Miranda Rights and asked him if he wished to speak with him. Delira reportedly agreed to speak to the officers and told them that the victim had accused him of stealing his tools and pointed a gun at him.

According to reports, Delira was asked why he went to the victim’s residence, to which he replied, “I wanted to confront him because he pulled a gun on me.”

When asked why he would confront someone who pulled a gun on him instead of calling the police, Delira reportedly remained silent. A witness to the incident told police that he was sitting on a bench near the corner of Broadway and Garfield Avenue when he witnessed the defendant and the victim arguing, but he did not witness the assault because it was too far away to know if a weapon was used. The witness was asked if he could describe the defendant and he replied by stating, “It’s the guy you have detained.”

Delira was subsequently placed under arrest on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon and taken to the police station for booking.

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Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!
Somerville Redevelopment Authority meets to discuss local issues

By Maeve Lawler

On Wednesday evening, the Somerville Redevelopment Authority (SRA) held a public meeting via remote participation to discuss upcoming events hosted by Groundwork Somerville, as well as development updates for Washington Street, Union Square, Boynton Yards, Assembly Square, and Winter Hill.

The meeting was facilitated by Phil Ercolini, the Chair of the SRA. Ercolini was joined by four other Board Members, with one being absent. Members of the city staff Tom Galligani, Director of Economic Development, and Eileen McGettigan, Special Counsel to the SRA were also present.

The meeting began with Alexandra Len-non-Simon, the Executive Director of Groundwork Somerville, seeking approval to hold several summer events in which alcohol will be served. Simon explained the alcohol will be served in partnership with Portico Brewing. The events include “our gala, in addition to a few small concerts and other events on-site,” said Simon.

During this discussion, McGettigan expressed her frustrations with Groundwork’s approach to getting permission to hold events that are not farm-related. “I’ve been here for almost ten years and I’m tired of the Groundhog Day that happens every time Groundwork Somerville decides to hold an alcohol event on a property that we own,” said McGettigan.

McGettigan summarized the agreement as saying, “Groundwork, whenever you need something from another city board, you need to come to [the SRA] first.”

The license agreement will operate on a month-to-month basis, and also includes a provision that Groundwork needs to appear at SRA’s meetings twice per year, before and after the growing season, to tell the SRA what events they plan to hold and after how successful these events were. The agreement also requires the SRA to be listed as additionally insured on the SRA’s insurance forms.

Simon clarified that the SRA is listed as additionally insured for several buildings in the area either under construction or in the master plan stage. Buildings in construction include a Life Sciences building at 495 Columbia, a mid-rise residential building and lab building on Prospect Street, and smaller buildings for retail and residential use on Somerville Ave and Bow Street.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the development in Union Square and Boynton Yards given by Rachel Nadkarni, an Urban Revitalization Specialist for Somerville. Most buildings in the areas are still in the master plan stage. Buildings in construction include a Life Sciences building at 495 Columbia, a mid-rise residential building and lab building on Prospect Street, and smaller buildings for retail and residential use on Somerville Ave and Bow Street.

Next, an update was given on the development in Assembly Square given by Ted Fields, a Senior Economic Development planner for Somerville. Most buildings in Assembly Row are completed, with several buildings in the area either under construction or in the master plan stage. Some of the buildings in the master plan stage will be used for bio purposes or be residential buildings.

Nadkarni also gave an update on Winter Hill, in which she explained the Civic Advisory Committee is meeting monthly to discuss construction updates in this area. After discussing the SRA’s summer meeting schedule, Fields gave an update on the potential redevelopment of 90 Washington Street. He explained that meetings will be held for Cobble Hill residents to voice their concerns over the development of the site. After these discussions, a public engagement process will take place to ask their opinions about the “height, scale, massing of potential buildings on the Washington Street development site,” Fields said.

The meeting concluded with a vote to close the open session and move into an executive session to discuss the litigation strategy for Cobble Hill Center LLC v. SRA.
Driver’s licenses

By State Senator Pat Jehlen

Many advocates and legislators have tried for almost 20 years to allow people without legal status to receive drivers' licenses. This would allow an estimated 200,000 people in Massachusetts to drive to work (migrationpolicy.org/data), and drive their children - many of them US citizens - to their school or doctor without fearing detention or deportation. Credit for success this year is due to persistent and focused work by an expanded coalition, Driving Families Forward (drivingma.org), of immigrant rights groups, unions, public safety officials, and others. Lead sponsors Representatives Christine Barber and Tricia Farley-Bouvier and Senator Brendan Crighton worked hard to make sure there were enough votes in both House and Senate to override a threatened veto by Gov. Baker. This Commonwealth article (commonwealthmagazine.org/criminal-justice) is a good account of what finally worked.

Polls are split on the issue. But opposition is often based on a lack of information.

Everyone is safer on the roads when all drivers have been tested for vision and rules of the road. States that have passed similar legislation have found a reduction in hit-and-run crashes and uninsured drivers. Chelsea Police Chief Brian Kyes, among police leaders, argues that licenses will allow police to identify drivers (found in boston.com). When people learn that granting the opportunity for licenses would benefit everyone, not just immigrants, they often become supporters. Applicats will have to provide proof of residence and identity. Under the bill, one document must be a passport or consular document and the other must be a driver’s license from another state, a foreign driver’s license, a birth certificate, a national ID card, or a marriage certificate or divorce certificate from any U.S. territory.

Getting a driver’s license will not mean immigrants without legal status can vote. Right now, many green card holders and other non-citizens have licenses and cannot vote. This Globe column (bostonglobe.com/2022/04/08) clearly explains why the governor is wrong to fear that the bill will enable non-citizens to vote.

Licenses granted under this law will not be REAL IDs and can never be used to board an airplane. The law will take effect in July 2023. Before then, REAL ID will take effect in May, and no one without the more rigorous REAL ID will be allowed to board planes or enter federal buildings.

It’s Time to Re-Imagine Dental Care

By Mary Cassesso

Imagine preparing for prom or graduation if our kids had to add dentures to their wardrobe. Growing up in Somerville, my family, like most of our neighbors, were low income and no one had dental insurance. A dentist would periodically visit us at school and sadly some kids would have teeth extracted instead of restored - it was cheaper. We all know that oral health has implications and impact on your overall health and nutrition. You need your teeth to eat healthy – for example vegetables and fruit. It’s funny how there are certain things that you never forget; I remember a teenage girl whose dentist extracted all of her teeth. Like many, we were too poor to visit a dentist twice a year and there were no fluoride treatments, so decay and cavities were much more prevalent.

We have opportunities to close this gap and make dental care more accessible and equitable. One way is to support legislation that would create the role of the dental therapist. The dental therapist would provide expanded care services and some restorative procedures such as simple fillings. This would address the shortage of dental providers and be cost effective. We also have to promote more affordable training programs for the dental profession, including programs for dental hygienists and dental assistants.

Dental care continues to be overlooked.decay is almost 100% preventable - it’s not a big lift but simply has never seemed big enough or important enough to address. As a new mom I was quite unaware of issues like baby bottle syndrome and the impact of sugar sweetened beverages like juice. Conversations at the primary care office about healthy growth and development should include oral health and how it is related to overall health. Kids’ first visit with a dentist is recommended at the age of 1 but many parents are unaware of this and among those who are, lack of dental insurance may preclude access to care.

In 2000, the Surgeon General wrote on the state of oral health in America. Many oral health professionals and advocates saw this as a call to action and had hoped for change based on the integral link and importance of oral health to overall health. The condition of the oral cavity tells much about a person’s overall health; early signs of health conditions can show in our mouth or oral cavity. Here we are, 22 years after the surgeon general’s report and many of the same challenges remain. Yes, we have made advances that whiten, straighten or replace decayed or missing to enhance our appearances - clearly we all understand the impact of the smile on self-esteem and beauty. It’s time to go beyond appearances and make policy changes to improve oral health for all members of our community and alleviate the struggles and inequities in oral health care! Let's expand the health workforce and integrate dental care into primary care and support policy changes to ensure appropriate, accessible and affordable dental care.

Mary Cassesso is a lifelong Somerville resident and activist. She has devoted her career and community service to social justice, equity and advocacy primarily focused on health, housing and safety-net services.

Somerville Prevention Hiring Youth Social Media Prevention Ambassadors

Somerville Prevention is hiring Youth Social Media Prevention Ambassadors for this summer. Somerville youth in grades 8-12 will be hired to create substance misuse prevention content for social media to educate the community and peers from June-August 2022.

Experience with or a willingness to learn about social media and graphic design are a plus. Apply at https://bit.ly/SOMPREFVENT2022.

Deadline is June 1. Questions? Please contact Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator, Lily Dolyak, at ldołyak@somervillema.gov.
Happy birthday to Mary Hart, the matriarch of the Hart family. She is a great person and we wish her the very best of birthdays. Another great person to wish a happy birthday to, Chrissie Clark, our own Editor’s wife. We hope they have great plans to celebrate her birthday! We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Iona O’Brien, Danielle Scrima, Breanna Lungo-Koehn, Danny McLaughlin, Peggy Ryan Lookliss, Karen Ferullo, Tim Devin, John Gore, Mary Champagne Adamson and Helen Mooney 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.

****************************

Our View Of The Times

It began as a way to memorialize the military casualties of the Civil War, and was originally termed Decoration Day.

Decorating the graves of the countless multitudes of fallen soldiers helped to console the grieving survivors of the debacle while uniting the once divided nation in a worthwhile common cause.

For many these days, Memorial Day represents the beginning of the summery high season. Kids soon enjoy their vacations from school. Families and individuals go traveling, camping, surfing, and whatever else provides fun in the sun in the months to come.

This next week we will take a little time to pay homage to those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country. The annual Memorial Day ceremony will take place Monday, May 30, at Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery on Broadway between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street, honoring those who risked or laid down their lives protecting our freedoms. The ceremony will be livestreamed on the city’s various media outlets. For info, go to www.somervillema.gov/departments/health-and-human-services/veterans-services.

Our heroes deserve recognition and thanks for the service they have given, and you may come away from the experience feeling a bit more enlightened and enriched than before.

Most of all, give some thought to what the brave men and women who laid down their lives mean to all of us today. How the freedom and quality of life we enjoy in America would not be possible without those selfless acts of courage and devotion.

It is good to have that sense of appreciation throughout the entire year too.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

The GLX project is moving closer to the finish line. Over the weekend the project reached an important milestone. The first Green Line trolley traveled the length of the Medford Branch from East Somerville Station to the Medford/Tufts Station as part of Light Rail Vehicle testing. This testing will continue for the next several months. The MBTA is targeting late summer 2022 to begin revenue service.

****************************

Be prepared and stay informed about overdose prevention. Somerville Prevention, Somerville Police Department’s Community Outreach, Help and Recovery (COHR) team, the Somerville Homeless Coalition and Fenway Health are hosting two distribution events. One was held this Tuesday and the other will be held on Tuesday, May 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Statue Park in Davis Square. Resources include Narcan, fentanyl test strips, and face shields for rescue breathing. Overdose prevention training will also be available at both events. For more information or to schedule supply pick-up or overdose prevention training outside of these dates, please email Matthew Mitchell at mmitchell@somervillema.gov.

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
The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
2. Dragonflies have six legs but can’t walk.

Ms. Cam’s Olio #828

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. What is the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day? public?
2. What is the official birthplace of Memorial Day? 7. When was the first Indianapolis 500 race held?
3. What is the original name for Memorial Day? 8. On Memorial Day, bikers hold an event known as what?
5. When was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery established? 10. Which berries are used to give gin its flavor?
6. When was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier opened to the 11. Who pitched to Babe Ruth when he hit his final Major League home run?
12. What are students called before they graduate? Answers on page 11

Solution to last week’s crossword puzzle:

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

1. Mauritania’s neighbor 11. Who pitched to Babe Ruth when he hit his final Major League home run?
5. Arrest 12. Like fist of some rulers
12. Like fist of some rulers 14. “Misery” Oscar winner
13. Containing limestone 15. Gulf War missile
15. Gulf War missile 17. Earp of the Wild West
16. Throat-clearing sound 18. ‘58 Plymouth Fury in a Stephen King novel
17. Earp of the Wild West 20. Hole punchers
20. Hole punchers 22. Lennon’s wife
21. G in SAG 23. Napoleon’s hat
22. Lennon’s wife 24. “Children of the Corn” cult leader
23. Napoleon’s hat 25. Subsection of a poem
25. Subsection of a poem 27. Kind of change
27. Kind of change 29. Oceanic trenches
29. Oceanic trenches 33. Megal rider
30. Ryder Cup team 34. Not bright
31. Forecastle, for short 35. Stop smug
33. Mogul rider 37. Foolish
34. Ruptured 38. Type of cap, pl.
35. Harangues 39. Chilled (2 words)
36. Tiny guitar 40. Same as solos
37. Tiny guitar 41. Subtlety
38. East side of Jersey 42. “It” clown
39. Brussels’ org. 43. “It” clown
40. Genie, alt. sp. 44. Plumber’s concern, pl.
41. Soak through 45. Genie, alt. sp.
42. Soak through 46. Crying like crow
43. Autumnal zodiac sign 47. Basketball hoop
44. Plumber’s concern, pl. 48. T ype of cap, pl.
45. Stomach sores 49. Chilled (2 words)
46. Basketball hoop 50. Same as solos
47. Basketball hoop 51. Yuletide
50. Same as solos 52. Paddington Bear’s homeland
51. Yuletide 53. Beginning of a story?
52. Paddington Bear’s homeland 54. Grand _____
53. Beginning of a story? 55. Like a Stephen King story
54. Grand _____ 56. “Platoon” setting
55. Like a Stephen King story 57. Nary a soul
56. “Platoon” setting 58. Like some rumors
57. Nary a soul 59. Smart _____, pl.
58. Like some rumors 60. Pilaf grain
59. Smart _____, pl. 61. Crying like crow
60. Pilaf grain 62. “Rita_____ and the Shawshank Redemption”
61. Crying like crow 63. Down Under marsupial
62. “Rita_____ and the Shawshank Redemption” 64. Foolish
63. Down Under marsupial 65. Foolish
64. Foolish 66. Foolish
65. Foolish 67. Foolish
66. Foolish 68. Foolish
67. Foolish 69. Foolish
68. Foolish 70. Foolish
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81. Foolish 82. Foolish
83. Foolish 84. Foolish
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87. Foolish 88. Foolish
89. Foolish 90. Foolish
91. Foolish 92. Foolish
93. Foolish 94. Foolish
95. Foolish 96. Foolish
97. Foolish 98. Foolish
99. Foolish 100. Foolish
101. Foolish

Answers on page 11

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© Blazing Fast! TV Price Guarantee

© StatePoint Media

Soulution to last week’s crossword puzzle:

1. Catchall abbr. 6. Set right
2. St. Louis tourist attraction 7. “Stand _____ ,”
3. Displeasure on one’s face 8. “Rita _____ and the Shawshank Redemp- tion”
4. Rainbow color 9. Bibliographical abbr. (2 words)
5. Risky business, pl. 10. “Is” in Paris
13. Hispanic American 15. Gulf War missile
15. Gulf War missile 17. Earp of the Wild West
16. Throat-clearing sound 18. ‘58 Plymouth Fury in a Stephen King novel
17. Earp of the Wild West 19. Rides the waves
18. ‘58 Plymouth Fury in a Stephen King novel 20. Hole punchers
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28. Mustard 30. Ryder Cup team
29. Oceanic trenches 31. Forecastle, for short
30. Ryder Cup team 32. Rabid Saint Bernard in Stephen King book
31. Forecastle, for short 33. Megal rider
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36. Nicholas in “The Shining” 38. Type of cap, pl.
37. Foolish 39. Chilled (2 words)
38. Type of cap, pl. 40. Not bright
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40. Not bright 42. Shoulder
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47. Basketball hoop 49. Chilled (2 words)
48. T ype of cap, pl. 50. Same as solos
49. Chilled (2 words) 51. Yuletide
50. Same as solos 52. Paddington Bear’s homeland
51. Yuletide 53. Beginning of a story?
52. Paddington Bear’s homeland 54. Grand _____
53. Beginning of a story? 55. Like a Stephen King story
54. Grand _____ 56. “Platoon” setting
55. Like a Stephen King story 57. Nary a soul
56. “Platoon” setting 58. Like some rumors
57. Nary a soul 59. Smart _____, pl.
58. Like some rumors 60. Pilaf grain
59. Smart _____, pl. 61. Crying like crow
60. Pilaf grain 62. “Rita_____ and the Shawshank Redemp- tion”
61. Crying like crow 63. Down Under marsupial
62. “Rita_____ and the Shawshank Redemp- tion” 64. Foolish
63. Down Under marsupial 65. Foolish
64. Foolish 66. Foolish
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98. Foolish 99. Foolish
100. Foolish

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Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.
Union Square team gathers opinions on how to design public spaces

By Luda Tang

On Saturday, May 21, the Community Design Team held an event from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Union Square Plaza to gather feedback from residents on how to redesign the square’s public spaces.

The team, along with the Klopf Martin Design Group, a Boston-based landscape architecture firm, explained two concept ideas to the crowd. Both plans expand the sidewalk with green infrastructure, provide larger spaces for festivals and events, offer movable or permanent furniture, and reduce the parking area, compared to the existing layout.

A few staff members illustrated the details of the reconstruction that may take place around the Plaza, Bow Street, and the parking lot. According to the first option, the Plaza will become larger but maintain the two-way vehicular traffic on Somerville Ave. as usual, but the slip lane will close.

In the second option, the Plaza will become the largest area for people to relax in. The former parking lot in front of some restaurants would be transformed into pedestrian spaces under tree groves. Moreover, Somerville Ave. will be open to buses, bikes, and pedestrians, but motor vehicles will not be allowed to enter.

Both plans can provide 32 tents for the Farmers Market, an event that is held every Saturday in the square. However, one slight difference between two options is that the first one can include up to 250 people standing for an event, while the second one would allow only 190 people.

In the first option, Bow Street would be shared by both motor vehicles and pedestrians. There would be some vehicular traffic, as well as alternate routes for vehicles to turn onto Bow Street from Warren Street or Walnut Street, but it removes cut-through traffic. This option also offers loading and some parking.

With option two, Bow Street would become fully walkable. No vehicular traffic would be allowed, except in case of emergencies. Parking and loading would be accessed on nearby streets, or at off-hours.

The parking lot in option one will provide more space for seating with the movable furniture. Some parking will be available, but pedestrians will get prioritized.

In option two, the parking lot will completely become Plaza space without parking. There will also be access to vehicles for loading for business, and handicap accessible parking.

During events, lots of residents expressed their interests in having more greenery around the public spaces, and adding movable seating under tree groves so people can chat with their neighbors. Parents also like the option of having a recreational water feature, which kids can have fun with.

But some residents also expressed their concerns over parking. With more residential buildings being constructed in Somerville, more people will join the community. But the current two plans both reduce the number of parking areas, which may make it hard to find a parking spot. Business owners in the square were also worried that the new design will affect their sales if customers are unable to find places to park.

Members of the design team admitted that after hearing from the community, the ultimate result will probably not derive from either option one or two, but rather a combination of both plans.

Serve and inspire this summer

Somerville Public Schools and community partners have many ways you can serve this summer. There are opportunities to engage in academics, arts, music, athletics, outdoor adventure, gardening, and much more. New to volunteering with SPS? To get started, join us for our next SPS Volunteer Orientation Thursday, June 2 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. (remote event). To RSVP or for more information, contact SPS Volunteer Coordinator Jen Capuano at JCapuano@k12.somerville.ma.us.

The Path to Newtowne

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

To us, it is venerably called Washington Street, in honor of George Washington, who was the leader of America’s Colonial Army and the nation’s first President. In colonial times, it was first called the Path from Charlestown to Watertown and later the Road to Newtowne. The original name for the city of Cambridge, the home of America’s first college, Harvard, was Newtowne.

Historical Fact of the Week

- Harvard was founded in 1636 by Governor John Winthrop and a group of men from Charlestown and Boston.
- Two years after the founding of the college, the name of Newtowne was changed to Cambridge because most of the governing men and clergy had roots in Old Cambridge, England.
- Upon his death in 1638, John Harvard, a young minister in Charlestown, left the college half of his estate of almost 1,600 pounds and his entire library. In gratitude of his gift, our first college was named after him.
- Near the Road to Newtowne lies a granite shaft in Charlestown’s historic cemetery, Phipps Street Burying Ground, in memory of John Harvard which was built by former Harvard students.
- The first printing press in America went to print on September 25, 1639. It was Harvard College’s press; and for forty years, it was the only one used... Continued on page 2

- The first printing press in America went to print on September 25, 1639. It was Harvard College’s press; and for forty years, it was the only one used... Continued on page 13
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Department of Transportation –
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Project File No. 69850

A Live Virtual Public Informational Meeting will be hosted on the MassDOT 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 address signal conflicts; 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 appropriate. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity & Civil Rights Officer by phone at (857) 368-0600, by fax (857) 368-0602 or by email at MassDOTCivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. Requests should be made as soon as possible 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.

Title VI Notice of Nondiscrimination: MassDOT complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related federal and state statutes and regulations. It is the policy of MassDOT to ensure that no person or group of persons shall be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity administered by MassDOT. To request additional information about this commitment, or to file a complaint under Title VI or a related nondiscrimination provision, please contact MassDOT’s Title VI Specialist by phone at MassDOT Relay Service at 7-1-1, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email at MassDOTCivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. Requests should be made as soon as possible 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.

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LEGAL NOTICES
Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thensomervilletimes.com

City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
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@somerville.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER
Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4930846574442546572
Webinar ID: 164-623-995

TO CALL IN
Phone number: 1 (213) 929-4212
Access code: 992-518-450

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

191 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, facade 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 https://www.somerville.gov/departments/planning-and-zoning/appeals-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@somerville.gov.

5/18/22, 5/25/22 The Somerville Times

SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council’s Committee on Finance, meeting as a Committee of the Whole, on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 6:00 PM, on the Order of Finance Committee Chair Jake Wilson, for public input on the proposed FY 2023 municipal budget.

This meeting will be conducted via remote participation, online in a web-based host on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser at any time before the meeting. You will then be asked to register for the meeting. After registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar when it starts. Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/352183449548073998.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, 20143, or by email to cityclerk@somerville.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 Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS
CITY CLERK

5/25/22 The Somerville Times
LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thethsamervilletimes.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 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@somerville.ma.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER
Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/538029660921287435
Webinar ID: 378-687-611

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

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

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

5/18/22, 5/25/22 The Somerville Times

City of Somerville Procurement and Contracting Services Department

IFB #22-65
The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites sealed bids for:

Cross Connection Control Program

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 on or after 06/24/2022. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: 06/26/2022 12:00PM EST. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves 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 contact PCS at procurement@somerville.ma.gov for more information.

Andrea Caruth
Deputy Chief Procurement Officer
617-625-6600 x3400

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Movie Matinee and Pizza at the Council on Aging

Wednesday, May 25, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Ralph & Jenny Senior Center, 9 New Washington Street, Somerville. 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. Grab and Go lunch available for those who do not want pizza.
The high costs of living in Somerville

By Kyle Dante

Living in a city is not cheap. With the advent of Covid-19, along with the economic downturn, living wages remain a subjective matter. Some work multiple hours on end; others work more than one job to live. However, when renting a Somerville apartment, between one third to 70 percent of the city population puts their income into housing.

There are multiple reasons to stay in Somerville. Whether for work, relationships, or other reasons, it applies to any location. Finding a home, however, is not easy. One of the difficulties for tenants is the initial deposit, which potentially includes real estate agent fees. Sometimes landlords do not pay the fee to the broker, and pass it along to the tenants’ deposit.

Searching for a home is not easy and sometimes necessitates the use of housing agents. The fees can cause a financial shortage when putting money down, or prevent one from getting housing altogether.

It is a tricky contractual matter. Some landlords include the broker fee, but others pay the broker. To know one’s rights on paying rental fees, a tenant may visit the state website or email a staff member for more information. The agenda is to determine who must pay the broker fee between the landlord or their incoming tenants. The City Council will look into the matter and determine a decision later.

In the meantime, for clarification on housing, reach out to the Massachusetts government on tenant rights. Assistant City Councilor David Shapiro can provide further legal information for Somerville housing. If you have any information to help with the topic, reach out to Councilor Willie Burnley, Jr. via email: wburnley@somervillema.gov.

Conway Park to reopen May 27 with ribbon cutting ceremony

After five years of extensive soil testing, remediation, and renovation, including the removal of 8,700 tons of contaminated soil, Somerville’s Conway Park is set to reopen in its entirety on Friday, May 27. The new Conway Park features an array of recreational and environmental improvements that will serve the community for generations to come, including a reconstructed athletic field, a refurbished playground, and a new splash pad that will open for immediate use. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Ward 2 Councillor J.T. Scott will mark the opening with a ribbon cutting that morning at 11 a.m., and all are invited to join the celebration.

Conway Park, a 2.8-acre complex at 550 Somerville Avenue, is one of the most heavily used recreation facilities in Somerville. In 2018, the multi-use field, a portion of the playground, and the splash pad were closed after soil testing revealed polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and lead contaminants, some exceeding regulatory limits. The city and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) worked closely to determine the nature and extent of contamination, and in 2020, the city and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) partnered to remediate the park in accordance with federal and state environmental regulations. EPA provided an unprecedented amount of financial support and expertise to clean and restore the site, ultimately working with the City to remove more than 8,700 tons of contaminated soils. Renovations wrapped up this spring, and Conway Park is ready to welcome visitors once again.

This project was funded through the city, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program, and the EPA. For more information about the project, go to somervillema.gov/conwaypark. To learn more about the facilities and see the athletics schedule, go to somervillerec.com.

Bobby’s Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

Why do seagulls fly over the ocean? Because if they flew over the bay, they would be called bagels.

On This Day in History

May 25

0585 – Thales of Greece makes the first known prediction of a solar eclipse.

1085 – Alfonso VI takes Toledo, Spain from the Muslims.


1810 – Argentina declares independence from Napoleonic Spain.

1914 – The British House of Commons passes Irish Home Rule.

1925 – John Scopes is indicted for teaching Darwinian theory in school.

1935 – Jesse Owens sets six world records in less than an hour in Ann Arbor, MI.

1946 – Jordan gains independence from Britain.

1953 – The first atomic cannon is fired in Nevada.

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in the British Colonies.

- Washington Street, the oldest road in Somerville, runs from the Charlestown/Somerville line near Sullivan Square, across Union Square and Beacon Street at the Cambridge line. Here, it changes into Kirkland Street, the oldest road in Cambridge and press on, emerging into the historic Cambridge Common or the end of the Road to Newtown. Kirkland Street was named after John Thomas Kirkland who was president of Harvard from 1810 to 1828.

- During the British retreat from the Battle of Lexington, three Cambridge Minutemen were killed. They were buried close to the Cambridge Common.

- Two months after the Battle of Lexington, Patriots left the Common for the defense of Bunker Hill.

- The Common was then occupied by Continental troops for nine months during the siege of Boston.

- Under the old Elm tree on Cambridge Common on July 3, 1775, General George Washington took command of the Continental Army.

- On January 1, 1776, General Washington raised the first American flag at the summit of Somerville’s Prospect Hill.

- The Road to Newtown, Washington Street, is one of the most historic paths in the country.
and opportunities. The event will take place on 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.

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Open call for Joy Street and Brickbottom artists. The Somerville Arts Council, in partnership with North River Company and Eversource, is launching a new public art installation to highlight the work of local artists from Joy Street Studios and Brickbottom Artist Association. Read more about the call in the link here https://forms.gle/KwGKe7UDVL-7MwKS69

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC) is partnering with other local organizations to host events honoring Somerville’s history and historic assets, from May through October. All events are open to the public, ADA accessible, and free. These include three historic sites, Prospect Hill Tower, Milk Row Cemetery, and Old Powder House. Prospect Hill Tower: 2nd Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., except September and October, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m„ 4th Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Milk Row Cemetery, 3rd Thursdays, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., except September and October, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., 1st Sundays 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Inclement weather cancels any event. Call 311 (617-666-3311) for updates.

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East Somerville Main Streets is seeking street artists for a mural that will celebrate the diversity of the East Somerville community. Artists are asked to apply by May 30. Selection will be made by a panel comprised of East Somerville Main Streets’ staff, Connexion community members, and two professional artists. Complete details can be found on the East Somerville Main Streets website.

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Don’t forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a digital edition of our paper, go directly online to our website over to the right side and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7
I wrote this for a distinguished academic journal sponsored by the university, "What's a matter U?"

A bottle of seltzer has always been a comforting, humorous beverage to me. A bottle of seltzer can interrupt the ravings of a pompous ass, it fizzles and sizzles with comic energy – it is the great whoopee cushion of the beverage world. The fizzle of seltzer down my throat brings to mind my father and me as we watched the antics of Bud Abbott and Lou Costello, The Three Stooges, not to mention the Marx Brothers, on the black and white TV. One of my close friends jokes that I have not entered the 21st century yet – I am decidedly a man of the 20th. He is probably right. I always talk to my colleagues about ways to engage students in the classroom. I had a crazy idea to use seltzer as an educational prop in class. Now mind you, I teach Creative Writing, so the class is a bit looser than other classes. Usually, when I look over the weary students in my Creative Writing class (at 8:00 a.m.), I think of a way to wake them from their sleepy doldrums. So I step back and slowly turn the cap on a seltzer bottle to let the seltzer slowly rise – finally the liquid foams out through the cap (which I hold firmly) and eventually a literal font of creativity flows madly out of the Adirondack Cherry/Vanilla seltzer bottle. I make sure not a soul is touched by this creative fountain, and after the waterworks are done, I take a sip and say, in a very Jackie Gleasonish way, "How sweet is!" My parched throat is relieved, the students are laughing, and the conversation about writing seems to have a new spritz of energy. This has now been a very much-in-demand ritual. Indeed, how sweet it is!

Window watcher

She wakes
And makes coffee beans
Then proceeds
To have black coffee
With her best friend.

The window
She is my weather woman
This is her job
Activism
And the security guard
Of the sky.
"This part is blue; do you see it?"
Ten times
She has made me see
The feathers of the tree and the knots in the bark
The comings and goings of people with doodle dogs
The dog walker with headphones
The businessman getting off work
Collecting his thought

While throwing twigs in
The garbage.
The old lady in the window
That is you
With wild hair
In a perfect robe
Watching life as it
Is
She always says "we are lucky"
I suppose we are.
I see the beautiful woman beyond the wrinkles and dry skin and
Edema.
She is there.

We laugh so hard we fart.
We watch the sky
From the window
And I am holding her hand in my soul.

She is fierce
But she embraced me today
And I smelled her genius
And then she said
I'm lovely.

— Julia Kanno
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