VOL. 10 NO. 21

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Old Lechmere station

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Making designs on Union Square page 9



Somerville's high cost of living page 14

Somerville cafe owner sued by Department of Labor



The owner of Sound Bites Café is currently under investigation by the city's Wage Theft Advisory Committee for allegations of wage theft and employee intimidation. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

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 Continued on page 4

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 Continued on page 4



Ensemble Chaconne played at their first Somerville Salon Series event at the Somerville Library East Branch on Thursday, May 19. — Photos by Mina Morales

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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.

This Memorial Day, the City of Somerville will host a ceremony of remembrance to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to our country. The ceremony will take place Monday, May 30, at Veterans' Memorial Cemetery on Broadway between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street. Speaking remarks will begin at 10:00 a.m. featuring Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, City Council President Matthew McLaughlin, Director of Veterans' Services Ted Louis-Jacques, and several members of the local veterans community. Members of the general public are welcome to attend to remember Somerville's fallen heroes and honor all who serve. The ceremony will be livestreamed on the CityTV Facebook page (facebook.com/SomervilleCityTV) and broadcast after the event on GovTV (RCN channels 13 or 613; Comcast channel 22) and on the city's YouTube channel (youtube.com/ SomervilleCityTV). For more information, please contact the Department of Veterans' Services at 617-625-6600 ext. 4700 or veterans@somervillema.gov.

Conway Park reopens this Friday. After five years of remediation and renovation, Conway is back with major recreational and environmental improvements, like a new athletic field and splash pad, 64 new native trees, better drainage, and much more. On Friday, May 27, at 11:00 a.m. there will be a ribbon cutting to celebrate.

Happy birthday this week to several locals:

Continued on page 7

The Somerville Times

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Somerville Weather Forecast

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

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday May 25	Partly Cloudy	64°/51°	2%	1%	E 12 mph
Thursday May 26	Cloudy	71°/63°	19%	16%	SSE 15 mph
Friday May 27	Rain	72°/59°	48%	40%	SSW 13 mph
Saturday May 28	Sunny	73°/57°	10%	8%	W 14 mph
Sunday May 29	Partly Cloudy	76°/58°	8%	6%	E 12 mph
Monday May 30	Partly Cloudy	80°/65°	21%	18%	SSE 12 mph
Tuesday May 31	Partly Cloudy	78°/61°	24%	21%	NNE 12 mph
	Wednesday May 25 Thursday May 26 Friday May 27 Saturday May 28 Sunday May 29 Monday May 30 Tuesday	Wednesday May 25Partly CloudyThursday May 26CloudyFriday May 27RainSaturday May 28SunnySunday May 29Partly CloudyMonday May 30Partly CloudyTuesdayPartly Cloudy	Wednesday May 25Partly Cloudy64°/51°Thursday May 26Cloudy71°/63°Friday May 27Rain72°/59°Saturday 	Wednesday May 25 Partly Cloudy 64°/51° 2% Thursday May 26 Cloudy 71°/63° 19% Friday May 27 Rain 72°/59° 48% Saturday May 28 Sunny 73°/57° 10% Sunday May 29 Partly Cloudy 76°/58° 8% Monday May 30 Partly Cloudy 80°/65° 21% Tuesday Partly Cloudy 78°/61° 24%	Wednesday May 25 Partly Cloudy 64°/51° 2% 1% Thursday May 26 Cloudy 71°/63° 19% 16% Friday May 27 Rain 72°/59° 48% 40% Saturday May 28 Sunny 73°/57° 10% 8% Sunday May 29 Partly Cloudy 76°/58° 8% 6% Monday May 30 Partly Cloudy 80°/65° 21% 18% Tuesday Partly Cloudy 78°/61° 24% 21%

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: 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

Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

Old Lechmere station



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.



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By Jim Clark

Bringing a knife to a gunfight?

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 owner 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.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

Somerville cafe owner sued by Department of Labor

and review wage theft complaints held its monthly meeting this week. Among the standard procedures and monthly worker events, the committee members took time to update the public on the investigation.

"For the moment, because there is an ongoing investigation, there is not much that we can do. There is not a lot of information that can be shared," said Francisca Sepulveda, Somerville Worker

Center Manager. "This is a great opportunity for the committee to think of ways to raise awareness of either the [Somerville] worker center or the committee itself."

According to court documents, Fabian Zuleta, a Sound Bites Cafe cook since 2009, began asking for overtime payments in May 2020. He worked about 20 hours of overtime a week, which were paid at minimum wage, not the legally mandated time and a half.

According to the complaint, "On several occasions (including one incident that occurred in front of customers) Defendant Mirza responded to Zuleta's oral inquiries about overtime pay by berating Zuleta, cursing at Zuleta, and telling Zuleta to get out of the restaurant."

In addition to refusing to pay Zuleta, Mirza is also accused of retaliating against him by reduc-

ing his hours and assigning him to tasks not related to his original tasks as cook.

In late 2021, after agreeing to pay Zuleta for his work as part of a state lawsuit settlement, Mirza is alleged to have launched threats towards Zuleta and his family as part of a ploy to stop the Department of Labor's investigation.

"In early 2022, Zuleta received a number of calls from private or

unknown numbers in which the caller purported to be a police officer or other law enforcement officers," according to the complaint. "In these calls, the caller would state that Zuleta needed to 'get rid of the case' or something would happen to Zuleta or Zuleta's family."

A hearing on the Department of Labor's motion for a preliminary injunction is set to be held on May 24.

Ensemble Chaconne returns for Somerville performance

is why they survived the pandemic. They are managed by Rebecca DeLamotte, who is married to Peter the flutist in the group. Carol, who plays the viola da gamba, is married to Olav, the baroque lute player in the group.

"It was scary," said Carol, when referring to the beginning of the pandemic. "It was frightening," added Peter.

After all their concerts were cancelled during the pandemic, the group kept sane by going over to each other's yards and playing their instruments.

With time, they eventually got invited to play at assisted living centers. They also played for WCTV in Wilmington, which got broadcasted, and participated for the Redeemer Concert Series in Atlanta.

However, the group has not played in Somerville since the began. pandemic Halfway through their performance Peter thanked the audience and said it was good to be back.

Their performance of Glorious Ones: Treasures by the Late Baroque Masters was the first of the Somerville Salon Series taking place at the Somerville East Branch Library. The next Somerville Salon Series concert will be Splendid Century: Gems from the French Court, 1650-1750 on Thursday, June 9, at 7:00 p.m. at the Somerville Central Library. Their last event will be Measure for Measure: The Music of Shakespeare's Plays on Saturday, September 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the Somerville West Branch Library.

Ensemble Chaconne bowed and thanked the crowd for attending the event, then announced their next performance days for the Somerville Salon Series.



Peter H. Bloom playing the baroque flute during his solo.

CONT. FROM PG 1

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 Lennon-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.

She adds, "I think it's important that Groundwork realize that they have a landlord. It is the Redevelopment Authority, and whenever they want to do something that isn't farm-related, like have an alcohol event, or have a concert, or have anything that requires any kind of permit from the city, they need to come to us first as their landlord."

Although McGettingan appreciates the work from the organization, she would like their relationship with the SRA to be better respected. These frustrations prompted her to develop a new license agreement, which the SRA voted to approve during their meeting. Chair Ercolini said that McGettingan's concerns have also come up in the past.

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

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 have a minimum number of access hours posted for the public to come to the property.

In regard to Groundwork's upcoming alcohol events, McGettigan emphasizes to the SRA that Groundwork has its alcohol permit from the city; however, it is conditioned on the SRA approval of such events. She also said it is important for the SRA to be listed as additionally insured on the SRA's insurance forms.

Simon clarified that the SRA is listed as additionally ensured and apologized for coming to the SRA after receiving their alcohol permit from the city, as opposed to before. All members of the SRA present at the meeting approved for Gro undwork to hold their upcoming events and approved the license agreement.

The next item on the agenda was an



The scheduling of special events by groups such as Groundwork Somerville was one issue addressed by the Somerville Redevelopment Authority at its recent meeting.

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.





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.

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 bos-

ton.com). When people learn that granting the opportunity for licenses would benefit everyone, not just immigrants, they often become supporters.

Applicants 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 foreign 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 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 duties for dental hygienists - it would also enable the expansion and diversification of the workforce. The dental therapist would

provide preventative 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 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/SOMPREVENT2022.

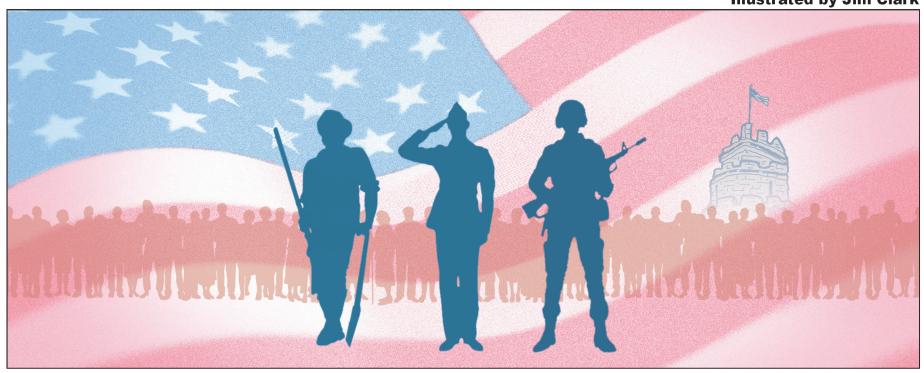
Deadline is June 1. Questions? Please contact Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator, Lily Dolyak, at Idolyak@somervillema.gov.



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville salutes its heroes this Memorial Day.

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 Am erica 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

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 want to wish a very happy 75th birthday to Magoun Sq. resident, Pina Mingace. We hope she has a great day and a great year to come. 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 condolences go out to the family and friends of **Stephenson Bradshaw Aman**. Stephenson touched many lives here in the city and beyond. He will be missed by many. As soon arrangements are made available, we will post them online.

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 Continued on page 14

FUN & GAMES

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

1. What is the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day?

mixture, hodgepodge

2. What is the official birthplace of Memorial

3. What is the original name for Memorial Day?

4. Who spoke at the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery?

5. When was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery established?

6. When was the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier opened to the

public?

7. When was the first Indianapolis 500 race

8. On Memorial Day, bikers hold an event known as what?

9. Bees communicate by touch, smell and what?

10. Which berries are used to give gin is flavor?

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

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.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD STEPHEN KING

ACROSS

- 1. Mauritania's neighbor
- 5. Arrest
- 8. Daughter of Zeus and Hera
- 12. Like fist of some rulers
- 13. Containing limestone
- 14. "Misery" Oscar winner
- 15. Gulf War missile
- 16. Throat-clearing sound 17. Earp of the Wild West
- 18. '58 Plymouth Fury in a Stephen King
- 20. Hole punchers
- 21. G in SAG
- 22. Lennon's wife
- 23. Napoleon's hat
- 26. Old tree description
- 30. Ryder Cup team
- 31. Forecastle, for short
- 34. Ruptured
- 35. Harangues
- 37. Tiny guitar
- 38. East side of Jersey
- 39. Brussels' org.
- 40. Genie, alt. sp.
- 42. Soak through 43. Autumnal zodiac sign
- 45. Stomach sores
- 47. Basketball hoop
- arsupial
- cookie
- ol.

- attraction
- 4. Rainbow color
- 5. Root of nihilism

CROSSWORD														
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	50	51				52						53	54	55
56						57					58			
59						60					61			
62						63					64			



27. Kind of change

29. Oceanic trenches

28. Mistake

oulution to last week's crossword puzzle:										48. Down Under mars					
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)	Α	U	┙		Ζ	Е	0	Z		1	R	0	Z	S	56. Nary a soul
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	Н	U	М	Π	D	_	Т	Υ		┙	S	Α	Т		58. Like some rumors
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1	Α	R	Α	М		0	R	R		R	Ε	S	Н	ഗ	63. Don't waste
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ز	Α	R	0	L			S	┙	E		Ν	O	R	Μ	3 Displeasure on one's

6. Set right	32. Rabid Saint Bernard in Stephen Kin
7. "Stand,"	book
8. "Rita and the Shawshank Re-	33. Mogul rider
demption"	36. Nicholson in "The Shining"
9. Bibliographical abbr. (2 words)	38. Foolish
10. Risky business, pl.	40. Not bright
11. "Is" in Paris	41. Subtlety
13. Hispanic American	44. Plumber's concern, pl.
14. Boss, in Swahili	46. Crying like crow
19. Rides the waves	48. Type of cap, pl.
22. Buck	49. Chilled (2 words)
23. "Auld Lang Syne" poet	50. Same as solos
24. "Children of the Corn" cult leader	51. Yuletide
Chroner	52. Paddington Bear's homeland
25. Subsection of a poem	53. Beginning of a story?
26. "Rhinestone Cowboy" singer	54. Grand

55. Like a Stephen King story

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

56. "Platoon" setting

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 Klopfer 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 gloves. 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.



Somerville's Community Design Team recently gathered input from the public concerning future plans for Union Square. - Photo by Luda Tang

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 cutthrough 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

The parking lot in option one will provide more space for seating with the moveable 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 resi-

dents 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 Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #254

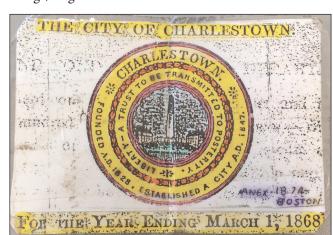
The Path to Newtowne

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.



- + 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 13

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The Massachusetts Department of Transportation invites you to attend a Virtual Public Information Meeting

for the Somerville I-93 Viaduct Bridge Preservation Construction Update

Thursday, June 9, 2022 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

This construction meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to hear an overview of the Somerville I-93 Viaduct Bridge Preservation Project including project overview, schedule, and traffic impacts beginning in June 2022. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and offer comments.

All residents, abutters, local business owners, and interested commuters are invited to attend. All attendees who sign into the meeting and provide an email address will be entered into the project's email database to receive project updates. Prior to the meeting, if you have specific questions or concerns for the project team, please email us: MassD0T193SomervilleViaduct@dot.state.ma.us

Note: 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) 368-8580, Relay Service at 7-1-1, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email to

MASSDOT.CivilRights@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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Caso esta informação seja necessária em outro idioma, favor contar o Especialista em Título VI do MassDOT pelo fone 857-368-8580.

Si necesita información en otro lenguaje, favor contactar al especialista de MassDOT del Título VI al 857-368-8580.

如果需要使用其它语言了解信息·请联系马萨诸塞州交通部(MassDOT)

《民权法》第六章专职人员, 电话 857-368-8580。

如果需要使用其它語言了解信息,請聯系馬薩諸塞州交通部 (MassDOT)

《民權法》第六章專職人員,電話 857-368-8580。

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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

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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 <u>May 13th, 2022</u>. The proposal submission deadline for the RFP is <u>12:00pm on June 6th, 2022</u>.

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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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

 $\underline{https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decision-and-$

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.

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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 webinar hosted 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/2352183449548073996.

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, 02143, 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 Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS CITY CLERK

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE 8 BONAIR STREET SOMERVILLE, MA 02145 RFP# S2023-05

The School Committee of the City of Somerville invites sealed bids for:

A PROGRAM PARTNER FOR STEM OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME CLASSES FOR STUDENTS IN PRE-K, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY GRADES

Each Proposal shall be submitted in two separate sealed envelopes clearly marked "Price Proposal for "Program Services for STEM Out-Of-School Time Classes" and a "Non-Price Proposal for "STEM Out-Of-School Time Classes" in accordance with the Request for Proposal and Contract Documents which may be obtained at the Finance Office (Room 321), Somerville School Department, 8 Bonair Street, Somerville, MA 02145 on or after Tuesday, May 24, 2022 Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

All Proposals shall be filed no later than 4:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, June 15, 2022** at the Finance Office, Somerville School Department, 8 Bonair Street, Somerville, MA 02145. There will be a Proposal review including possible interviews with the finalists.

Please contact Leah Arredondo (<u>larredondo@k12.somerville.ma.us</u>) or call 617-629-5218 to receive the proposal and register as a proposal yearder.

The School Committee of the City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof, waive any minor informality in the Bid process and to award the Contract that is deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville School Department.

Francis Gorski Chief Financial Officer Somerville Public Schools

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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

https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions

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.

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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 05/24/2022. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: 06/08/2022 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@somervillema.gov for more information

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Good afternoon,

The recent MBTA Communities Law requires cities served by the T to zone for multifamily housing in about 50 acres around at least one transit stop. This policy addresses both our regional housing shortage and our global climate crisis, because people living in homes near transit have dramatically lower per-capita carbon emissions. Leaders in some communities have tried to reject the law or find ways

to avoid actually creating any housing, and it's encouraging to know that Somerville City Council isn't trying to do that. However, we can and should do more than the bare minimum. As a city with multiple T stations, this law presents Somerville with an opportunity to take a leadership role on both climate and housing. Instead of applying the revised zoning to an area near one train station, we should apply it around every train station. And instead of the bare minimum 50 acre

space, we should apply it evenly within a half mile of a train station, just as we do with our transit-oriented development parking rules. Our policy leadership can help encourage other cities to do the right thing as well, and truly begin to address the twin threats of housing scarcity and climate change.

Best,

Aaron S. Weber Somerville

Ms. Cam's From on page 8 Answers

- 1. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, Veterans Day is remembering all who served
- 2. Waterloo, NY
- 3. Decoration Day
- 4. James A. Garfield
- 5. November 11, 1921

- 6. April 9, 1932
- 7. Memorial Day weekend in 1911
- 8. The Rolling Thunder
- 9. Dance
- 10. Juniper
- 11. Guy Bush
- 12. Graduands

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 Councilor 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



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

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On This Day in Kistory May 25

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

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

1787 - The Constitutional convention opens at Philadelphia with George Washington presiding.

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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Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

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 presses on, emerging into the historic Cambridge Common or the end of the Road to Newtowne. 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 Conti-

nental Army.

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

The Road to Newtowne, Washington Street, is one of the most historic paths in the country.

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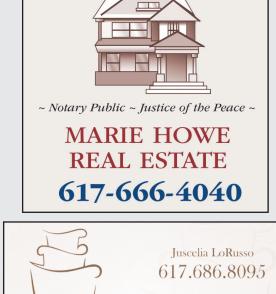
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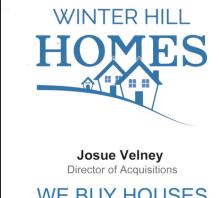
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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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.

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., 3rd Saturdays,

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; Old Powder

House: 1st 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.

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.

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.

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.

yrıca **SOMERVILLE** edited by Doug Holder

Julia Kanno writes: "I am the mother of two amazing young men. I am from Appalachia and Botswana. I am an artist and also work in healthcare. I have self-published with my co-pilot levin pfeuffer two books of prose a storm is cuming and The hardest helmet. My first reading was done at Northeastern University and since then



I have read at the Somerville Armory two times. I consider myself an introverted artist/writer. I give birth to my works including those that have been displayed at the Decordova Museum as well as Howard University and local gems such as The Middle East and Out of the Blue gallery. I will be published in Tell magazine featuring my textiles and art in the spring. Currently, I am studying behavioral science and psychology because there is a need for more people of color to be there for people of color to help end the stigma of seeking mental health."

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

FF THE

by Doug Holder

The Use of Seltzer in the Classroom



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!

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

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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