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original
independent
newspaper

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SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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City holds town hall on supervised consumption sites



A virtual town hall meeting was held last week concerning the possible installation of a supervised consumption site in Somerville.

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

On Thursday of last week, the City of Somerville held a supervised consumption site town hall. The meeting focused on data concerning these sites and the need for them in Somerville.

The meeting was led by Director of Health and Human Services Doug Kress and attended by Mayor Joseph Curtatone and President of the Somerville City Council Matt McLaughlin.

Mayor Curtatone presented initial remarks, followed by those of Councilor McLaughlin. Both emphasized the importance and effectiveness of these facilities. "This is about saving lives, this is about giving people the opportunity to seek treatment, it's not just about enabling drug use," McLaughlin said.

After these introductory remarks, a presentation was given regarding research done by Alex Collins, Brandon Marshall,

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Growing Gardeners workshop sprouts up in Somerville

By Camille Andersen

The City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department hosted a Growing Gardeners workshop last Friday and Saturday for Somerville residents who were brand new to gardening. The goal of the event was to provide gardening knowledge and supplies to people who have never gardened before. Many residents don't have the opportunity to utilize these resources.

Participants who attended the event were met by cheery staff who walked them through the process of making a portable garden and caring for it. To make their garden, participants filled a milk crate with fabric lining and potting soil and then chose several plants from the selection available. The plants included strawberries, herbs, and a variety of flowers.

Roughly 46 people signed up for the Saturday session and the city's goal is to distribute around 270 crates over the course of

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Growing Gardeners workshop participants Henry Vega Ortiz and Abigail Zuber.

— Photos by Camille Andersen



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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.

All city buildings will reopen to the public on Monday, July 12, with limited staffing. Both visitors to city buildings as well as staff will be required to wear face coverings while inside the buildings. Staff will be available on a walk-in basis in all departments for quick transactions like paying a bill or picking up a document. For matters that will take longer, residents will need to schedule an appointment with city staff. Many city services are also available online and, whenever possible, residents are encouraged to continue to use online services.

West Branch and East Branch Libraries will be closed on Thursday, June 17 in observance of Bunker Hill Day. Central Library will be open for contactless pickup on Thursday, June 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All SPL locations will resume contactless pickup on Friday, June 18.

Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone will submit a request to the Board of Health (BOH) this month that would revise and extend the city’s current residential eviction moratorium for 90 days, until September 15. The proposal would, as of the date of its passage, end the commercial eviction moratorium and allow landlords and their agents to enter residential units for non-emergency reasons, with 48 hours advance written notice to tenants, an opportunity to reschedule where necessary, and provided that COVID protocols are followed. The city’s emergency declaration will remain in effect throughout this 90-day period. The BOH will consider the proposal at its June 17 meeting. The Emergency Order Establishing a Moratorium on Eviction Enforcement in the City of Somerville was issued by Mayor Curtatone and the BOH in March 2020. The city’s Office of Housing Stability (OHS) is available to help residents facing eviction. If you are facing eviction or have been unable to pay your rent, contact OHS by filling out the intake form at www.somervillema.gov/ohs or calling 617-625-6600 x2581.

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 16 – June 22 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday June 16	Partly Cloudy	80°/56°	6%	3%	NW 9 mph
Thursday June 17	Sunny	78°/57°	2%	1%	WNW 10 mph
Friday June 18	Sunny	84°/67°	3%	1%	SW 13 mph
Saturday June 19	Rain	86°/66°	39%	21%	SW 15 mph
Sunday June 20	Sunny	82°/61°	18%	11%	W 12 mph
Monday June 22	Partly Cloudy	84°/66°	20%	12%	SS 9 mph
Tuesday June 23	Rain	82°/68°	31%	15%	SSW 12 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: City of Somerville proposes extending local residential eviction moratorium

Laura Mullen says:

So who is going to pay the landlord’s mortgage? Is Mayor Curtatone going to guarantee that no landlords will be foreclosed? Is the mayor guaranteeing that the rent owed to the landlords?

joe says:

This seems like something it would be useful to have some data for. How many people would get evicted for nonpayment of rent if the moratorium were lifted? Is it 5 or 500? How far behind? Are the people behind making progress toward not being behind? Is extending the moratorium going to help, or is it just delaying an inevitable eviction while leaving the landlords further in red?

Response to: All America City 1972

Valarie Faison says:

Wow! Bal A Rou in Meffa!

Nicky Stiles says:

Jimmy: another great article. Here’s what I remember from 1972, January 4, I was on the plane for Parris Island, South Carolina, USMC. The Vietnam war was still goin on, I was 19 and a half. Served but did not go over. Many friends did. Oh ya one more thing a joint cost a buck.

JAR says:

Actually, 55 cents a gallon for gasoline sounds kind of high. We paid 59 cents a gallon at the Gulf on Somerville Ave. in July, 1978. Seems it ran around 40 cents a gallon (at most) until the Arab Oil Embargo in late 1973. Ma and Dad paid \$13,900 for the two-family house in 1956. Cigarettes were 50 cents a pack. If you went to New Hampshire, you could get a carton of Marlboros for \$8-\$9. If it was Sunday, you couldn’t go shopping anywhere other than a corner store. Blue Laws. In October, 1972, the City celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a big parade. A year from this October will be the City’s Sesqi-Centennial celebration. I wonder if they’ll do the same thing? I was at the Southern Jr. High School in 1972. When we went back to school that September, the teachers went on strike and were out for about 2 weeks. There were 16,000 students in the Somerville Public Schools at the time. Interesting times were they! BTW, in 1972, Somerville Lumber was still in its original location. I believe the fire was in 1975, after which they rebuilt into the larger facility. I remember the original store. Quite cramped with stuff piled high to the ceiling.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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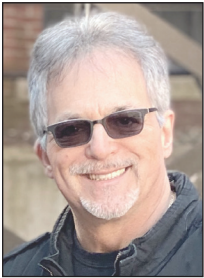


Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Dear old dad



Father's Day is this coming Sunday. My mind goes back to a familiar smell. Old Spice aftershave, a newspaper's ink and cigarette smoke. Yes, Old Spice, that was my dad's signature scent.

Anyway, instead of doing a story about how great our dads were, I'm going the other way. Stories about how our dads may have inadvertently embarrassed us, with love, of course.

I'll go first. My dad threw my rowdy friends out of my piano recital. One of the guys had dungaree overalls on, with

no shirt, and barefoot! Plus, I think they were tripping. He showed them the way out, bodily. He was right, but I wish he didn't have to be right and really loud.

On Father's Day we remember our dads and the influences they had on us. Here are some tales of those times when our fathers embarrassed us:

"I broke my leg when I was in high school. Dad took me up to Somerville hospital to get it checked after six weeks of being in a cast. Sitting in the radiology department to get an x-ray, me trying to hide my hairy skinny leg behind my healthy leg. Dear old dad in his big booming voice said, 'Quite the monkey leg you got there, Sue!' The waiting room was, of course, full."

"How about my mother calling the police to pick me up at a high school dance because my dad was late!"

"My late husband answered the door, to find two questionable boys who stated they were here to pick up my daughter and her friend. It was quick, succinct, and completely appropriate. He said 'NO' and closed the door on them. The girls were devastated and I, as the mom, was elated."

"My dad was umping a Babe Ruth game at Trum Field and threw me out because I dumped my coke on a woman who was calling the ump bad names. The ump she was swearing about was my dad."

"How about when my father showed

up at my BBQ last summer in a 1988 mini-van with faded paint that looked like it hit everything but the lottery. That wasn't the embarrassing thing, it was when he got out, put a big foil-like protector over the cracked dashboard and then proceeded to install "The Club" across his steering wheel. Lol!"

"When I was around 12 my mom and dad took a bunch of us girlfriends to pick apples in NH. We proceeded to steal them in every imaginable way – stuffed into our socks, under our shirts (a dead give-away, lol) and in our pockets. We were, of course, caught and my dad had to pay for everything we'd stolen. He was so embarrassed but didn't make a scene. But the car ride home was looooooong and silent."

"My folks were divorced. I went out on a double date to a Somerville movie theater and it was past curfew. She showed up in nightgown and curlers, walked all the way to the front, turned around, found me and said, 'YOU! LET'S GO!' I was mortified. lol"

Thank you everyone who contributed. I miss my dad every minute. My sons never met my dad but they love stories about him. They also reminded me of the time I was at one of their band gigs and embarrassed them by yelling out "TURN THE BASS UP!" I think I actually went up on stage because the sound wasn't to my liking. But my boys always took my meddling with a grain of salt.

My dad was my hero, and my protector.



My Dad, Fred Del Ponte.

He always had my back and never let me down. I hope my sons remember me as fondly. I bought some Old Spice to keep in the medicine cabinet just for old time's sake. Happy Father's Day, dad!



A gift from my sons.



The scent of my dad.

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Help stop black swallow-wort in Somerville this summer

The City of Somerville is partnering with community groups again this year to raise awareness about black swallow-wort (BSW), a very aggressive and invasive, non-native weed that can be found throughout Somerville.

BSW displaces native plants and habitats, threatens butterflies and songbirds, and is toxic to deer and livestock. It is especially harmful to the monarch butterfly population because it resembles milkweed, where monarchs lay their eggs, and once the monarch larvae hatch, they die from eating the toxic BSW leaves.

BSW pods have already started to appear in Somerville this season, and the city and community groups are asking residents to remove BSW when they see it. The BSW plant has shiny green leaves that come in pairs along winding vines often found around fences and shrubs. It has slim green pods that appear in June, which are imperative to remove before they turn brown and disperse wind-borne seeds. BSW also has small, dark purple flowers that grow in clusters with five petals and a green center.

Whenever possible, BSW should be uprooted completely and the pods should be removed. To dispose of the plant, be sure to place all of it in a sealed trash bag. Do not compost or place BSW in paper or yard waste bags because it will resprout.

To help spread the word, the city is seeking volunteers to distribute informational door hangers about BSW and how to remove it. Door hangers are available for curbside pickup through mid-July at the Somerville Central Library, 79 Highland Avenue.

For more information about BSW, best practices for removing it, and other invasive plants, visit somervillema.gov/BSW.



THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Shining a light on law enforcement

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a College Ave. location last Saturday on a check condition call.

Upon arrival, a man, later identified as Samson Woldu, was found slumped over the wheel inside a parked car.

One of the officers knocked on the car window approximately ten times, and did not get a response from Woldu.

Police then opened the driver's side door to assess Woldu's condition and shook his shoulder, attempting to wake him up. He reportedly came to eventually, but wasn't coherent in his explanation of what had taken place.

Woldu seemed confused and disoriented, according to reports, but stated he was parked in front of his house, which was later confirmed.

Throughout their interaction with Woldu, he reportedly behaved in a hostile manner towards the firefighters that had also reported to the scene, as well as to the police officers.

According to reports, Woldu repeatedly stated that the police were there because he was black, and assured us that he was born and raised in Somerville and had a valid American passport.

Woldu asked for the police officers' badge numbers and names multiple times, and he was provided with that information each time.

The police officers had Woldu evaluated by EMTs, and he refused medical attention. The officers advised Woldu to get inside the house, as he had fallen asleep inside his vehicle.

Police cleared the call, but Woldu was reportedly heard having a phone conversation loudly while still seated in his car. He then exited his vehicle and approached two of the officers that were still one the scene. He repeatedly asked for their names and badge numbers, and stated that he did not know the reason they were there harassing him.

Woldu was provided with the requested information, but then pulled out his phone and advised the officers that he was recording them. He reportedly turned on his phone's flashlight and shined it on one of the officer's face, standing inches away.

The officer asked Woldu to turn off the flashlight, and back off, as he was within a space that made him feel unsafe. He refused, and the officer covered the flashlight with his hand, at which time Woldu smacked his hand away.

Woldu reportedly turned to another officer and did the same thing. She also requested that he back away at a safe distance. Woldu then reportedly stood in the middle of the roadway with his phone pointed at the officers, then came extremely close to an officer's face with his phone once again.

The other officer moved his phone, to create distance from this officer's face, and Woldu reportedly smacked her hands away.

The officers advised Woldu that he was going to be placed under arrest for assaulting a police officer, and requested that he place his hands behind his back. He refused to do so, and both officers grabbed each of his forearms, attempting to place them behind his back.

According to police, Woldu resisted, twisting his body and using physical force to pull his arms away. When the officers were able to place Woldu in handcuffs, he attempted tp get away again.

The officers physically restrained Woldu, and forced him to sit while they waited for backup. Woldu reportedly continued resisting until the prisoner transport vehicle arrived, at which time he was taken to the police station and booked on charges of assault and battery on a public employee and resisting arrest.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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City holds town hall on supervised consumption sites CONT. FROM PG 1

and TJ Thompson. The presentation was a draft report regarding a needs assessment and feasibility report for supervised consumption sites.

One striking statistic regarded the number of overdose deaths in Massachusetts in 2020. "In 2020, 2,104 people died of an opioid-related overdose in Massachusetts," Marshall said. "Between 2012 and 2018, the number of overdose deaths among Somerville residents increased more than fivefold."

Following these grim statistics, Marshall described supervised consumption sites. "These facilities are hygienic, medical environments, where individuals can consume pre-obtained substances under the supervision of health-care professionals," Marshall said.

In addition, Marshall tackled a number of myths that are used against the placement of these such sites. "Supervised consumption sites do not increase the number of people who use drugs coming into a neighborhood," Marshall said. "Studies conducted in Canada and an evaluation of one unsanctioned facility in the United States finds that they do not increase harm, violence, or crime in the neighborhoods in which they are located."

Moreover, Collins presented key findings of surveys conducted with people who use drugs in the Somerville area. One figure in particular provided a greater insight into how supervised consumption sites could benefit the community. "What we found in this work is that almost all participants said that they would use a supervised consumption site if it were established in Somerville," Collins said.

The presentation also included another survey given to members of the Somerville community about their anxieties about safety and community impact of these sites. "56 percent of respondents said they had no concern," Collins said.



Another question posed to community members was in regards to preferred locations for a supervised consumption site in Somerville. "The two major neighborhoods that came out of this were East Somerville and Davis Square," Collins said.

To wrap up the presentation, Collins gave a set of recommendations and conclusions for the report. "Based on this range of data, we recommend that a site be located in either Davis Square and/or East Somerville," Collins said. "If you had a location based in Davis Square and East Somerville, you'd really capture all the Somerville community."

Following the presentation, more comments were given by other members of the research team, Mayor Curtatone and Councilor McLaughlin. "Even if this doesn't affect you directly, it does indirectly affect you. What we're trying to do is to directly address these issues," McLaughlin said.

At the end of the hour and a half meeting, speakers fielded questions from the public.

The next meeting about the supervised consumption sites will be held on Tuesday, July 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Somerville Firefighters Memorial Sunday

On Sunday, June 13, the Somerville Fire Department celebrated Firefighter Memorial Sunday. Firefighter Memorial Sunday is held every year to honor the Somerville Firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice, and to recognize all active and retired members who have passed away during the past year. It has been a tradition for over 100 years and is a very special day for us. There was a brief ceremony with a wreath laying at the Lowell Street Fire Station located at 651 Somerville Ave.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner



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The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

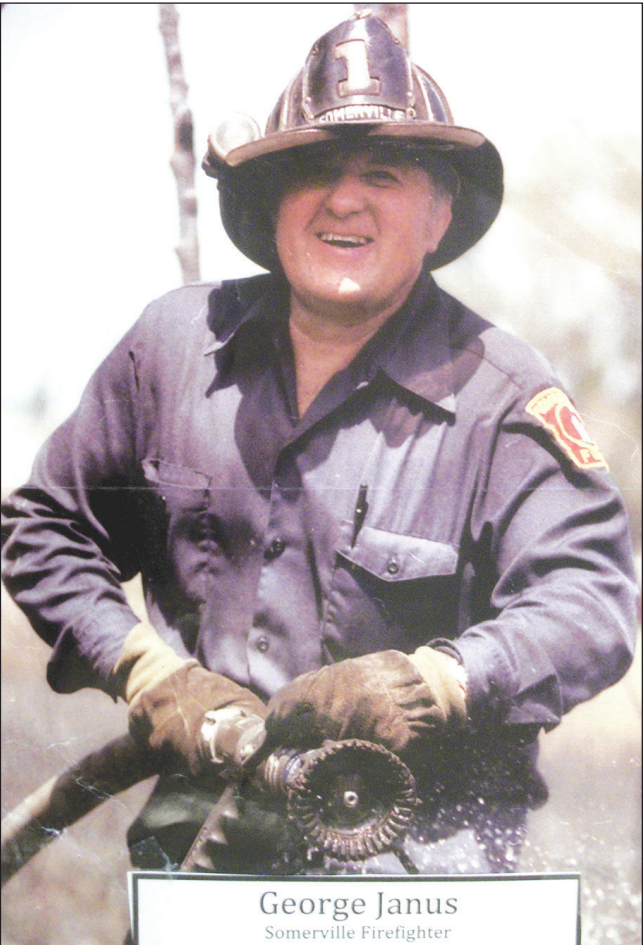


Eagle feathers #231

The Faithful and the Fearless

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

While walking by, biking, or sitting in Winter Hill traffic, many people have noticed the names of Reilly and Brickley on the front of the city's fire headquarters and have casually dismissed them without a thought. On June 10, Somerville firefighters celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Arrow Paper Company fire where two of their fellow firefighters lost their lives and five were injured. Veteran firefighter, George Janus, was buried in the rubble and narrowly escaped with serious injuries. Four other firefighters were also injured trying to extricate him.



The early 1970's was a time of a large exodus from the ranks of the Somerville Fire Department. It marked the retirement of many of the 30-year career firefighters who had been appointed following World War II. In 1974, because of this exodus, the city had exhausted her hiring list and appointed sixteen out-of-town recruits from the state list to fill its vacant positions. Coming from Arlington, I was proud to be one of them. To my knowledge, it was the first and only time in its history that Somerville officially hired out-of-town recruits.



Everyone in the area remembers that night vividly when radio and television news reports flashed the incident. I was at my fiancée's birthday party when

Continued on page 13

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.

Somerville Museum's 'Access for All & More Campaign 2021'



By Mayor Emeritus Eugene C. Brune, Museum Trustee

I remember that it was in the 1980's when I was first introduced to the wonders of the Somerville Museum. Although I learned "Mary had a little lamb" in the early grades of elementary school I never knew that Mary Sawyer Tyler, the heroine of that poem, lived in our city and was the wife of Columbus Tyler (Superintendent of the McLean Asylum). It was fascinating to also know that the very first telephone line in the world was installed by Alexander Graham Bell in the home of Charles Williams, a resident on Arlington Street, Somerville in 1877. Bell invented the telephone in Williams Electrical Shop. Bell, owing Williams some money, made his very first phone call from his shop in Boston to Williams' home. Or how it came to be that the first flag of the United Colonist was raised on the high point of Prospect Hill on January 1, 1776 and we celebrate this by raising the replica of that flag every year on the first of January. And more fascinating stories such as the Mill, built in 1747 at Powder House Park, that stored hundreds of barrels of gunpowder which was seized by General Gage for the British.

As well as the Round House and Ploughed. The Blessing of the Bay, and so much more about the glass works, the brick yards and that is just the tip of the iceberg, as the saying goes.

While I was Mayor, Members of the Board of Trustees at the Somerville Museum asked if I would consider being chairperson of their fundraising drive to help raise funds needed to make necessary repairs and make the museum safe and functional for the public. The drive was successful. The work was completed, and I was asked to join them as a trustee. I agreed, and have been, so to speak, hooked ever since and loving every day of it.

One of my, and my former office staff's, fondest memories was when I was Mayor. Somerville Kiwanis Club voted to fund a program for all the fourth graders in the city. With the approval of the School Department, Kiwanis hired school buses, picked up the students and teachers and took them all on a tour of all the historic sites in the city and also to the museum. The tour ended in my Mayor's Office, where they all sat on the floor and I would ask them what they learned today about the history of the city. They were all so excited to tell me and I was really impressed in the knowledge they received which made the program extremely beneficial. Before leaving I gave each of them a small banner that stated, "My Visit to City Hall." Each wanted me to sign it and many wanted to sit in my chair. Truly a fun experience and we always looked forward to the next group. To

this day I have had much older adults tell me that they still have that banner hanging on the wall of their children's bedroom and also have nice memories of their visit to my office.

We currently have several wonderful residents and business owners sitting on the Somerville Museum's fundraising committee. We have all been working hard to raise the \$2,250,000 million dollars needed to finally make the museum accessible to all by making it ADA Compliant. We are in the process of installing an elevator allowing all that visit to have access to all floors, building ADA compliant gender-neutral bathrooms, a multi-purpose space, making repairs to our precious Bullfinch flying bridge staircase, and making all necessary repairs in the basement in order to store our several collections, and much more.

We offer a virtual presentation for any organization, group and individuals that are willing to listen. We also offer small private tours of the museum for those considering donating to our campaign. And I am pleased to announce that we have raised \$1,900,000 million dollars to date, we have all the necessary permits, and work is being performed as we speak. Donations from \$25 dollars to several thousand dollars have been made. With special thanks to the Somerville Post 19 American Legion for donating \$70,000 dollars! They believe that the museum is vital to the history of Somerville's citizens, from school children on up to the elderly. They also saw the



necessity of the space being accessible to the disabled, many of them veterans of the several wars. This will be a lasting gift to the people of the city that Post 19 has been an important part of for well over 80 years. Being a life member of this group, as well as VFW James Logan Post 6800 that also donated \$5,000, I am pleased and proud of the members who listened to what I had to say and acted in such a wonderful and generous way.

We are also pleased to have as our Honorary Chairpersons, Former Governor Michael Dukakis and his wife Kitty. They have attended exhibitions at the museum and always enjoyed their visit.

We will be expanding our drive to all our local businesses, civic group, friends, family and neighbors that we hope will care as deeply as we do that the children on up to the elderly, will have a museum that they can be proud

of, and that will open doors to a greater world for them.

It would be wonderful if people would consider donating any amount they can and be part of making this all possible. We will soon be spreading the word in print and on social media to allow you to learn more about the museum and ways you can donate. Please give it your consideration. Thank you.

To donate online: <http://somer-villemuseum.org/accessforall/> Or, please consider sending a check to help us save 3% on processing fees. All checks can be sent to Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, Somerville, MA 02143 (memo: Access for All)

To learn more please contact: accessforall@somerville-museum.org

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The CEUCC discusses strategy and policy

By Rachael Hines

The Council of Energy Use and Climate Change (CEUCC) held a virtual meeting to discuss upcoming sustainability regulations on Wednesday, June 11. The Committee tackled issues like defining "net zero carbon emissions" and discussed how to incentivize sustainability in construction and remodeling while keeping costs low.

"There's a concern about net zero being unaffordable, but ac-

cording to recent research, that's not the case," said Commissioner and Committee member Liz Galloway. When constructing new buildings, there may not be a considerable price increase when choosing to go sustainable. "The net difference cost ends up being less than \$1,000," said Galloway.

Another topic of discussion for the Committee was their desire to welcome speakers from across Massachusetts in the future. Diverse perspectives

are required in order to create regulations and programs that are attainable across all Massachusetts communities. According to Committee member Oliver Sellers-Garcia, getting creative will be crucial in their fight against fossil fuel reliance and high emissions.

For more information on the Council of Energy Use and Climate Change, visit www.somer-villema.gov/departments/commission-on-energy-use-and-climate-change.



COMMENTARY

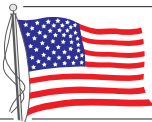
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Have a happy Father's Day, Somerville!

Our View Of The Times



For those of us who are fortunate enough to have had a strong, loving father figure in our lives, we have indeed been truly blessed.

They have served as our providers – along with mom, of course – our enablers, our staunch supporters, our coaches, our towers of strength.

Most of us love our dads year-round unconditionally, but we are immediately

reminded of just how much they mean to us whenever Father’s Day rolls around in the month of June.

It suddenly becomes a high priority to pick out that perfect gift, to prepare a nice meal, or to just spend some meaningful quality time together.

And as stoic and unconcerned as they may want to appear, you can be sure that these gestures are deeply appreciated. Ev-

eryone likes to feel appreciated, whether giver or receiver.

And with the restrictions that were in place due to the coronavirus crisis now finally lifting, the holiday may at last return to what it has been in the past. To enjoy brunch or dinner again at a family favorite restaurant, or a couple of drinks at the neighborhood bar. Maybe some bowling, shooting pool, or any number of other in-

door activities. How great it will be to relax while gathering together to celebrate this special occasion with our dads.

In fact, it might be a good idea to take him out somewhere, just to shake off the effects of that year-long isolation.

However we manage to celebrate our fathers this year, let’s make sure they know how important and precious they are to us. They’ll surely appreciate it.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to Steve Mirabella. We wish him many more. Happy birthday to one of the famous Winter Hill family members, **Linda Spinosa**, who celebrates this week. Happy birthday to former Spring Hill resident **Gail Chambers**, who is celebrating this week as well. We hope she and **Bill** enjoy the day and go out and celebrate. Happy birthday to one of our former writers, **Jack Nicas**, a successful reporter now at the *New York Times*. As always, we wish him the best. Happy birthday, Jack, and many more. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Shawn M. Lynch**, **Former Alderman Rebekah Gewirtz**, **Gretchen Ann Graham**, **Martin Janet**, **Pindi Singh**, **Donna M. Gilberti**, **Chris Marshall** and **Kathi Mullins** 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.

Somerville landlords and realtors are invited to join the city’s **Office of Housing Stability** for a virtual workshop about the benefits of renting to **Section 8 tenants**. Learn how Section 8 ensures stable rental income, how

higher payment standards can lead to higher rent receipts, and how landlords and realtors can qualify for additional incentive payments and technical support through the city’s **SomerVIP program**. This event is Thursday, June 24, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Register to attend at somervillema.gov/OHS.

The **Center for Teen Empowerment, Inc.** **Center for Teen Empowerment** is hiring for multiple summer positions and looking for young people interested in organizing around community issues. Application: <http://tinyurl.com/ApplyTE>. If you have any questions, please reach out to meat spost@teene-mpowerment.org.

Venture out to the **Somerville Community Growing Center** on select **Thursday evenings in June and July** for live music. Dates are 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on June 17, July 1, 15, and 29 (rain dates on alternative weeks, as predicted rain will cancel by mid-day). Experience a mix of jazz with Latin flavors. Spread your blanket or grab a chair, bring your own picnic, explore the native pollinator garden or the food and herb beds and enjoy a summer serenade. For more info visit

<https://www.thegrowingcenter.org/>.

The school year is coming to an end. Please consider **thanking a special teacher or staff person** at your child’s school with a **STAR certificate** from the **Somerville Education Foundation (SEF)**. Each recipient receives a beautiful certificate with your name and a personal message. You may purchase a STAR at a price you choose from \$20 to \$200. Your donation will be used towards SEF’s new teacher grant program that we hope will provide schools with the resources they need to develop and implement innovative instructional methods, acquire additional teaching materials, as well as pilot new technology and community partnerships in the classroom. SEF’s mission is to support Somerville youth, whether it’s for basic needs (food, clothing, etc.), out of school time learning, applied learning, and now teacher grants. Thank you for your support! Follow the link: <http://www.somervilleedfoundation.org/store/p1/star.html#/> to purchase STAR certificates online. Your recipient(s) are sure to smile.

Walk-in vaccinations are available at

multiple locations: You now can get a COVID-19 vaccination without having to pre-register or make an appointment. There are walk-in vaccination sites all around Somerville, and just outside it as well. **Cambridge Health Alliance** vaccine clinics have larger supplies of doses and can vaccinate kids ages 12-17. You do not need to be a CHA patient to use these clinics. They are free and open to all. **Local CVS pharmacies** and the **Stop & Shop on McGrath Hwy.** are also offering walk-in vaccines. Local Walgreens pharmacies require a brief pre-registration, but can process people quickly if they have open slots and you walk in. Here are the CHA walk-in sites: **CHA Somerville Vaccine Center** at 176 Somerville Avenue in Somerville, Mon.- Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Tufts University Gantcher Center** at 161 College Ave. in Medford, Wed-Thurs. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Encore Boston Harbor** at 1 Broadway Center in Everett, Mon.- Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Individuals younger than 18 will need **parental or guardian consent** to receive the **COVID-19** *Continued on page 11*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olío

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#783

1. When was the first Father's Day celebrated?
 2. When is National Yo-Yo Day?
 3. Who holds the record in the Guinness Book of Records for the most followers on Twitter for an athlete?
 4. What song holds the Guinness Book of Records for the most words in a hit single?
 5. Which film did father and son actors Will and Jaden Smith first appear together?
 6. Who directed the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy?
 7. In the *Star Wars* movies, which moon is home to the Ewoks?
 8. Who was the U.S. president during World War I?
 9. What was the name of the first Space Shuttle to go into space?
 10. What was *The Ed Sullivan Show* originally titled?
 11. What U.S. President's motto was "The buck stops here"?
 12. Which TV show featured the houses Targaryen and Stark?
- Answers on page 11*

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. If you travel across the Russia, you will cross seven time zones.
2. There are more than 7,000 varieties of apples grown in the world.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

SUPERHEROES

ACROSS

1. Steps to the river, in India
5. Hot springs resort
8. Meal in a shell
12. Driver's misbehavior?
13. Grilling technique
14. Medal of Honor descriptor
15. Cracked open
16. What Knave of Hearts stole from Queen of Hearts, sing.
17. Raise one's rank
18. July 4th pyrotechnic display
20. Hubble Space Telescope operator, acr.
21. Chip dip
22. i topper
23. Main Street tradition on the 4th
26. Superlative of fummy
30. Ribonucleic acid
31. Store as fodder
34. Moonfish
35. Rose oil
37. Number cruncher
38. Fairytale garden dweller
39. Indian Lilac tree
40. Extinct type of zebra
42. Steampunk decoration
43. Did 2 + 2 (2 words)
45. Crocheted blanket
47. Swedish shag rug
48. Ancient port city in Israel
50. Smiley face
52. First President to hold July 4th celebration at the White House
56. Snoop Dogg's "Gin and ____"
57. Medicinal succulent
58. Hit the bottle
59. Earthenware pots
60. View from a high-speed train?
61. Observer
62. "Glengarry ____ Ross"
63. G, in solfa
64. "The Fountainhead" author

DOWN

1. Former tennis pro Steffi
2. One who's made the pilgrimage to
26. Most popular Ju
27. Notable period

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

7	9	3	4	5	1	6	8	2
8	4	1	7	2	6	9	3	5
5	6	2	3	9	8	1	7	4
6	2	8	5	4	9	7	1	3
4	5	9	1	3	7	8	2	6
1	3	7	8	6	2	5	4	9
9	7	5	2	8	4	3	6	1
2	8	6	9	1	3	4	5	7
3	1	4	6	7	5	2	9	8

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

G	R	I	P			F	A	A				T	H	O		
P	O	O	R			A	L	U	M			D	P	H	I	L
O	T	T	O			B	A	R	E			O	A	R	E	D
	C	A	T	W	O	M	A	N				G	N	U	S	
			E	R	A	S	E			P	I	T				
H	A	M	M	E	R					H	E	E	H	A	W	S
E	D	O		A	D	D	S	U	P			E	V	I	L	
A	M	U	C	K		O	I	L			C	R	O	N	Y	
P	I	S	A		P	U	N	K	A	H			I	C	E	
S	T	E	P	S	U	P					W	O	N	D	E	R
			T	U	B			P	O	L	I	O				
	A	C	A	I			S	U	P	E	R	M	A	N		
A	G	A	I	N			I	R	I	S			A	R	I	D
T	H	I	N	G			L	E	N	S			D	U	N	E
M	A	N					L	E	E				S	M	E	W

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						7		
			4		2		6	
2		9	5	7			4	
4		7	8					
	8						1	
					3	8		6
	6			8	5	3		1
	5		7		1			
		2						

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.



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Live music is back in Somerville, and venue owners are excited

By Bella Levavi

After the three major Somerville music venues shut their doors over a year ago, Governor Baker’s order on May 29, 2021 has brought live music back to Massachusetts.

Somerville residents are coming in huge numbers to the local venues to hear live music once again. “It’s bouncing back like it never happened,” Tommy McCarthy, owner of The Burren, said.

This year has not been easy for local venues. Each one had its individual struggles and handled their hardships in different ways. The one similarity between them is that they are all bringing music back to Somerville in full force this summer.

Weeks before The Jungle Community Music Club planned their small reopening, Massachusetts announced they would allow full capacity in music venues once again, drastically changing their plans. In June, they will have small outdoor shows several times a week, and starting in July they will have larger indoor shows, and stay open late into the night.

Having a small online presence before the pandemic, their reopening announcement elicited an anticipatory social me-

dia response racking up over 2,000 views.

The Jungle closed and reopened many times throughout the pandemic. Last summer Somerville announced they would not allow outdoor music to avoid potential large gatherings, this order was different from the neighboring towns who allowed live music across the Boston area. In compliance with this order, The Jungle allowed musicians to play live inside while they streamed the performance outside on their patio and online.

The Jungle acquired many loans to stay afloat during the pandemic. Being relatively new and small, they are expecting to take a long time to pay off these loans. Currently they are waiting on the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant to assist them in paying off what they owe.

Unlike The Jungle, ONCE Ballroom was unable to survive the Pandemic’s temporary closure. Shifting to an online streaming model for the pandemic, they decided to close their doors for good last November when the owner ran out of money.

Nevertheless, ONCE announced on June 11 that they will continue producing shows this summer in an outdoor ven-



Somerville’s most popular entertainment venues are coming back to life after COVID-19 restrictions are largely lifted.

ue. They plan to put on about 25 shows throughout the summer season, and include not only music, but magic shows as well as other acts.

The owner, JJ Gonson, thinks that having an open space will be more accessible for people who are not ready to return to large indoor crowds again. “Not everybody is ready to be with their masks off partying, so being outside is more inclusive,” Gonson said.

Whether people are looking for outdoor or indoor music, The Burren is already back to

a full schedule of music this summer. The Irish pub in Davis Square has jam sessions in their front, music in their back room, and shows on their back patio.

McCarthy said they were hit the hardest by the pandemic from last November through the winter. With hybrid working schedules being a new normal, he noticed new lunch crowds during the week, and people with more energy to go out on Thursday and Friday nights.

These club owners learned many lessons from the hard times of the past year. Sam Ep-

stein, the owner of the Jungle, said he learned to value musicians more than ever. “Somerville was the only place that denied Musicians the right to work safely outside, that’s when it struck me that more important than the customers is to treat musicians right.”

“There is a special connection that happens with live music that is different from going bowling or seeing a movie,” Gonson said when asked what live music will bring to Somerville. “I can’t wait, all I want in the world is to see a live show.”

Defund SPD expresses outrage at FY-22 Budget public hearing

By Joe Creason

The Finance Committee convened for a public hearing with regards to the FY-22 Budget on June 9. Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott, Chair of the Finance Committee, led the hearing proceeding in the third night of the Committee’s budget review process. The Council did not answer questions or deliberate on comments from the public, in order to allow as many individuals to speak as possible.

Members of the public were called upon by their arrival time and given two minutes to speak.

“This is a special night as it is our opportunity to have any residents from the public provide their feedback and comment the Fiscal Year 22 Budget. It is my goal here to give everyone the chance to be heard,” Councilor Scott said.

Prior to the meeting, the City Clerk had received and forwarded 107 written comments to the City Council regarding

the public hearing.

Some of the comments were written by the over 35 individual speakers who voiced their opinion at the public hearing. The overwhelming majority of speakers were present to represent the advocacy group Defund SPD.

“I want to encourage you to reject the proposed \$1.5 million increase to the police budget and use the power of your voices as City Councilors to advocate for a 10% decrease in funding to SPD,” said Somerville resident Ryan Lemaire.

Lemaire was one among many from Defund SPD who expressed outrage at the \$1.5 million police budget increase in the proposed to FY-22 Budget.

“I don’t believe the city has kept its promises about reimagining community policing,” said Ward 1 resident Krystal Turner, “We respectfully disagree with the memo proposing shared coordinator position for the Office of Racial and Social Justice and Human Commission.”

Turner says that more work needs to be done to make this action compliant with the City Ordinance pertaining to the Office of Racial and Social Justice, and that the Ordinance calls for an Executive Director as opposed to a coordinator. The distinction between the positions concerns powers and authority.

"I don't believe the city has kept its promises about reimagining community policing"

“This council has the power to set police staffing by ordinance and is much better equipped to ensure that the transparent, impartial study the public deserves is done and that this isn’t just further delay to the urgent, and yet unstarted process of reimagining community policing,” said Somerville resident Sam Alderman.

According to Defund SPD’s



recent “People’s Budget” survey, an average of 65% of Somerville residents surveyed were in favor of defunding the Police Department “Democracy always works best when we all participate, it is a tremendous responsibility to decide what to do with this budget as a Council, I feel this responsibility as the only person of color on the Council,” said City Councilor At-Large Wilfred N. Mbah. “Instead of police, why aren’t we increasing the funding for alternative response measures and non-violent methods? Why aren’t we addressing the school to prison pipeline? Why aren’t we making

our city more ADA compliant? This are things we must look at to improve the community.”

Ward 5 Councilor Mark Niedergang, for whom it was his last Fiscal Year Budget public hearing as he is not running for reelection, had this message to share at the conclusion of the meeting:

“I agree with much of what critics of traditional policing have said, but I do think it’s important to see that the people who work at the Police Department, with few exceptions, are honorable decent public servants who risk their lives every day.”

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**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 public hearing on **Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 6:00pm.**

Pursuant to a.) Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18; b.) the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place; c) Mayor Curtatone’s Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, and; d) anticipated legislation and/or orders that will permit remote meetings beyond the end of the Governor’s initial state of emergency, **this public meeting and hearings is expected to be conducted via remote participation using GoToWebinar.**

In the event that legislation and/or orders permitting remote participation are no longer in effect on date of this meeting, the meeting will instead be held at the Armory Building at 191 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA, 02143. Please refer to the agenda posted on the City website to confirm if this meeting will be held at this location. The agenda is posted to the website 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6715021391549034765>
Webinar ID: 611-595-787

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 930-5321
Access code: 188-108-270

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

- 515 Somerville Ave** Applicant Claudia Murrow seeks an administrative appeal of the building inspector’s decision of October 23, 2019, to issue two building permits for 515 Somerville Ave (B19-001687 and B19-001788). Remand pursuant to NO. 20 MISC 000283 (RBF).
- 27 Loring Street** Applicants Kyle and Jovie Conroy propose adding a half story to a Cottage building type which requires two Hardship Variances.
- 31 Tufts Street** E3 Development LLC proposes to develop a Pocket Park in the Urban Residence district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

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 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.

6/9/21, 6/16/21 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB 21-70**

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department invites sealed bids for:

Winter Hill Community School – Waterproofing Repairs

Bid packages may be obtained at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> or Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143 beginning on 6/16/2021.

Filed sub-bids for DCAMM category waterproofing, damp-proofing and caulking are due by **7/1/2021 at 1:00pm.**

Sealed general bids with DCAMM certification General Construction are due by **7/12/2021 at 1:00pm.** Late bids will not be considered. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all bids if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Prevailing wage applies.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at 617-625-6600 x 3403, or acaruth@somervillema.gov for information and the bid package.

Andrea Caruth
Assistant Purchasing Director

6/16/21 The Somerville Times

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Public Notice

In February 2021 HUD announced the FY 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula allocations for the City of Somerville in the amount of 2,545,290. HUD has recently informed the City that there was an error in the allocation formula. The amount has been corrected by HUD and the City of Somerville will receive 2,582,798 in CDBG funds, an increase of 37,508 in available funds.

Waiver Authority: In accordance with 24 CFR 5.110, HUD may, up determination of good cause and subject to statutory limitations, waive regulatory provisions. Additional regulatory is provided in 24 CFR 91.600. These provisions make waiver determinations for the CDBG program.

Given the need to expedite actions to respond to the allocation error, HUD waives 24 CFR 91.105 (b)(4), (c) (2), and (k) for local governments and, reduces the public comment period from 30 days to no less than three days.

The City of Somerville presented the Draft Annual Action Plan virtually on **May 13, 2021**. A copy of the presentation can be found on our website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/office-strategic-planning-and-community-development-ospcd/ospcd-administration>.

Written comments will be accepted until Wednesday June 23, 2021 and should be sent via email to ospcd@somervillema.gov.

6/16/21 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145
Telephone (617) 625-1152

Web: www.sha-web.org

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REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed proposals from registered Engineering firms to provide professional design and construction administration services to upgrade (or replace if an upgrade is not feasible) the HVAC controls system at our Capen Court development located in Somerville, MA 02145. The upgrade will include a new central control system, as well as new thermostats throughout the building (including the 95 elderly apartment units).

The Award is subject to DHCD requirements and guidelines. A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00 AM on Thursday, June 24th, 2021**, at the Capen Court elderly facility located at 2 Capen Ct, Somerville, MA 02144.

Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than **2:00PM Friday, July 2nd, 2021**.

The RFS may be obtained after **11:00AM on Wednesday, June 16th, 2021**, by contacting travis@sha-web.org or by phone at 617-625-1152 Ext.330.

Questions must be sent in writing to travis@sha-web.org no later than **Monday, June 28th, 2021**.

6/16/21 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB#21-50**

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department invites sealed bids for:

On-Call Fence & Gate Repairs and Installation

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids> or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **06/16/2021**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **06/30/2021 12:00PM**. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Prevailing wage rates apply. 5% bid deposit required.

Please contact Prajkta Waditwar at pwaditwar@somervillema.gov for more information.

Prajakta Waditwar
Construction Procurement Manager
617-625-6600, x3407

6/16/21 The Somerville Times

Kitty Connection Online Auction: June 18 – 20

Kick off the summer by helping local pets in need

Kitty Connection, an all-volunteer non-profit dedicated to rescuing and finding safe, loving homes for local cats and dogs, will hold an Online June Pop-up Auction from 5:00 p.m. Friday, June 18, through 9:00 p.m. Sunday, June 20, at www.myminiauction.com/kittyconnection.

“As the number of homeless, abandoned and unwanted pets continues to rise, Kitty Connection volunteers are working tirelessly to find safe, loving homes that are suited to each animal’s personality and circumstances,” Kitty Connection President Marie Mazzeo said. “Each year, our volunteers rescue over 700 cats, including many that need medical care before they can be placed in adoptive homes. Proceeds from our June Pop-Up Auction will add to the \$6,000 Kitty Connection has already raised through online auctions this year to cover this essential care and other adoption costs.”

Kitty Connection provides critical high-cost medical care, including surgeries, for 30 to 50 cats annually, and provides funds for low-cost medical care to 30 to 50 adopters following adoption of their pets. Volunteers provide foster homes for animals until they are adopted, and Kitty Connection ensures that pets are spayed/neutered, tested for common illnesses, and vaccinated prior to adoption.

In addition, Kitty Connection runs a low-cost spay/neuter program for pet owners in need and provides education and outreach in the community about the importance of responsible pet ownership. The organization anticipates restarting its feral cat trap/neuter/return program when it’s safe for volunteers, after the pandemic has subsided.

Dozens of items will be up for bid during the June Pop-Up Auction, including baskets in various themes perfect for the season, and many gifts and items for kids, pets, and adults – including an Echo Dot speaker, with bidding starting as low as \$10. Auction rules and logistics are posted on the auction website, and items up for bid will appear there at the auction start time (5:00 p.m., Friday, June 18). Please direct any questions to stephanie@kittyconnection.net. To learn more about Kitty Connection’s mission and pets available for adoption, visit: www.kittyconnection.net.



O'Neill Scholarships support higher education for three locals

By Nathan Lamb

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) has awarded John O'Neill Scholarships to support the higher education of three local students this fall.

The following Cambridge and Somerville students will receive John O'Neill Scholarships:

Angelie Coulanges A graduate of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Angelie is pursuing a career in health care as a registered nurse. A certified Nursing Assistant, she completed the Cambridge Rindge and Latin Health Assistance Program, where she participated in patient care at Sancta Maria Nursing Home and Spaulding Rehab. She is also certified in CPR and Alzheimer's Association Dementia training. Angelie is attending U-Mass Boston this fall.

Hiba Khouti A graduate of Somerville High School, Hiba's career goal is to become a doctor. She sought out experience in science and health care by joining the Pharmacy Tech program at Somerville High School and worked increasingly

responsible positions at a local CVS store. She was president of the Student Council and volunteered in the community through the National Honors Society and Community Service Club. Hiba is attending U-Mass Boston this fall.

Manal Khouti A graduate of Somerville High School, Manal is aiming to become a doctor or psychologist. She completed the Pharmacy Tech program at Somerville High school and now works at a local CVS, where she is responsible for organizing medications, checking insurance and ways to assist older adults with medication costs. She was secretary of the Student Council and National Honors Society, and has been involved with volunteerism, such as Thanksgiving food drives. Manal will attend U-Mass Lowell this fall.

The O'Neill Scholarship awards \$2,000 for students from both Cambridge and Somerville. The Somerville scholarship was split between the Khouti sisters, who both had outstanding applications, explained SCES



The recipients of the 2021 John O'Neill Scholarships are (from left) Angelie Coulanges, Hiba Khouti, and Manal Khouti. Coulanges is a recent graduate of Cambridge Rindge and Latin. Hiba and Manal Khouti recently graduated from Somerville High School.

Board President Leslie Hergert.

"The SCES board is always impressed by the students we interview for this award," she said. "Angelie, Hiba, and Manal are shining examples of combining academic commitment and community service in health-related fields. With this award, we honor their past work, and support their future studies in areas we expect will contribute to the well-being of our communities' elders."

The O'Neill Scholarship Fund

was established in 2017 to honor retiring Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services director John O'Neill and his lifelong dedication to ensuring that older people have options to stay healthy and remain in their homes.

The O'Neill scholarship supports outstanding students who plan to pursue higher education in the areas of elder services, health care, advocacy, or policy work. A central goal of the scholarship is to help meet the growing need for advocates

and leaders in fields that serve older adults.

Interested seniors at Somerville High School and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School should contact their school counseling office for information on how to apply.

The O'Neill Scholarship is a donation-driven effort. To learn more about supporting the O'Neill Scholarship, visit the SCES Donations page, call 617-628-2601 or email development@eldercare.org.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

Praise for Senator Pat

News close to home. Recently, I requested help from Senator Pat Jehlen's office. Their response was both helpful, timely and totally respectful. I suggest

to residents of Somerville and other cities in her district to call on your local officials if you need help. After several months of attempting to receive my handicap placard for my car, Senator Je-

hlen's office helped me to receive it in very short order. Thanks so much for doing public service.

Dorothea Juno-Johnston
Somerville

Intro to Methamphetamine

Somerville Cares About Prevention's next virtual training will be Thursday, June 17, 6:00 p.m. Hosted by Substance Use Prevention Coordinator, Kira Vaughan.

Go to to join the event – <http://bit.ly/IntroToMeth>.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

vaccine. A parent or guardian can either accompany a minor age 16 or 17 to their vaccine appointment, or fill out a consent form that the minor can then bring with them to the appointment. Consent forms in multiple languages are available at the state's website. Parents must accompany children ages 12-15 to their vaccine appointments.

Help support your neighbors through the **Somerville Cares Fund**. If you're lucky enough to have some extra money, please consider a donation to the Somerville Cares Fund. This do-

nation-based fund provides direct assistance to Somerville residents, workers, and parents of school children so that they can cover basic expenses like housing, food, and utility bills. If you're unable to donate you can still help by sharing information about the Somerville Cares Fund with your friends and family.

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.

West Somerville Neighborhood School schoolyard renovation meeting

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 7 City Councilor Katjana Ballantyne, and City of Somerville staff invite you to a virtual community meeting about proposed schoolyard renovations at the West Somerville Neighborhood School.

At this meeting, the project's landscape architects will present three schematic designs that were developed with community input.

The meeting will be held Monday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m. Learn more and register to attend at somervillema.gov/WSNS.

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. June 19, 1910 at the Spokane, Washington YMCA | 6. Peter Jackson |
| 2. June 6 | 7. Endor |
| 3. Portuguese football star Cristiano Ronaldo | 8. Woodrow Wilson |
| 4. Rap God by Eminem – 1,560 words | 9. Space Shuttle Columbia, on April 12, 1981 |
| 5. The Pursuit of Happiness | 10. Toast of the Town |
| | 11. Harry S. Truman's |
| | 12. Game of Thrones |

Growing Gardeners workshop sprouts up in Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

the summer. The Health and Human Services Department assembled and delivered crates to those who were unable to transport their homes.

Steven Flythe, one of the organizers of the event, detailed the city's plans to make the Growing Gardeners workshop an ongoing event throughout

the summer and fall. They hope to change the selection of plants and vegetables depending on which will thrive during the current season and continue to

encourage a new group of gardeners throughout the city. Residents are encouraged to visit somervillema.gov/GrowingGardeners or call Steven

Flythe, Health and Human Services Case Manager, at (617) 448-5347 to reserve a spot. Registration required. Space is limited.



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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris

I don't really trust trees.
They seem kind of shady.

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On This Day in History

June 16

0455 – Rome is sacked by the Vandal army.

1858 – Abraham Lincoln, in accepting the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate in Illinois, declares that, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

1910 – The first Father's Day is celebrated in Spokane, Washington.

1925 – France accepts a German proposal for a security pact.

1935 – President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal legislation is passed by the House of Representatives.

1952 – *Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl* is published in the United States.

1955 – The U.S. House of Representatives votes to extend Selective Service until 1959.

1961 – Ballet star Rudolf Nureyev defects from the Soviet Union while in Paris.

1977 – Leonid Brezhnev is named president of the Soviet Union.

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 5

we heard the news. I left her house to go to the chaotic fire scene and met a Somerville police officer who had Brickley’s boots in hand. He gave them to me, and I later brought them back to the firehouse still in disbelief. Bob was the first firefighter I met on the job.

Robert Brickley of Everett was one of the “Out of Towners” as we were later called. He was in tremendous shape. He was into sports and weight lifting, and was slated to win the Mr. New England Body Building competition. At that time, the new recruits traveled to the north shore Civil Defense barracks for their firefighter training. Sometimes when returning home from those classes, our carpool caravan would stop to eat and imbibe at the Hilltop Steak House. Bob was a stickler for training. He would

surprise everyone by telling the waitress: “Give me a hamburger, burn it, and hold the bread.” He followed that with a tall glass of water, and he was done. He was in the best shape of all of us. He loved the fact that he was taking the place of a veteran, and was looking forward to being a career firefighter. His plans were never to be fulfilled. Only four months later on June 10, 1974, at age 32, his life and dream were cut short at the Arrow Paper Company fire.

Fifty-three-year-old Joseph Reilly, a 24-year veteran Somerville firefighter, was a World War II veteran sailor. Joe served on the battleship U.S.S. Massachusetts from its birth in 1942 to the end of the war. Engaging in 16 battles, his ship fought in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres. His love for his ship didn’t stop

at the war’s end. He was on the committee that created “Battleship Cove” in Fall River. The U.S.S. Massachusetts’ rescue from the scrap heap was partially due to Joe’s efforts, and there is a memorial on that ship honoring him for those efforts and recognizing his line-of-duty death on the Somerville Fire Department.

One hundred seventy-two years have passed since the Somerville Fire Department coined itself, “The Faithfull and the Fearless.” Scores of firefighters have been injured and eighteen of Somerville’s bravest have made the supreme sacrifice backing up that motto.

Two men who gave their lives
Two men so we’d survive
One cadet and one a vet
Firefighters Tall

Men who worked from lofty heights
Coughed and choked in smoked filled sites
Men who suffered fire as their fate
But never were they late

Men with families left alone
Mothers, children on their own
When whose city made the call
Gave their very all

Two men who gave their lives
Two men so we’d survive
One cadet and one a vet
Firefighters Tall

“The Faithful and The Fearless”
A poem by Somerville Firefighter Robert Doherty
June, 1999

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「SCATV」Channel 3 Schedule

SCATV is part of Somerville Media Center, home to Boston Free Radio, Somerville Neighborhood News and SMC Youth Media!

Join SMC today to make your own TV or Radio Production, learn skills like editing and field production and sign up for special media making workshops and classes for youth and adults! somervillemedia.org

Wednesday, June 16

12:00am Free Speech TV
6:00am NASA TV
7:00am Community Bulletin Board
7:30am DW In Good Shape
8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am DW Global 3000
9:30am Both Sides of the Bars
10:00am Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer
10:30am Somerville Neighborhood News
11:00am SNN Neighborhood Update
11:30am From My Heart to Yours
12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
1:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News
1:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News
2:00pm Colores Latinos
3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
4:00pm DW Conflict Zone
4:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library
5:00pm Hello Neighbor
5:30pm From My Heart to Yours
6:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News
6:30pm VOX POP: Somerville Connects
7:00pm "The Cask of Amontillado" at VOX POP
7:30pm Sidewalks Entertainment
8:00pm LIVE - Somerville Pundits
8:30pm DW Euromaxx
9:00pm Revolution Awakening at VOX POP
10:00pm LIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
11:00pm Flotilla

Thursday, June 17

12:30am SCATV Secret Stash
1:00am Free Speech TV
1:30am Free Speech TV
2:00am Free Speech TV
3:00am Free Speech TV
6:00am Bate Papo com Shirley
7:00am DW Conflict Zone
7:30am DW Euromaxx
8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am DW Tomorrow Today
9:30am Hello Neighbor
10:00am The Chef's Table Series
10:30am The Chef's Table Series
11:00am Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals
11:30am Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals
12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
1:00pm The Somerville Line
1:30pm The Somerville Line

12:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
4:00pm VOX POP: Somerville Connects
4:30pm The Struggle
5:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News
6:00pm #AFAD
6:30pm #AFAD
7:00pm Community Lens: SHC 5K Race
8:00pm LIVE - Our View
9:00pm PABFONE Closing Day Ceremony
10:00pm Community Bulletin Board
10:30pm The World Fusion Show
11:00pm VOX POP Comedy Night

Friday, June 18

12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
1:00am SCATV Secret Stash
1:30am SCATV Secret Stash
2:00am Free Speech TV
6:00am NASA TV
7:00am The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV)
8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am DW Euromaxx
9:30am Strata
10:00am NASA TV
11:00am SOM ARTS
11:30am Cambridge Calendar
12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
1:00pm Community Benefits Agreement
2:00pm Somerville Pundits
2:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library
3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
4:00pm Gay USA
5:00pm DW Global 3000
5:30pm What's New Massachusetts?
6:00pm Grandstanders
7:00pm Emergency Preparedness
7:30pm The Somerville Labor Show
8:00pm LIVE - Greater Somerville
8:30pm Greater Somerville
9:00pm Fur, Fins and Feathers
10:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
11:00pm Heavy Leather Music Video Show

Saturday, June 19

12:00am VOX POP Comedy Night
1:00am Free Speech TV
2:00am Free Speech TV
3:00am Free Speech TV
5:00am Free Speech TV
6:00am DW Focus on Europe
7:00am Effort Pour Christ

8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am SMC Youth Media
9:30am Science 360
10:00am Dead Air Live
11:00am TeleGalaxie
12:00pm Somerville Storytellers
1:00pm Tele Magazine
2:00pm Reeling Review
3:00pm MA House of Representatives Formal Session
4:00pm Tele Kreyol
5:00pm Henry Parker Presents
5:30pm Henry Parker Presents
6:00pm Somerville Pundits
6:30pm The Somerville Labor Show
7:00pm BLOWW Show a Go Go
7:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News
8:00pm #AFAD
9:00pm Nossa Gente e Costumes
10:00pm Heavy Leather Music Video Show
11:00pm SCATV Secret Stash
11:30pm Queer Cats

Sunday, June 20

12:00am Flotilla
1:00am NASA TV
1:30am NASA TV
2:00am NASA TV
3:00pm Free Speech TV
6:00am Bate Papo com Shirley
7:00am Nossa Gentes e Costumes
8:00am Effort Pour Christ
9:00am NASA TV
10:00am Tele Kreyol
11:00am House of Representatives Formal Session
12:00pm Sidewalks Entertainment
1:00pm SOM ARTS
1:30pm SNN Neighborhood Update
2:00pm Chico and B-Man
3:00pm African Television Network
4:00pm Dedilhando a Saudade
5:00pm Gay USA
6:00pm VOX POP: Somerville Connects
6:30pm DW Tomorrow Today
7:00pm Emergency Preparedness
8:00pm Dead Air Live
9:00pm Tele Magazine
10:00pm Community Lens: Somerville 5K Detour
11:00pm TUTV
11:30pm SCATV Secret Stash

Monday, June 21

12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
5:00am Free Speech TV
6:00am NASA TV
7:00am Somerville Storytellers
8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am Science 360
10:00am Dead Air Live
11:00am TeleGalaxie
12:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News
1:00pm Going Postal
2:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
3:00pm Science 360
4:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News
5:00pm Our View
6:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
7:00pm SOM ARTS
8:00pm Somerville Storytellers
9:00pm NASA TV
10:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
11:00pm African Television Network
12:00pm Community Lens: SHC 5K Race
1:00pm LIVE from VOX POP
2:00pm Fur, Fins and Feathers
3:00pm Tele Galaxie
4:00pm LIVE -Somerville Overcoming Addiction
5:00pm Dedilhando au Saudade
6:00pm Colores Latinos
7:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party

Tuesday, June 22

12:00am Public Safety/Homeland Security Hearing
6:00am NASA TV
7:00am NASA TV
8:00am Democracy Now!
9:00am The Chef's Table Series
10:00am Strata
11:00am Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals
12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show
1:00pm Revolution Awakening at VOX POP
2:00pm Somerville Overcoming Addiction
3:00pm Democracy Now!
4:00pm SMC Youth Media
4:30pm Going Postal
5:00pm LIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer
5:30pm What's New Massachusetts?
6:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News
6:30pm From My Heart to Yours
7:00pm The Somerville Labor Show
7:30pm LIVE - Greater Somerville
8:00pm LIVE - Dead Air Live
9:00pm The World Fusion Show
10:00pm Totally Working Out
11:00pm Box House Productions Presents
11:30pm SCATV Secret Stash

CITY TV 22 (Comcast) | 13 (RCN) Schedule

Wednesday, June 16

6:00am Highway Justice for People
7:05am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Four
7:50am Mental Health Resources
8:00am Memorial Day Remembrance 2021
8:30am City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
9:00am Pride Flag Raising 2021
9:30am Climate Forward Webinar
11:00am Fit 4 Life #6
11:30am School Committee Meeting 6.14.21
3:00pm Pride Flag Raising 2021
3:30pm Mental Health Resources
4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #3
4:30pm Climate Forward Webinar
6:00pm City Council: Finance

Thursday, June 17

12:00am Pride Flag Raising 2021
12:30am Mayor's Business Town Hall 5.27.21
1:30am City Council: Finance
6:00am Congressional Update: Ayanna Pressley
6:30am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Four
7:15am Mental Health Resources
7:30am Climate Forward Webinar
8:40am Conway Park Groundbreaking
9:00am Memorial Day Remembrance 2021
9:30am Climate Forward Webinar
10:30am Congressional Update: Ayanna Pressley
11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #5
11:30am Pride Flag Raising 2021
12:00pm Senior Circuit: Ageless Grace
12:30pm School Committee Meeting 6.14.21
4:00pm Fit 4 Life #6
6:00pm Land Use Meeting - LIVE

Friday, June 18

12:00am Senior Circuit: Ageless Grace

12:30am Finance - FY 22 Budget Meeting 6.16.21
6:00am Memorial Day Remembrance 2021
6:30am Mayor's Business Town Hall 5.27.21
7:15am Mental Health Resources
7:30am City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
8:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Two
9:00am Highway Justice for People
10:05am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Four
11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #4
11:30am School Committee Update - Ellenor Barish
12:00pm Lead Paint Safe Somerville
12:45pm Mental Health Resources
1:00pm Climate Forward Webinar
2:00pm Memorial Day Remembrance 2021
2:30pm Saiba das Novidades Sobre a Vacinação
4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #3
4:30pm Congressional Update: Ayanna Pressley
5:00pm School Committee Meeting 6.14.21
8:00pm Lead Paint Safe Somerville
8:50pm Mental Health Resources
9:00pm Highway Justice for People
10:05pm City Council Meeting 6.10.21
11:15pm SPD Ride Along
11:30pm City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen

Saturday, June 19

12:00am Finance - FY 22 Budget Meeting 6.15.21
6:30am Lead Paint Safe Somerville
7:15am Mental Health Resources
7:30am School Committee Update - Ellenor Barish
8:00am Pride Flag Raising 2021
8:30am School Committee Update - Ellenor Barish
9:00am City Council Meeting 6.10.21
10:08am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Four
11:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Two
12:00pm Finance - FY 22 Budget Meeting 6.16.21
4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #4

5:00pm City Council Meeting 6.10.21
6:08pm SPL Cooking 15 - Simple Chocolate Cake
6:21pm SPL Cooking 13
6:30pm School Committee Update - Ellenor Barish
7:00pm Pride Flag Raising 2021
7:30pm Congressional Update: Ayanna Pressley
8:00pm Finance - FY 22 Budget Meeting 6.15.21

Sunday, June 20

12:00am Memorial Day Remembrance 2021
12:30am Mayor's Business Town Hall 5.27.21
1:15am Conway Park Groundbreaking
1:30am Lead Paint Safe Somerville
2:13am Saiba das Novidades Sobre a Vacinação
6:30am Lead Paint Safe Somerville
7:30am Highway Justice for People
8:35am Pride Flag Raising 2021
9:00am City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
9:30am Mental Health Resources
10:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Four
11:00am Fit 4 Life #6
11:30am School Committee Update - Ellenor Barish
12:00pm Senior Circuit: Ageless Grace
12:30pm Mable & Jerry - Senior Story
1:04pm School Committee Meeting 6.14.21
3:30pm Memorial Day Remembrance 2021
4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #4
4:30pm Highway Justice for People
5:35pm SPD Ride Along
6:00pm Mayor's Business Town Hall 5.27.21
7:00pm Senior Circuit: Ageless Grace
7:30pm City Council Spotlight: Ben Ewen-Campen
8:00pm Land Use Meeting 6.17.21

Monday, June 21

12:00am Senior Circuit: Ageless Grace
12:30am Finance - FY 22 Budget Meeting 6.16.21
6:00am Climate Forward Webinar

7:00am Mayor's Business Town Hall 5.27.21
7:45am SPD Ride Along
8:00am Reunion Informativa Vacuna COVID-19
9:00am Mable & Jerry - Senior Story
10:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Four
10:45am Mental Health Resources
11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #2
11:30am Finance - FY 22 Budget Meeting 6.16.21
3:30pm Conway Park Groundbreaking
4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #5
6:00pm Finance - FY 22 Budget Meeting - LIVE

Tuesday, June 22

12:00am The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism
1:30am Memorial Day Remembrance 2021
2:00am Lead Paint Safe Somerville
6:00am Senior Circuit: Ageless Grace
6:30am Mable & Jerry - Senior Story
7:04am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Three
8:00am Mayor's Business Town Hall 5.27.21
8:45am Mental Health Resources
9:00am Memorial Day Remembrance 2021
9:30am School Committee Update - Ellenor Barish
10:00am Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice Two
11:00am Fit 4 Life #6
11:30am Congressional Update: Ayanna Pressley
12:00pm Senior Circuit: Ageless Grace
12:30pm Finance - FY 22 Budget Meeting 6.21.21
4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #3
6:00pm Finance - FY 22 Budget Meeting - LIVE

Wednesday, June 23

12:00am Senior Circuit: Ageless Grace
12:30am Memorial Day Remembrance 2021
1:00am Pride Flag Raising 2021
1:30am Highway Justice for People
2:35am Climate Forward Webinar

Educational TV 15 Schedule

Wednesday, June 16

7:00am Full Circle Graduation 2021
9:00am Brown School Moving On LIVE
11:00am SHS Girls' Lacrosse vs Malden 6.2.21
12:30pm ESCS Moving On Ceremony
2:00pm WHCIS Moving On Ceremony 2021
3:00pm Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
4:00pm SHS Spring Concert 2021
5:00pm Full Circle Graduation 2021
6:00pm WSNS Moving On Ceremony LIVE
7:30pm WHCIS Moving On Ceremony 2021
8:00pm Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
9:00pm ESCS Moving On Ceremony
10:10pm 2021 SHS Graduation

Thursday, June 17

12:00am SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Malden 6.2.21
1:02am SHS Girls' Lacrosse vs Malden 6.2.21
7:00am SCALE Graduation 2021
8:00am SHS Spring Concert 2021
9:00am WHCIS Moving On Ceremony 2021
10:00am ESCS Moving On Ceremony
11:30am Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer
12:00pm SHS Spring Concert 2021
1:00pm Argenziano School Music K-3 Performance
3:30pm Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
4:00pm SHS Softball vs Malden 6.4.21
6:00pm SCALE Graduation 2021
7:00pm SHS Spring Concert 2021
8:00pm WHCIS Moving On Ceremony 2021
9:00pm ESCS Moving On Ceremony
10:30pm Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer

11:00pm SHS Spring Concert 2021

Friday, June 18

12:00am Argenziano School Music K-3 Performance
2:10am Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
2:30am SHS Softball vs Malden 6.4.21
7:00am SHS Girls' Lacrosse vs Malden 6.2.21
8:05am SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Malden 6.2.21
9:10am Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
9:30am Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer
10:00am Brown School Moving On
12:00pm WSNS Moving On Ceremony
1:30pm ESCS Moving On Ceremony
3:00pm SHS Softball vs Malden 6.4.21
5:30pm 2021 SHS Graduation
7:30pm SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Malden 6.2.21
9:00pm Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
9:30pm Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer
10:00pm Brown School Moving On
11:30pm WSNS Moving On Ceremony

Saturday, June 19

1:00am ESCS Moving On Ceremony
2:30am SHS Softball vs Malden 6.4.21
7:00am 2021 SHS Graduation
9:00am Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer
9:30am SHS Spring Concert 2021
10:05am ESCS Moving On Ceremony
11:30am Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
12:00pm Full Circle Graduation 2021
1:00pm ESCS Moving On Ceremony
2:30pm SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Malden 6.2.21
4:00pm Brown School Moving On

6:00pm 2021 SHS Graduation
8:00pm Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer
8:30pm SHS Spring Concert 2021
9:05pm ESCS Moving On Ceremony
10:30pm Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
11:00pm Full Circle Graduation 2021

Sunday, June 20

12:00am ESCS Moving On Ceremony
1:30am SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Malden 6.2.21
3:00am Brown School Moving On
7:00am Brown School Moving On
8:30am Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
9:00am Argenziano School Moving On
11:00am WSNS Moving On Ceremony
12:30pm Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer
1:00pm Kennedy School Moving On 6.15.21
2:30pm WHCIS Moving On Ceremony 2021
3:30pm SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Revere 6.10.21
5:00pm Brown School Moving On
6:30pm Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
7:00pm Argenziano School Moving On
9:00pm WSNS Moving On Ceremony
10:30pm Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer
11:00pm Kennedy School Moving On 6.15.21

Monday, June 21

12:30am WHCIS Moving On Ceremony 2021
1:30am SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Revere 6.10.21
7:00am Argenziano School Music K-3 Performance
9:30am Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer
10:00am SHS Softball vs Malden 6.4.21
12:00pm SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Malden 6.2.21

1:02pm SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Revere 6.10.21
2:00pm 2021 SHS Graduation
4:00pm Full Circle Graduation 2021
5:00pm SCALE Graduation 2021
6:00pm Argenziano School Music K-3 Performance
8:30pm Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer
9:00pm SHS Softball vs Malden 6.4.21
11:00pm SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Malden 6.2.21

Tuesday, June 22

12:02am SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Revere 6.10.21
1:00am 2021 SHS Graduation
3:00am Full Circle Graduation 2021
7:00am Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
7:15am Argenziano School Spring Music, gr. 4-6
9:00am Full Circle Graduation 2021
10:00am SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Revere 6.10.21
11:00am SHS Softball vs Malden 6.4.21
1:00pm Brown School Moving On
2:00pm WSNS Moving On Ceremony
3:00pm ESCS Moving On Ceremony
4:30pm WHCIS Moving On Ceremony 2021
5:30pm Video Tribute to Mr. Paul Barringer
6:00pm Argenziano School Chorus 6.10.21
6:15pm Argenziano School Spring Music, gr. 4-6
8:00pm Full Circle Graduation 2021
9:00pm SHS Boys' Volleyball vs Revere 6.10.21
10:00pm SHS Softball vs Malden 6.4.21
12:00am Brown School Moving On
1:00am WSNS Moving On Ceremony
2:00am ESCS Moving On Ceremony
3:30am WHCIS Moving On Ceremony 2021

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Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Nina Rubinstein Alonso’s work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Writing in a Woman’s Voice*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Wilderness House Literary Review*, *Mom Egg*, etc. Her book *This Body* was published by David Godine Press, her chapbook *Riot Wake* is upcoming from Cervena Barva Press, and a story collection is in the works.



Lisbon to Vigo

Vineyards and farms
slow animals in the fields whitewashed
villages reflecting shine of the sea

what century is this life
eleven and a half hours on the train
all day watching at the window

as if we’ll never get there
as if cities have been erased
as if this ride goes on forever

full darkness when we arrive
I’ve never been to Spain before
Fernando’s first time in fifteen years

we’re awkward strangers by the lamp
at the station door gathering ourselves
to break the trance of the train when

a man walks over and says
there’s a chance for rooms nearby
good price for a clean hotel

exhausted we say we’ll take a look
trying to seem wary and cool
appear less numb than we are

less like lambs following stupidly
as this shepherd has a face of clay
we both notice his milk-glazed eye.

— Nina Rubinstein Alonso

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

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Poems of Farewell in the Debris of Fire – ‘Ash’ by Gloria Mindock

Article by Michael Todd Steffen

With the passage of time, consciousness expands from the center we’re made to believe we are, to a sphere of awareness back toward ourselves, self-knowledge, with its pains and gift of empathy for the world around us. It isn’t us acting upon the world so much as the world reflecting back at and through us, forging the spirit in us. This is a subtle sense hovering about the more direct and passionate appeals in Gloria Mindock’s new book, *Ash* (ISBN: 978-1-941783-75-7, 2021, Glass Lyre Press, LLC, Glenview, IL), a sense which emerges in a pristine still moment in the poem *Room*, with its lament of diminishment and disintegration as being part of the inheritance of the world of facts:

Walking into the living room
the TV, couch, pictures, chairs,
are all watching me.
Watching every move, every gesture...
So powerful, my bones shudder...

Years of different apartments and only a few
objects remain, wondering when their time
is up, wondering when they will be discarded to disintegrate...

All they can do is watch a web being
weaved in the dark.
I am sorry, but this room matters... (page 30)

Beyond this room, and the book it is in, we know Mindock’s awareness goes out to the suffering, not the lavish worldly world which the prophets denounce, but the world where 4 out of 5 human beings live in low-stability situations, many in areas of poverty, disease, starvation, climate detriment and in armed conflict. Her previous books, *I Wish Francisco Franco Would Love Me* (Nixes Mate Books), *Whiteness of Bone* (Glass Lyre Press), *Nothing Divine Here* (U Soku Stampa) and *Blood Soaked Dresses* (Ibbetson Street) carry on, in poet and critic Tim Seurmont’s adequate words, “her examination of brutality and its toll on humanity,” from personal relationships to the great political demons of dictatorship, the Spanish Civil War and the atrocities in El Salvador.

At one stunning moment in this more personal collection of laments of the dissolutions of farewell, the poet reminds us (and herself) of her mission, after Carolyn Forché, as a witness:

The fact is people will go on brutally
killing each other.
Who will take my place and write about it? (page 47)

For the greater part, however, this book is different in its paradoxically localizing and generalizing focus. It becomes a practiced poet’s objective (reminiscent of T. S. Eliot, also associated with fire and ash) beyond the arrangements of words, to make the world at large personal to the reader. These poems do that by intensifying the immediate sphere of their speaker, in complaint and lament after lament, especially in the first section, *Burnt*, about the debris left by fire. In days we are hearing so much about climate change, it’s not a far leap to understand the metaphorical encompassment of the burned element, especially as the image becomes a haunting refrain, like the one piano key struck over and over in Stanley Kubrick’s *Eyes Wide Shut*:

Smoke is everywhere.
Down to the floor... (page 2)

The crackling was so loud, it hurt my ears...
Things got smokier, battling the embers with
false waters... (page 4)

The house became ash from the couch burning,
the windows shattering, the glass breaking
into air.

The fireman’s foam, water puts the flames
out that engulfed us.
Long sentences burned my skin.
No bandages helped... (page 6)

In the odd intimations – “Long sentences burned my skin” – we gather little by little that this isn’t only literal fire and smoke Mindock is talking about. It is intimate – even to the art she practices, writing, with its “Long sentences.” And, as we’ve mentioned about climate change, this fire is, as classically portrayed through the myth of Prometheus, about the technological harvest of our society and how it pervades the essential element, air:

My skin was burned by your compulsion
to be famous.
Poor thing, the numbers look bad for you.
Somehow, you crashed into the roof and it buckled.

Life is a conviction for us... (page 7)

2017 and 2018 Poet Laureate of Somerville, which boasts one of the highest rates of published authors per capita in the United States, Mindock has exerted great influence in Somerville and Boston – and beyond. Her press, Cervena Barva, celebrating its 16th anniversary this year, is one of the most productive small presses around, with the special boast of authors from more than a dozen foreign countries around the world, many of them Eastern European. In turn, Gloria’s poetry has been published into eight other languages. The press, with a studio location in the Somerville Armory for the Arts, is a hive of activity for poetry including readings and roundtables, which have continued via Zoom during the pandemic. She is the recipient of the Allen Ginsberg Award for Community Service by the Newton Writing and Publishing Center and has come away twice with the Moon Prize from *Writing in a Woman’s Voice*. And this is just a short list of her accomplishments and appreciations for community enhancement.

“I hide from you in ways/you’ll never know,” she announces in the poem *Exit* (page 23), piquing our curiosity with the sleight-of-hand expression. James Merrill exalted the turn of phrase as one trademark of the good poet. In *Ash*, along with the too-late alarms sounded and their distancing echoes of grief, we also get flashes of verbal wonder that uphold Mindock for the daring and stubbornly original poet she is:

Extinction happens quickly. (page 10)

All the heart wants is to beat. (page 21)

The family deputizing the body
with abandonment. (page 33)

And, amid all the bitterness, giving passage to the acknowledgment of the mysterious union that resonates beyond separation:

There is an equation between us...you = me.
Some things are beyond the dark room we entered.
It is spring, and we released each other into the blossoms. (page 50)

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