VOL. 10 NO. 25

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

#### **Inside:**



All She Wrote Books

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Police Department tightens the belt page 11



Biking plan in the works

page 21

## Somerville Educators Union strikes deals on new contracts



The Somerville Educators Union expects the newly ratified contracts to greatly improve the educational environment for Somerville Schools and their students.

#### By The Times Staff

According to information released last week, the Somerville Educators Union (SEU) overwhelmingly ratified two contracts that will redefine student learning conditions and educator working conditions in the Somerville Public Schools.

Smaller class sizes, new special education caseload caps, and a social worker in every school mean the most vulnerable and struggling students will receive greater attention and support. Educator benefits and compensation will also drastically improve: all members, both birth and non-birth parents, are eligible for twelve weeks of paid parental leave, which is believed to be a first for any school district in the Commonwealth.

Additionally, a paraprofessional's Continued on page 4

## The artistic journeys of Somerville women of color during pandemic

#### By Maeve Lawler

The documentary We Are Here Too premiered on Thursday, June 16. Spectators gathered at the Somerville Community Growing Center to learn about the stories of four women of color living in Somerville and their experiences as artists during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keidrick Roy, Lili Bayarmagnai, and Julia Reihs produced the 23-minute film that featured four artists: Iaritza Menjivar, Tori Weston, Raynel Shepard, and Sneha Shrestha (Imagine).

We Are Here Too walks the audience through each woman's artistic journey while focusing on how they used their art to navigate the pandemic, coupled with social justice uprisings in 2020.

In the documentary, Menjivar Continued on page 18



Somerville artist Iaritza Menjivar addressed the spectators gathered at the premiere of the new documentary We Are Here Too. - Photos by Emiliano Calvo





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FY23 Budget meeting: Final vote and year-end transfers meeting takes place Thursday, June 23, 6:00 p.m. Public meeting of the Finance Committee. View agenda, video stream, and minutes at https://somervillecityma.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx

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

Laugh Garden! A Comedy Fundraiser for Groundwork Somerville, Friday June 24, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., 138 South St. Come for the fresh jokes and feel good about those laughs: your ticket purchase and donations will help support Groundwork Somerville's education and food access programs. Featuring comedy from Tooky Kavanaugh, Sean Rosa, Angela Sawyer, and Zach Jones. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Please purchase on their Facebook page www.facebook.com/GroundworkSomerville. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Celebrate the Nepali community at this year's Nepal Festival. Join the Somerville Arts Council, the city's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and the Greater Boston Nepali Community - GBNC and enjoy Nepali cuisine, music, cultural dances, crafts, and much more. The Nepal Festival will take place Saturday, June 25, at 4:00 p.m. in Union Square Plaza, (rain date June 26). To learn more, visit: https://somervilleartscouncil.org/artsunion/2022/nepal

Celebrating their birthdays this week: We wish a very happy birthday to a great person and longtime resident of Somerville, Paula LeBlanc. She is very committed to her work as a Continued on page 9

## The Somerville Times

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## **Somerville Weather Forecast**

for the week of June 22 – June 28 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
	Wednesday June 22	Partly Cloudy	70°/59°	14%	11%	ESE 12 mph
*	Thursday June 23	Rain	67°/57°	57%	43%	ESE 11 mph
	Friday June 24	Partly Cloudy	76°/62°	20%	12%	WSW 15 mph
	Saturday June 25	Partly Cloudy	82°/565°	19%	11%	NE 12 mph
	Sunday June 26	Partly Cloudy	80°/64°	19%	12%	S 13 mph
•	Monday June 27	Rain	77°/63°	54%	44%	SW 13 mph
*	Tuesday June 28	Rain	74°/62°	59%	41%	NNE 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: Stay in your lane

AN says:

As a cyclist (but also a driver, pedestrian, etc) I am always saddened to hear that people think cyclists don't pay their fair share. I do pay excise tax for my car, of course, but I agree it would be fair for me to pay for my bike too! Since wear and tear on the road would roughly correspond to the vehicle weight, it would be fair for me to pay about 1% of the average excise tax for my 20lb bike. Of course I also only ride about 1000 miles per year, so that's also only 10% as much as the average driver. Please let me know where I should send my check for 75 cents!

#### Stephanie G says:

It's interesting to hear how drivers have such a sense of ownership over the roads. My understanding is that this is a real departure from the past, where the roads were shared between many users (street hockey, anyone?). I like the stories of Somerville when there were fewer cars on our roads, and it was safer for everyone, including kids, to use that public space. Adding more bike lanes is going to be a piece of that. How nice would it be if the roads were safe enough that kids could bike places in Somerville instead of having to get shuttled around by their parents? Somerville used to have 6th graders able to act as crossing guards! But we need to have more balance about who belongs in our streets, and who is safe there.

#### Tim K. says:

Stephanie, I like those stories too. Unfortunately things change and those days are gone for good. More development means more and more people are being crammed into the city, creating more congestion. Tell me how taking away travel lanes and parking is going to help solve this problem?

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments



## Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

## **Old Ball Square**



This article was originally published in our April 18, 2012 edition of the newspaper.

I lived in Lenny and Louise Scott's house on Pearson Ave. from 1956 to 1961. Ball

Square was a short walk and we spent a lot of time there. As a matter of fact, former alderman and school committee member Lenny Scott gave me an 1882 silver dollar for my birthday one year. I went to Savel's 5 and 10 and bought my mother an apron. My dad went down there shortly after that and got the silver dollar back (and gave him another one). I still have that coin. I also have many memories of those days long ago in Ball Square. To add to my own memories, I interviewed a very knowledgeable friend of mine with an excellent memory, who told me about Ball Square in the 1940's and 50's. She wishes to remain anonymous, but the interesting and historic information she gave me is here in this column for us to enjoy.

Ball Square was the place my friend and her classmates came to after classes were finished at St. Clement School. After a long day with Sisters Adele, Benedict, Ethelbert, Verecunda and Eulina, Steven's Ice Cream was one of the places they hung out. They would walk to the old Lincoln Junior High School in Medford to perform in St. Clement's March play. Sometimes they would have to go to Tufts Field in Medford to skate if they didn't flood Trum Field.

At the corner of Josephine Ave. and Broadway was a First National store. During World War II you had to have ration coupons. Red coupons were for meat and blue ones were for groceries. There was the Ball Square Bakery, The Ball Square Grill, and, of course, the Fryers, with their fabulous pizza and fried shrimp. There was a men's clothing store or haberdasher, called Margets. At 7 a.m., people stood in line at Lyndell's (which was at a different location back then) for savory baked beans and fresh brown bread.

Who could forget Ball Square Fish Market? Frankie and his family were so friendly, not to mention the unforgettable fish and chips. I can still see Frank's smiling face. The staff at Crowley's Liquor store were always pleasant and you'd never know who you would see in there. Let's also not forget Harold's Luncheonette. Todis Subs was a fun place to pop into also. His mom was in the back cutting veggies and no one could beat his pepper and eggs, and crab meat salad. Todi was quite a character. That brings us to the famous barbershop. I am happy to say that I got haircuts from Lionel, then Artie, and finally "fast" Phil Rotondo. But did you know there was another barbershop on the bridge? It was run by Mike Caliri and you could get your ears lowered for 60 cents! Now, my wonderful friend who I interviewed for this story told me the locations of these places but two things happened. One, I couldn't write that fast, and two, I have trouble reading my hen-scratch note writing. Anyway, there was another market called Homsy's (I hope I spelled that right!) It was run by Charlie and his son, and his daughter Margie. There was O'Brien's Bar and Grille, Linda's Donuts, and Tomeo's Meat Market where Tony and Maria hammered and tenderized the veal cutlets to perfection.

Mitchells was at the corner of Josephine for years. I remember watching those two brothers go from young men, to adults, and then finally retire and sell the place. Mitchell's always reminded me of Hoodsies. Don't forget Ray's fruit, Bo Bo's Chinese Restaurant, Victors' Florist, McDonald Florist, Kennedy Butter and Egg, Ace Carpet, and Lepore's pharmacy. I have a picture from around 1965 of the St Clement Boy Scout troop 71, singing Christmas carols in front of Johnnies Super market. We also must note the Willow Café, Hyde's Lunch, and good old Dr Walsh the dentist. How many of you went to Dr Harry Goldenberg on Broadway across from Powder House Park? I did. He used to make house calls no matter what time of day and in all kinds of weather.

One of my favorite places in Ball Square was Surabian Drugs. I remember a fellow named Lud who always smiled as he greeted you in his grey pharmacist's smock. Surabian's also had a soda fountain run by a man named Ray.

I'd like to thank my friend for sitting down with me and sharing her precious memories. As we were talking, I could picture her as a child going into the Ball Square Theatre, or the bowling alley, or getting some candy from one of the many stores back then. I could tell those days were very special to her by the way she smiled when she reminisced about those times years ago. Ball Square has certainly changed a lot over the years, but in a lot of people's hearts it will always be a happy place, with great friends, and memories that will never go out of business.

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# By Jim Clark

## **Daddy broke the car**

Last Friday evening, Somerville Police control received a 9-1-1 call from a person reporting her mother's vehicle was struck by another vehicle near Memorial Rd in Somerville.

The reporting party stated to the call-taker "This car just hit my mom's car, and this man is drunk. He is drunk". The reporting party told the call-taker the operator of the striking vehicle had left the scene and was walking into a building.

Police officers were dispatched to the area and upon arrival

spoke with the reporting party, who stated the motor vehicle crash occurred at a Mystic Ave. location. The male operator fled the scene, parked the vehicle on Memorial Rd., and walked to an apartment building with two children.

The reporting party provided the make, model, and color of the striking vehicle and showed the officers where it was parked. The reporting party also showed the officers a photograph of the male who was operating the striking vehi-

cle at the time of the crash.

The officers queried the license plate of the striking vehicle and proceeded to the registered owner's apartment. They knocked on the apartment door and a five-year-old boy answered. They asked the child to get his parents, and he reportedly stated, "My dad broke the car."

A man, later identified as Carlos Ramos came to the door. The officers explained to Ramos the reason they were there and asked him to put a shirt on and come outside to talk with them.

When Ramos put a shirt on, it was reportedly the same shirt he had on when compared to the photograph obtained from the reporting party.

While talking to Ramos, the officers detected a strong odor of alcohol on his breath, and his eyes were glassy and bloodshot.

When asked if he consumed any alcoholic beverages, Ramos reportedly replied, "Yes, I had two Coronas at home."

The officers asked Ramos to take a field sobriety test, to which he agreed. The test was administered in a nearby parking lot.

Based on the test results, the officers placed Ramos under arrest on charges of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, leaving the scene of property damage, and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

A report was filed with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) since Ramos had two children in the vehicle at the time of the incident and was driving under the influence of alcohol.

## **Remembering Officer Randy Isaacs**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of active-duty Officer, Randy Isaacs. Officer Isaacs was an integral member of the Somerville Police Department, bringing laughter to everyone he interacted with. He has brought joy to the members of the Department and the community for 15 years. In addition to Officer Isaacs's service to the City of Somerville, he was also a 24-year veteran of the Army National Guard. He leaves his fellow soldiers as a Master Sergeant of the 26th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. Officer Isaacs served multiple tours to including deployments in Kosovo and Afghanistan. Officer Isaacs is a true American Hero, who dedicated his life to service. Officer Isaacs was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and friend. His bright personality has left a deep impact on all that knew him. — Somerville Police Department



## Somerville Educators Union strikes deals on new contracts

CONT. FROM PG 1

starting salary will increase almost 32% in the first year of the contract to \$35,000, which is believed to be the highest in the Commonwealth.

The School Committee has also committed to working with the city and SEU to develop an equitable enrollment policy; ensure school buildings are healthy, safe, and moving towards carbon neutrality; and, will pursue policies to prevent families with school age children from facing eviction.

"The success of these contracts reflects the power of an engaged and active membership, backed by students, families, and the larger community," said SEU Vice President Megan Brady. "The community was clear about

what it looks like when a city values public education and public educators."

Team Member Bargaining Dayshawn Simmons said that, "While these are important first steps, we as a city, Commonwealth, and society, still chronically underfund public education. This contract is an important first step in Somerville. The whole Commonwealth will have a similar opportunity this November by voting yes on the Fair Share Amendment ballot question, which will raise funds for public schools and infrastructure by \$2 billion each year by taxing income above \$1 million an additional 4 percent."

The Somerville Educators Union prioritizes democratic participation, open two-way communication between union leaders and rank-and-file members, and respect for educators as the trained professionals they are.

President Rami Bridge says that the SEU has undergone a massive transformation in the last three years. "Our union has shown that when educators stand up and demand changes to an unsustainable system that pays poverty wages to paraprofessionals, fails to staff schools appropriately, and burns educators out, we can organize and create positive changes for ourselves, our schools, and our community. In just three years we have increased paraprofessional salaries in Somerville by almost 70%. We are thrilled to



SEU members rallied for many months to arrive at a deal suitable for all concerned parties.

have found our district and local elected leadership willing to meet our demands with compassion, understanding, and increased resources. This is a powerful first step in building a sustainable school system that values rather than exploits educators."

## All She Wrote Books is queer for more than a month

#### By Mina Rose Morales

All She Wrote Books is a queer bookstore for more than the month of Pride. "We are queer everyday 365 days every year," said the founder and owner of All She Wrote Books, Christina Pascucci-Ciampa while laughing.

All She Wrote Books is an intersectional, feminist, and queer bookstore that carries historically marginalized voices across all genres. Pascucci-Ciampa describes her bookstore as safe, intersectional, and very queer.

Before becoming a bookstore owner, Pascucci-Ciampa worked in marketing communications for about 10 years. She wanted to be passionate about what she was doing for a career, so she decided to leave marketing.

Pasccuci-Ciampa was tired of

seeing the same five queer and feminist books at the indie bookstores in the area. She wanted to sell different types of books that were either on the back of shelves or weren't on the shelves at indie bookstores.

"I literally woke up at 2:00 a.m. in the morning," said Pascucci-Ciampa when talking about how she came up with the name of her bookstore. She grabbed her notebook and began brainstorming different types of words and word combinations until she came up with All She Wrote Books. The name fit because it fit her. Pascucci-Ciampa still has the notebook where she created All She Wrote Books.

Her bookstore started off as a popup bookstore on April 20, 2019. Pascucci-Ciampa had several popups at the Winter Hill



Christina Pascucci-Ciampa the founder and owner of All She Wrote Books holding a couple of queer books from her bookshop. – Photos by Mina Rose Morales



Brewery Company, Boston Women's Market, Juliet, and Bow Market in Somerville. Conversations about opening a shop on Assembly Row began in January 2020.

In March 2020, Pascucci-Ciampa got keys to her bookstore; however, she could not open the shop because of COVID-19. She ran an online bookstore until July 10, 2020, when she opened doors to her bookstore but only by appointment.

"We are more than just a bookstore," said Stacey Piwinski, the director of operations and programming. They hold many events at the bookstore that cater to their values, according to Piwinski.

All She Wrote Books had its

first Drag Queen Story Hour on Saturday, June 11, 2022, with Miss Bella Luna. On Saturday, June 25, 2020, they will host their Queer as Jokes comedy show that features local queer feminist comics.

Pascucci-Ciampa's job is not always glamours as some people may think. Her workday is filled with the tasks of owning and running a small business. However, she enjoys conversing with her customers and helping them find themselves within the pages of the books she sells.

The books in her bookstore are constantly being challenged by society."It is our big task to make those books available to the public," said Pascucci-Ciampa.



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## **Beacon Hill Roll Call**



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

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. Beacon Hill Roll Call records local senators' and representatives' votes on roll calls from the week of June 13-17.

#### \$350 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES AND MORE (H 4638)

House 155-0, Senate 38-0, approved and sent to Gov. Charlie Baker, a \$350 million package that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state to be distributed under the Chapter 90 program formula.

The package, a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds, also includes \$150 million to pay for bus lanes, improvement of public transit, electric vehicles and other state transportation projects.

"Chapter 90 provides vital road improvement funding to our communities," said Sen. John Keenan, the Senate vice-chair of the Transportation Committee. "It is my hope that we will get to the point where we can provide a greater amount in a multi-year appropriation so that municipalities, big and small, will be able to more effectively plan."

Many local officials across the state continue to advocate for additional money to increase the funding and argue that the cost of repairing roads has increased by up to 40 percent while the state has kept this funding flat at \$200 million for the past 11 years.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

#### **ELECTION LAW CHANGES (S 2924)**

House 126-29, Senate on a voice vote without a roll call, approved and sent to Gov. Baker a conference committee version of a bill making permanent the mail-in and early voting options used in Massachusetts in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The House and Senate had approved different versions of the bill and a conference committee hammered out this compromise version which did not include the section allowing same day voter registration that was in the Senate version but not in the House one.

The measure requires the secretary of state to send out mail-in ballot applications, with return postage guaranteed, to registered voters before each presidential primary, state primary and biennial state election. It also allows registered voters to request a mail-in ballot for all elections in a single calendar year.

Other provisions include reducing the registration blackout period from 20 days prior to an election to 10 days; electronic voting options for voters with disabilities and military service members; allowing a voter with disabilities to request accommodations including an accessible electronic ballot application, ballot and voter affidavit that can be submitted electronically; ensuring that non-felons who are incarcerated who are currently eligible to vote are provided with voting information and materials to exercise their right to vote; and requiring the secretary of state to conduct a comprehensive public awareness campaign to publicize the new voting and registration options.

"I'm proud to see the [bill] pass in the House and make its way to the governor's desk," said Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover), Senate Chair of the Committee on Election Laws and the co-sponsor of the bill. "When more people participate in voting, democracy wins."

"I am concerned about the amount of money we are spending mailing out mail-in ballot applications when there are plenty of ways a voter can request a mail-in ballot if they want one," said Rep. Colleen Garry (D-Dracut), the only Democrat to vote against the measure. "I would rather see these funds go to something more productive like free IDs so that everyone has an ID to vote, open bank accounts and get certain medications that require IDs. We are also putting a tremendous amount of work on our town clerks, especially in our smaller communities like in my district."

"We are thrilled that both the House and Senate have voted in support of the [bill]," said the group MassVOTE. "Even though this version of [the bill] does lack a provision we have long supported—Election Day Registration—we are very glad to see that popular provoter policies like mail-in voting, expanded early voting and jail-based voting are included, and will soon become law."

"As a general rule, we should be promoting voting in person and on Election Day," said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Mass Fiscal Alliance. "Anytime a voter loses control of their ballot before it's given to an election official, it's possible it could be lost or altered. The Postal Service cannot guarantee a 100 percent delivery rate."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes

COMPREHENSIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PACKAGE (H 4879)

House 155-0, approved a bill designed to make mental health care more accessible in the Bay State. Provisions include the implementation of the nationwide 988 hotline to access 24/7 suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis services; a public awareness campaign on the state's red flag laws that limit access to guns for people at risk of hurting themselves or others; creation of online portals that provide access to real-time data on youth and adults seeking mental health and substance use services, including a function that allows health care providers to easily search and find open beds; giving the state additional tools to enforce existing parity laws which are aimed at providing equal benefits for physical and mental health treatment; and requiring insurance coverage of critical behavioral health services.

"Everyone deserves access to quality mental health services, yet far too many people face unnecessary barriers to care," said Rep. Adrian Madaro (D-East Boston), House Chair of the Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery Committee. "This bill reaffirms the House's commitment to increasing access to behavioral health care across Massachusetts. For too long, the healthcare system has not treated behavioral health as equal to physical health, creating obstacles in addressing the mental health crisis, which has only been exacerbated by the pandemic. That's why this timely piece of legislation makes critical steps toward prioritizing mental health services for people across the commonwealth, including our youth who have been acutely affected, and those who face challenges in getting the care they need. These policies reflect our strong belief that behavioral health care is essential."

"I'm proud of the legislation passed by the House today that builds on our long-standing efforts to advance important reforms and substantial investments that are aimed at improving our behavioral health care delivery system," said Speaker of the House Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "From addressing the behavioral health crisis that our young people are currently experiencing, to our efforts to alleviate emergency department boarding, to provisions that will bring us closer to treating mental and physical health equally, this legislation will benefit all residents in the commonwealth when accessing critical health care."

The Senate approved its own version of the bill in November. A House-Senate conference committee will likely hammer out a compromised version.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes Rep. Mike Connolly Yes Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven Yes

Continued on page 7

### **Beacon Hill Roll Call**

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ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

#### THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH-

CARE – Massachusetts' health care system is ailing in the lingering aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. Hospitals are suffering severe financial losses, putting smaller providers in peril as the larger players look to expand and consolidate. Behavioral health has become an acute priority in a system with limited capacity. Join the State House News Service and MASSterList for an in-person convening of government and industry leaders on the challenges and opportunities within the commonwealth's health care system on Tuesday, June 28 at the Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) at 10 Winter Place in Boston. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. for networking and light refreshments, with the program beginning at 8:30 a.m. Sign up at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-state-of-massachusetts-health-care-tickets-358812496837?aff=BHRC

#### SALES TAX HOLIDAY ON AUGUST 13 AND 14

– The House and Senate set Saturday, August 13 and Sunday, August 14 as this year's Sales Tax Holiday. This will allow consumers to buy most products that cost under \$2,500 on those two days without paying the state's 6.25 percent sales tax. This annual sales-tax-free weekend was made permanent in 2018 and gives the Legislature the authority to set the dates by June 15 each year.

Supporters of the holiday say it has been in effect for many years, would boost retail sales and noted that consumers would save millions of dollars. They argue that the state's sales tax revenue loss would be offset by increased revenue from the meals and gas tax revenue generated by shoppers on those two days.

Opponents of the bill say the state cannot afford the up to \$30 million estimated revenue loss and argued the holiday actually generates little additional revenue for stores because consumers typically buy the products even without the tax-free days. They say that the Legislature should be looking at broader, deeper tax relief for individuals and businesses and not a tiny tax-free holiday.

#### **BORROW \$5 BILLION FOR STATE PROJECTS**

(S 2920) – The Senate approved, on a voice vote without a roll call vote, a \$5 billion bond bill that borrows money for hundreds of construction projects—the majority involving maintenance and modernization projects of buildings related to health care, higher education, information technology, workforce development, the environment and affordable housing. Many of the buildings are decades old. The Senate added millions of dollars during consideration of the package. A key provision imposes a five-year moratorium on any prison or jail construction in Massachusetts.

"We need a five-year pause on new jail and prison construction and prison expansion to ensure that the pathways away from incarceration for women and for men, pathways that the House and Senate helped create, are being justly used and often used, "said Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton).

"These investments will kickstart important projects related to buildings, infrastructure, pollution mitigation, broadband services and more, providing incalculable benefits to the residents of Massachusetts," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland).

"Today's passage of the [bill] will support a strong future for our commonwealth through critical infrastructure and information technology investments in areas like public higher education, cybersecurity, state building decarbonization and much more," said Sen. Michael Rodrigues (D -Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

"This legislation represents the Senate's commitment to ensuring that our commonwealth's institutions are modernized while continuing to responsibly steward our state's fiscal health and strengthening our reputation as a good place to do business." said Sen. Nick Collins (D-Boston), Senate Chair of the Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets.

There were 174 amendments filed by members, many of which were offered by legislators for projects in their own district. Members pitched their amendments behind closed doors. In the end, there was debate on only a few individual amendments while most were bundled into two mega-consolidated amendments and approved or rejected on a voice vote without a roll call. The "Yes" mega-amendments included 127 amendments while the "No" ones included 18 amendments.

The House passed its own version of the package on May 19. A House-Senate conference committee will likely hammer out a compromise version that will then be sent to the governor.

#### ALLOW DRIVER'S LICENSE FOR UNDOCU-MENTED/ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (H 4805) –

The House and Senate held a ceremonial bill signing for legislation that would allow, starting July 1, 2023, undocumented/illegal immigrants to apply for a Massachusetts standard driver's license. The governor had vetoed the bill and the House and Senate overrode the veto—making it impossible to hold a signing of the bill by the governor.

The legislation requires an applicant "without legal presence" in the United States to provide the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) with a foreign passport and at least one of five other documents: a driver's license from another state, a foreign driver's license, a birth certificate, a foreign national identification card or a marriage certificate or divorce decree from any U.S. state.

"I cannot sign this legislation because it requires the Registry of Motor Vehicles to issue state credentials to people without the ability to verify their identity," Baker had said in his veto message. "The Registry does not have the expertise or ability to verify the validity of many types of documents from other countries. The bill also fails to include any measures to distinguish standard Massachusetts driver's licenses issued to persons who demonstrate lawful presence from those who don't."

"[This] is a piece of legislation I have been proud to colead on since I first entered the Senate," said Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "As a proud Puerto Rican ... and the state senator for a district that is rich in diversity, I know that this bill will benefit generations of families across the commonwealth. Our state is rich in culture and has a deep-rooted sense of community. The Senate further affirmed their commitment to protecting all families, regardless of status, by overriding the governor's veto of this bill and enacting it into law."

"We are a nation of immigrants, and our commonwealth continues to be profoundly and positively shaped by immigrants from all over the world," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "They deserve to be able to safely get to work and school, care for their families and participate in the lives of their communities. I am thrilled that the Legislature has voted to override Gov. Baker's veto on this measure, which supports families, improves public safety and is good for our economy."

In the meantime, "Fair and Secure Massachusetts," a group attempting to repeal the new law, is collecting signatures to put the issue on the November state ballot to let voters decide whether to repeal the law or let it go into effect in July 2023. To get the question on the ballot, supporters must collect 40,120 signatures by August 24.

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

con Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of June 13-17, The House met for a total of eight hours and 45 minutes and the Senate met for a total of four hours and 38 minutes.

Mon. June 13	House 11:01 a.m. to 12:19 p.m. Senate 11:22 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Tues. June 14	No House session No Senate session
Wed. June 15	House 11:03 a.m. to 11:26 a.m. No Senate session.
Thurs. June 16	House 11:00 a.m. to 6:04 p.m. Senate 11:17 a.m. to 3:32 p.m.
Fri. June 17	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

## 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.

## Hoping some common sense will prevail



By Mayor Emeritus Eugene C. Brune

There have been several conversations and written articles pertaining to consumption sites and their tentative locations. Certainly, this type of topic would bring out the good, the bad and ugly, during any discussions pertaining to a volatile issue.

During my six years as the Alderman in Ward Six, as well as my ten years as your mayor, many such issues took place. Halfway homes for alcohol rehabilitation, homeless shelters, drug programs, mental health group homes, etc.

It is only natural that these discussions would take place, especially if it might be in one's neighborhood. In many instances state law provided the right to locate that home or homes dealing with education in any neighborhood.

The discussions were built around not so much asking per-

mission to locate there but easing the minds of the neighbors that all will be fine. There will not be problems, and if so, they will be taken care of immediately by that organization.

Before this state law took place it was left to the Board of Aldermen to vote yes or no before it would be allowed. I remembered one such time when the Caspar Program for Alcohol Rehabilitation proposed to locate a home in my Ward Six.

Although the neighbors were against it, I presented my arguments for the need of this home to help those families with members needing help to rehabilitate, and I received the votes of the Aldermen. The neighbors were so mad at me that they stated that they would defeat me in my next election.

The home proved to be one of the best neighbors, noticeably quiet, sidewalks always exceptionally clean of snow and ice in the winter. It ended up with the neighbors being very friendly, bringing deserts and clothing to the clients. Pleased to say that these same neighbors also helped me to get re-elected.

When Mayor, I was told that a group home for those with mental health issues was going to locate right next door to me on Wallace Street. I invited all my neighbors over to my home for a meeting and I also invited the director of the program to explain what will be taken place, how many will be living there, what kind of supervision and any other questions we might have. At the end of the meeting all my wonderful neighbors understood the need and were willing to welcome them. Pleased to say never once was there a problem.

But learning that Davis Square is one of the locations mentioned for a consumption site, I believe it is a major mistake. At one time many years ago Davis Square was one of the leading squares in the state, but in the seventies that changed. When I was asked as the Ward Alderman about Davis Square, I would answer that "All we have in Davis Square is barrooms and shoe stores, and even the shoe stores were moving out." I used that as one of my arguments to Governor Dukakis, when I joined the fight to bring the Red Line into Davis Square.

As Mayor, I and my team began the transition to the renovations of Davis Square, New Store Fronts, sidewalks, streets, lighting, parks, and Harvard

Health. Several new businesses, great restaurant's and with the Red Line we brought people into the Square. Tuft's students came to Davis Square no longer by-passing us and going to Harvard Square. I promised the members of the Ward Six Civic Association that I would keep Davis Square as a neighborhood square, where they could shop, relax in the new parks, and not worry about being unsafe. That I would keep a 50-foot height limitation as they did not want to be another Central or Harvard Square. I fully understand the need for a "consumption site." I am also in favor of doing all that is possible in helping those with problems, whether it be alcoholism, homelessness, mental health, food kitchens, and abused and battered people, etc.

I am told that other cities and towns have flatly stated that no consumption sites will be allowed in their communities. I do not agree with this and feel that this is not the right position to take.

Also, why Davis Square, or for that matter any square? Did those selecting locations forget the word common sense? Did they give any thought about the businesses that already have a tough time staying in business with all that is going on in this economy? Or the school children going past squares to and from school, or the seniors that enjoy sitting in the park? Or those neighbor's that asked me to give them a friendly square and many of them still living there.

I assume that Fenway Health spoke with the Mayor, the Ward Councilor, and the Councilors At-Large, and ask if they think that a consumption site belongs in Davis Square? Why not a location with no homes, schools, or seniors? The elected officials should check the police reports as to the serious problems that are occurring in Davis Sq. And why two in Somerville rather than just one?

Has anyone on the committee given any thought to those with a problem who may be embarrassed standing in line letting the world know that they are a user?

I am not saying that Somerville should turn their backs as they never have in the past. Especially to such a severe problem that has hurt so many families. But I am saying that those making the decisions should use some good old common sense. No sense helping one problem by creating another.

### **Envisioning 90 Washington Street: In-person and virtual listening sessions**

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and City of Somerville staff are hosting listening sessions to hear from the community about the future of 90 Washington Street, a 4-acre site near the East Somerville Green Line station envisioned as the future home of a new Public Safety Building and a range of civic, commercial, and residential uses.

After a brief overview of the project, residents will have an opportunity to share their thoughts about the Public Safety Building project and other potential uses for the site on the adjacent Washington Street Development Parcels.

This listening session will be hosted both in person and virtually, on different evenings. The in-person listening session will take place Tuesday, June 28, at 6 p.m. at the East Somerville Community School (50 Cross Street), either on the basketball courts or in the auditorium.



Signage will be posted to direct attendees. The virtual listening session will take place Wednesday, June 29, at 6:00 p.m. This is the same meeting, just offered in different formats. Both meetings will have live interpretation into Spanish and Portuguese.

For more information and the link for the virtual listening session, go to somervillema.gov/90washington.

## **COMMENTARY**

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

**Illustrated by Jim Clark** 



Congratulations to our graduates of 2022!

## **Our View Of The Times**



Another year passes and we pause at feat to take one's education to the limit, this time to congratulate and honor the hard-working students who achieved their goal of successfully completing their courses of studies at their respective high schools and colleges.

It takes a lot of dedication and commitment to follow through to completion in this world, which is filled with so many challenges and distractions. It is no small and these moments represent important milestones along the path to success in life.

We should lavish these kids with praise for their accomplishments and encourage them to take it to the next level. To constantly strive to better themselves, be it moving on to college or grad school, professional or vocational schooling. Going yet another step further shows ambition

and a sense of belief in oneself that can propel one to success unimagined by those who fall short of the mark.

Especially in times like these, where these young people have weathered the same stressful issues that all the rest of us have had to contend with, those who achieved their scholastic goals in spite of it all are to be admired and respected as they go forth. It can be said that one's life is a never-ending process of discovery and learning. That we are always in school, in fact. Still, achieving the goal of completing a set course of study is especially satisfying and sets the stage for even bigger accomplishments.

And so we applaud the achievements of the class of 2022. May they go on to know great success in their professional and personal lives. They so clearly deserve it.

#### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

paralegal at attorney Sean O'Donovan's law office. We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to a good guy, Jonathan Buck, who celebrates this week. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Dave Bertocchi, Kathi Mullins, Terra Yann, Kenneth Lonergan, Marie Kearns, Hugo A Volpe, John O'Rourke, Cory Mashburn, Mark Anthony Anderson, Diane Dee-Dee and Peter Tsairidie a 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 of

Somerville Police officer Randy Isaacs who lost his life this week due to a medical emergency. Our thoughts are with his family and fellow officers. We will update our website when any announcement or arrangements as they are made.

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

This Friday, take a free walking tour with Antonio Escobar, Somerville Arts Council Board Member. Discover the delicious diversity of Union Square and visit three international markets. You will end at Bow Market where you can enjoy tasty food at Nibble Kitchen. Friday, June 24, at 6:00 p.m. To sign up please send an email to nibblesomerville@gmail.

com, OR fill out this form https://bit. ly/39qjdbX. Tours last 1.5 hours and are free, we just encourage you to buy a few things during the tour.

The City of Somerville, the City of Cambridge, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) invite you to a virtual public meeting to discuss ways to protect and improve our local water resources, including the Mystic River, the Alewife Brook, and the Charles River. The City of Somerville, the City of Cambridge, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) invite you to a virtual public

meeting to discuss ways to protect and improve our local water resources, including the Mystic River, the Alewife Brook, and the Charles River. The meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday, June 29, at 6:00 p.m. Interpretation will be available into Portuguese, Spanish, Amharic, and Bengali. The presentation materials and the recording will be made available in additional languages following the meeting. For more information and to register to attend, go to somervillema.gov/cso.

The Somerville Homeless Coalition needs snacks for their Continued on page 19

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## **FUN & GAMES**

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

mixture, hodgepodge 1. Which rock has

- the ability to float in water?
- 2. Which female rapper's original name was Onika Tanya Maraj-Petty?
- 3. When did the Great Fire of London occur?
- 4. Who defeated Andre Agassi in the 1999 Wimbledon final?
- 5. Which country is both a country and a continent?
- 6. Which American TV comedy follows the lives of Jay Pritchett and his family?

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- 7. What French engineer introduced the modern bikini?
- 8. What blood type is the universal donor?
- 9. Which planet has the same name as a dog?
- 10. Which singer/ songwriter's real name is John Roger Stephens?
- 11. What is the total opposite of windward in nautical terms?
- 12. Who created the animation for *Monty* Python's Flying Circus?

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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Answers on page 21

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

- 1. Women have more tastebuds than men.
  - 2. Women see more colors than men.

#### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD FOURTH OF JULY

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Cutting the mustard
- 5. French vineyard
- 8. Expression of satisfaction
- 11. Chicago's Navy \_
- 12. Not that
- 13. Lock horns
- 15. Sound of pride
- 16. Tom Hanks' character had this in
- "Philadelphia"
- 17. Dre's headphones
- 18. Handheld firework
- 20. Eurozone monev
- 21. Chinese weight units
- 22. Campaigned
- 23. Popular July Fourth salad
- 26. Ltd
- 30. A in I.P.A.
- 31. Type of embellished surface
- 34. Dunking treat
- 35. Potato state
- 37. Type of poem
- 38. Rabbit trap
- 39. "I, Claudius" role
- 40. As much as necessary
- 42. Opposite of trans- in chemistry
- 43. Bring into servitude
- 45. Bottle
- 47. Ill temper
- 48. Olive branch
- 50. Campaign worker
- 52. Declaration signer
- 55. Extinct Italic language
- 56. Forsaken or desolate
- 57. Rumpelstiltskin's weaver
- 59. Between Egypt and Algeria
- 60. Heed
- 61. At the summit
- 62. Beaver's construction
- 63. "I Thee \_
- 64. Liberty Bell did it to mark Declaration reading

DOWN

- 1. Calendar abbr.
- 2. Life stories, for short

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4			5	6	7				8	9	10
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15					16					17				
	18			19						20				
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30				31		32	33				34			
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			47				48	49						
	50	51				52						53	54	
55		T				56					57			58
59	T					60					61			
62		T				63					64			



3. Faith jump? 4. Misprints

5. Cooler purpose

6. Fair attractions

7. CCCP, in English

8. Lab culture

9. Type of pilot

10. "For \_\_\_\_ a jolly ..."

12. Hit 80's song "\_

13. Crosswise, on deck

14. Popular type of July Fourth gathering

19. Two to one, e.g.

22. Antonym of keep

23. "Common Sense" author

24. Like the days of 1776

25. Crocodile ones are insincere

26. Place, in French

27. Race course 28. Causing fear 29. "That thou \_\_\_\_, do quickly"

Internet!

**₹19**99

32. Like a certain ranger

33. Fuss

36. 4th of July, e.g.

38. Sudden upset

40. The night before

41. Dad's mom

44. Gladiators' battlefield

46. Cold storage

48. Space exploration mission

49. Dog-\_\_\_\_ pages

50. "Heat of the Moment" band 51. Intercontinental ballistic missile

52. Opposite of ebb

53. I, to a Greek

54. High part of day

55. Like Methuselah

58. Fuel economy acronym

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

## Cuts in 2023 Police Department budget on the block

#### By Kyle Dante

The City Council intends to cut \$400,000 from the Somerville Police Department (SPD) budget proposal for the 2023 fiscal year. \$200,000 of that cut will be used for unarmed emergency personnel. The remaining \$200,000 will go for other city demands, including housing and mental health needs, among others.

For 2023, SPD proposed a budget of \$18,069,335 across three areas: personal services, ordinary maintenance, and special services. **Personal Services-\$17,389,502** (an increase from the 2022 \$16.2m budget)

The overarching goal of SPD in its services is safety and paying its employees. Their proposed budget will allow a staffing of eightyeight patrol officers.

\$277k of the money will go to body-cameras. With increasing issues worldwide regarding the police, the investment is valid. The remaining million is split across two other aspects: contracted salaries (\$801k, with \$173k in overtime) and developmental education courses (\$108.5k).

Ordinary Maintenance-\$628,000 (increase from the \$453.3k 2022 budget)

The maintenance is divided into four aspects: body cameras (\$127.8k), public safety supplies (\$36k), website redesigns (\$9.5k), and other matters (\$1.4k).



#### Special Services-\$51,600

The plan needs review and negotiation between the City Council, mayor, and SPD. For one, the use of body cameras remain a point of discussion. An oversight board, in conjunction with it, is necessary. It stems from privacy concerns, with many remaining uncomfortable with their usage. Civilian oversight is a key issue as well, concerning who owns the footage for data storage and review.

Another issue involving the budget proposal is why there are increases in costs. One example mentioned was weapons training education. It is a mandated service for firearms training, including ammunition. However, the cost of this rose since the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as resource access. In turn, resulting in an increase of cost with the mandates. It also will require clarification on how much money is reimbursed concerning work hours, especially

training overtime.

Along with a staffing issue across the departments, it is problematic. SPD is trying to "fill a gap in the current climate," looking to support decisions for grants and possible city support. In the case of hiring social workers, for example, it is between \$70,000 minimum to about \$85,000 with demands and level positions.

Based on the proposal, there is work to be done. Even without factoring Covid-19, change is coming. As changes are being made, both for removals and updates, two more meetings will be held this week. The meeting involving cuts will be tonight, June 22, and a final decision the following day on Thursday, June 23. Both finance meetings are open to the public, and will start at 6:00 p.m.

To see more of what the proposed SPD budget entails, in addition to this week's meetings, go to somervillema.gov.

### ESCS celebrates inaugural season of Girls on the Run

Students at the East Somerville Community School are completing their inaugural Girls on the Run season this month. Coached by Susan Maday, ESCS's special education facilitator, the after-school activity was held twice a week this spring and was open to all runners in grades 3-5. A dozen girls joined and built friendships, worked as a team, and exercised in all kinds of weather. The ESCS PTA paid the registration fee for all runners.



Each session began with warm-up exercises and then a bit of running in the neighborhood. In addition to running, Girls on the Run participants complete a community impact project, which is entirely student-driven. The team at ESCS decided together to host a lemonade stand and bake sale in front of school to raise money to benefit animals and the environment. This past half-day Wednesday they raised a total of \$350 for the Animal Rescue League. They plan to start up again when school resumes this fall.

## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #256

#### **Everett**

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

The roots of Everett, Massachusetts run deep. Its settlement goes back to 1640 when it was known as Charlestown's Mystic Side and later as Malden. She separated from Malden in 1870 and in 1892 went through the transformation from a town to a city. On May 27, 1776, as part of Malden, she was the first town to petition the Colonial Government to withdraw allegiance from King George.



On August 6, 1775, British troops and two naval floating batteries attacked, torched, and bombed the Penny Ferry and its buildings. The Ferry transported passengers and goods across the Mystic River from today's Sullivan Square or Charlestown Neck to today's Encore Boston Harbor Casino in Everett. American cannon fire from Temples Point at Somerville's Ten Hills drove the enemy out.

Today, the thirty-three-acre casino, resort, and entertainment complex and the Orange Line at Somerville's Assembly Square will soon join the two cities by a pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the Mystic River.



Down through the years, Everett citizens have demonstrated their loyalty in times of emergency and peace by their patriotic service in the armed forces of our nation and elsewhere.

Who was their city named after? Edward Everett began his political rise in 1825 where he enjoyed

a panoramic view of beautiful

Continued on page 16

## 22 Somerville residents cycle toward \$66 million goal for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

On August 6 and 7, more than 6,000 riders, including 22 riders from Somerville, will pedal in the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC), a bike-a-thon with one and two-day routes from 25 to 210 miles, with the goal of topping last year's record-breaking gift and raising \$66 million for cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Dana-Farber).

The PMC is the nation's single most successful athletic fundraiser, donating 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar to Dana-Farber as its largest single contributor, accounting for 55 percent of its Jimmy Fund's annual revenue. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, the PMC has raised more than \$114 million for Dana-Farber, bringing its 42-year contribution to Dana-Farber to \$831 million.

"We're coming off of a record-breaking fundraising year for Dana-Farber, and we're thrilled to be 'back in the saddle' this summer, bringing our PMC community together for our first traditional PMC weekend since 2019 with our sights set on making an even bigger impact in the fight against cancer," said Billy Starr, founder and executive director of the PMC. "We are so inspired by the dedication of our riders, volunteers, donors, sponsors and community members

throughout the last two challenging years and can't wait to see everyone on the road this August for the 43rd PMC."

PMC 2022 will include 16 routes – from 25 to 210 miles – designed to cater to all levels of cycling and fundraising ability. Most participate in honor of a family member or friend fighting cancer and more than 800 riders and volunteers are cancer survivors or current patients, considered Living Proof® of the PMC mission. More than 150 Dana-Farber employees are committed to the cause as riders and volunteers as well, in some cases to fund their own cancer research.

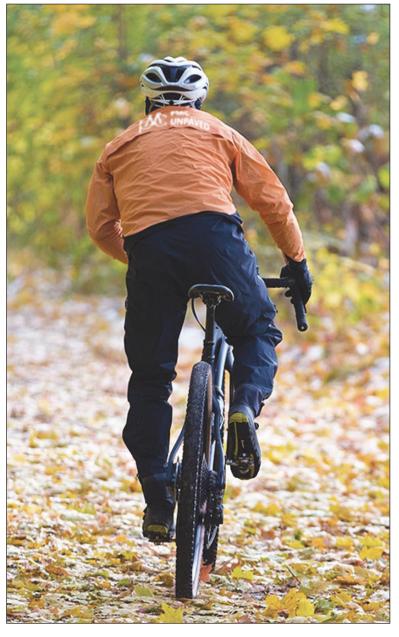
The PMC is presented by the Red Sox Foundation® and M&T Bank. To make a financial contribution to a rider from your town or to register as a rider, visit www. pmc.org, or call (800) WE-CY-CLE. Connect with #PMC2022 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

Thank you to the following riders from Somerville:

Jennifer Abramson Alyssa Boehm Betsy Bowman Greg Cantor Madison Chapman Peter Cote Chip Daley Lance Davis Cameron Deery Adam Fraust-Wylie Brandon Kaswer Ian Marlier Josh McCarthy Rachel O'Lear Stephen Pease Sam Polk Charles Rose Eleanor Schmidt Kristine Schroeder Paul Shaskan Tyler Smith Taylor Witkin

#### About the Pan-Mass Challenge

The Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) is a bikeathon that today raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the world. The PMC was founded in 1980 by Billy Starr, who remains the event's executive director, an annual cyclist and a fundraiser. The PMC has since raised \$831 million for adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute through the Jimmy Fund. The event donates 100 percent of every rider-raised dollar directly to the cause, generating 55 percent of the Jimmy Fund's annual revenue as Dana-Farber's single largest contributor. The PMC has successfully melded support from committed cyclists, volunteers, corporate sponsors and individual contributors, all of which are essential



to the PMC's goal and model: to attain maximum fundraising efficiency while increasing its annual gift. The PMC's hope and aspiration is to provide Dana-Farber's doctors and researchers with the necessary resources to discover cures for all cancers. For more information on the Pan-Mass Challenge, visit www.pmc.org.

## Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) control planning meeting

The City of Somerville, the City of Cambridge, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) invite you to a virtual public meeting to discuss ways to protect and improve our local water resources, including the Mystic River, the Alewife Brook, and the Charles River.

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) can contaminate our rivers with bacteria and other pollutants that pose health risks to people and animals. Somerville, Cambridge, and the MWRA are collaborating on long-term plans to minimize CSOs in our region. Feedback from residents will be an important part of developing those plans.

Join us for the first joint public meeting to learn more about the water quality of nearby rivers, share how you use local water resources, and have a voice in potential improvements. The meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday, June 29, at 6 p.m. Interpretation will be available into Portuguese, Spanish, Amharic, and Bengali. The presentation materials and the recording will be made available in additional languages following the meeting. For more information and to register to attend, go to somervillema.gov/cso.



Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Adrienne Pomeroy at 617-625-6600 ext. 2059 or ADA@somervillema.gov.

## 2022 O'Neill Scholarships awarded to four local students

#### By Nathan Lamb

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

Established in 2017 to honor longtime SCES Executive Director John O'Neill, the scholarship benefits outstanding students from Cambridge and Somerville who are pursuing studies in elder services, health care, advocacy, or policy work.

The following students will receive \$2,000 John O'Neill Scholarships in 2022:

Stephka Lubin recently graduated from Somerville High School. She previously interned at the Visiting Nurse Association and took the Certified Nurse Assistant exam in May. She will attend the nursing program at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell this fall. "I found my place taking care of people," she said.

Tunmise Ogundeko recently graduated from Somerville High School. She previously interned with the Visiting Nurse Association and took the Certified Nurse Assistant exam in May. She will attend the University of Massachusetts- Dartmouth nursing program this fall.

"I cannot wait to enter the real world of wearing scrubs," she said.

Sarisha Ray recently graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin. Her resume includes work at soup kitchens and her school chapter of Amnesty International. Sarisha will attend the University of Massachusetts- Amherst this fall, where she plans to study medicine and work with Doctors Without Borders. "With change comes the discovery of more topics and activities that make me feel curious and passionate about the world that I am in," she said.

Aaliya Shaikh is an Adams scholar from Cambridge Rindge and Latin. She interned at the Santa Maria Nursing Facility, did clinical work at Breakthrough Greater Boston and is certified in Alzheimer's and Dementia Care. She took the Certified Nurse Assistant exam in May and plans to attend the U-Mass Boston nursing program this fall. "Working with the elderly has played an important role in how I will take care of my patients," she said.

John O'Neill was Executive Director at SCES for 38 years, and

the scholarship fund was established to honor his lifelong dedication to ensuring that older people have options to stay healthy and remain in their homes.

A central goal of the O'Neill Scholarship is to help meet the growing need for advocates and leaders in fields that serve older adults. SCES Board President Leslie Hergert said this class of scholars fits that bill well. "The SCES Board is always impressed by the students we interview for this award," she said. "Aaliya, Sarisha, Stephka, and Tunmise 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."

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

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older adults in Somerville and Cambridge. The O'Neill



Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services recently awarded O'Neill Scholarships to (clockwise from top left) Stephka Lubin, Tunmise Ogundeko, Aaliya Shaikh, and Sarisha Ray.

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.

## **School Committee recognizes** outstanding students and staff

#### By Gina Ingrando

On June 13, a School Committee meeting was held over Zoom to go over what has been going on in the schools and to present awards to the Valedictorian and the Salutatorian of Somerville High School, as well as recognize many other members of the Somerville school community.

Superintendent Mary Skipper

and Principal Buchanan were present during the meeting to recognize Valedictorian Marie and Salutatorian Lucy on receiving the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award.

Recognition of Service was also announced about various members of the school community who are retiring. Members who were recognized were Margarita Lopez, Kathleen Donahue, Mary Beth Bernstein, Kim Conly, Tony Dicheca, Harry Regis, and Donna Romeo.

Each person had another member of their school community speak about them and how they made a difference and how much they will be missed now that they

Other members of the community were also recognized for their accomplishments and the their schools and with the homeless communities.

Students in the community were given the chance to take the floor and discuss some school events that have taken place recently. There were two walk outs for women's rights at Somerville High School. There was also a rally against racism and policing after school hours at Somerville

differences they have made in High School and over 50 students participated.

The sophomore and junior semi formal dance was held last Friday and lots of students enjoyed themselves. Fall sports registration for students opened up this week. As the last week of school is upon these students, they are finishing up their final projects and exams and getting ready for the summer to finally arrive for them.

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#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

#### **ENERGY FACILITIES SITING BOARD DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

#### NOTICE OF ADJUDICATION AND PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

EFSB 22-03/D.P.U. 22-2 NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

Pursuant to G.L. c. 164, §§ 69J, 72, NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource" or the "Company"), located at 247 Station Drive, Westwood, Massachusetts 02090, has filed two related petitions with the Energy Facilities Siting Board ("Siting Board") and the Department of Public Utilities ("Department") in connection with the Company's proposal to construct, operate and maintain: (1) eight new 115-kilovolt ("kV") underground transmission lines that will be housed in a total of five new duct banks, totaling approximately 8.3 miles, in portions of Cambridge, Somerville and the Allston/Brighton area of Boston (the "New Lines"); (2) a new 115/14-kV substation, which will be located in an underground vault on a property between Broadway and Binney Streets in Cambridge (the "New Substation"); and (3) modifications to certain existing substation facilities in Cambridge, Somerville, and Allston/Brighton. This work is collectively referred to as the Greater Cambridge Energy Program, or the "Project." The Company states that the Project is designed to address long-term reliability needs in the Cambridge area, which is experiencing rapid economic development and sustained load growth.

The Siting Board will conduct a remote public comment hearing regarding the Project using Zoom videoconferencing on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, at 6:00 pm. Attendees can join by clicking (or entering) the following link <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89391678590">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89391678590</a> from a computer, smartphone, or tablet. No prior software download is required. For audio-only participation, attendees can dial in at 1 646 558 8656 (not toll free) and then enter the Webinar ID: 893 9167 8590. If necessary, public comments will continue at additional hearing(s) on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 6:00 pm, and, if needed, on Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 6:00 pm. The Siting Board will announce whether the additional hearing dates are needed at the hearing on June 28th, and will also post on the Siting Board's website at: <a href="https://www.mass.gov/info-details/greater-cambridge-energy-project">https://www.mass.gov/info-details/greater-cambridge-energy-project</a>.

If you anticipate providing comments via Zoom during the public comment hearing, please send an email to **geneen.bartley@mass.gov** with your name, email address, and mailing address by **Monday, June 27, 2022**. If you anticipate commenting by telephone, please leave a voicemail message at (617) 305-3529 with your name, telephone number, and mailing address by **Monday, June 27, 2022**. Additional commenters may be allowed during the public comment hearing, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.

The Siting Board will accept written comments on the Project. Written comments will be most useful to the Siting Board if submitted by **Friday**, **July 22**, **2022**.

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or submitting written comments may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. A petition to intervene or participate must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by email or email attachment, to <a href="mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov">dpu.efiling@mass.gov</a> and to <a href="mailto:donna.sharkey@mass.gov">donna.sharkey@mass.gov</a> no later than the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on <a href="mailto:friday.july22,2022">Friday.july22,2022</a>.

Simultaneous English-to-Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese (Mandarin), and Haitian Creole interpretation will be provided on Zoom. All attendees should select their preferred language to hear the Interpreter translate into that language. Press the globe icon and then choose the desired language.

#### **Public Comment Hearing**

At the public comment hearing, Eversource will present an overview of the Project. Public officials and members of the public will then have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the proposed Project. The public comment hearing will be recorded by a court reporter. A recording of the public comment hearing will be posted to the <a href="Department's YouTube">Department's YouTube</a> <sup>1</sup> channel after the public comment hearing.

#### **Intervention and Participation**

Persons or groups who wish to be involved in the Siting Board proceeding beyond providing comments at the public comment hearing or submitting written comments may seek either to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant. Intervention as a party allows the person or group to participate fully in the evidentiary phase of the proceeding, including the right to participate in evidentiary hearings and to appeal a final decision. A limited participant would receive documents in the proceeding and may file a brief as well as file written comments and/or present oral comments regarding the Tentative Decision to the Siting Board.

Any person wishing to intervene as a party or to participate as a limited participant in this proceeding must file a written petition with the Presiding Officer (see Filing Instructions below). A petition to intervene or be a limited participant must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 980 CMR 1.00, the Siting Board's procedural rules, which can be found on the Siting Board's website at:

https://www.mass.gov/doc/980-cmr-1-rules-for-the-conduct-of-adjudicatoryproceedings/download. To be allowed, a petition to intervene filed pursuant to 980 CMR 1.05 must demonstrate that the petitioner may be substantially and specifically affected by this proceeding.

#### Filing Instructions

Written comments on the Project, or a petition to intervene or participate as a limited participant in this proceeding, must be filed in two places:

First, the petition to intervene or participate, and comments, must be filed with the Siting Board in electronic format, by email or email attachment to <a href="mailto:dpu.efiling@mass.gov">dpu.efiling@mass.gov</a>; and to <a href="mailto:dona.sharkey@mass.gov">dona.sharkey@mass.gov</a> no later than the close of business on Friday, July 22, 2022. The text of the e-mail must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (EFSB 22-03/D.P.U. 22-21); (2) the name of the person or entity submitting the filing; and (3) a brief description of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title, and telephone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Second, the petition or comments must be sent electronically to counsel for the Company, David S. Rosenzweig, Esq., Keegan Werlin LLP, 99 High Street, Suite 2900, Boston, MA 02110, <a href="mailto:drosen@keeganwerlin.com">drosen@keeganwerlin.com</a>.

#### Siting Board Jurisdiction

Under G.L. c. 164, §§ 69H, 69J, the Siting Board will review the Company's filing to determine whether the Project would provide a reliable energy supply with a minimum impact on the environment at the lowest possible cost. Under G.L. c. 164, § 72, the Siting Board will determine whether the proposed Project is necessary, serves the public convenience, and is consistent with the public interest.

#### Public Review of the Company's Petitions

The petition to construct the Project includes the following information: (1) a description of the Project; (2) an analysis of the need for the Project; (3) a description of the alternatives to the Project; and (4) a description of the environmental impacts of the Project. Copies of the Company's petitions, including all attachments, are available for public inspection in hard-copy format at the following locations:

- Energy Facilities Siting Board, One South Station, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02110
- Cambridge Public Library, Main Branch, 449 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138
- Cambridge Public Library, O'Connell Branch, 48 Sixth Street, Cambridge, MA 02141
- Cambridge City Clerk, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139Siti
- Boston Public Library, Brighton Branch, 40 Academy Hill Road, Brighton, MA 02135
- Boston City Clerk, 1 City Hall Square, Room 601, Boston, MA 02201
- Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143
- Somerville City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, 1st Floor, Somerville, MA 02143

In addition, the Company's petitions, including all attachments, are electronically available via the Energy Facilities Siting Board's website at:

https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/DPU/Fileroom/dockets/bynumber/EFSB22-03. The Siting Board has created a special information webpage for this proceeding and will update it during the course of the proceeding. https://www.mass.gov/info-details/greater-cambridge-energy-project.

The Company's information is also available on the Company's website at the following address:

https://www.eversource.com/content/general/residential/about/transmission distribution/projects/massachusetts-projects/greater-cambridge-energy-projects/massachusetts-projects/greater-cambridge-energy-projects/massachusetts-projects/greater-cambridge-energy-projects/massachusetts-projects/greater-cambridge-energy-projects/massachusetts-projects/greater-cambridge-energy-projects/massachusetts-projects/greater-cambridge-energy-projects/massachusetts-projects/greater-cambridge-energy-projects/greater-cambridge-e

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, or audio format) contact the Siting Board's ADA coordinator at <a href="Melixza.Esenyie2@mass.gov">Melixza.Esenyie2@mass.gov</a> or 617-626-1282.

#### Accommodation Requests

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a complete description of the accommodation you will need and a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible. Please allow at least two weeks (14 days) advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted, but we may be unable to fulfill the request. Please send your requests to: Melixza G. Esenyie, ADA and Diversity Manager at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs at Melixza. Esenyie 2@mass.gov or call 617-626-1282 no later than Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

Interpretation services for those with limited English language proficiency are available upon request. Include in your request the language required, and a way to contact you if we need more information. Please provide as much advance notice as possible, by **Friday, June 17, 2022**, if possible. Lastminute requests will be accepted but may not be able to be accommodated. Contact the Presiding Officer (contact information below).

Any person desiring further information regarding this Notice, including information about intervention or participation in the proceeding may also contact the Presiding Officer at the address or telephone number below:

Donna Sharkey, Presiding Officer Energy Facilities Siting Board One South Station Boston, MA 02110 Donna.Sharkey@mass.gov (617) 305-3625

#### The Company's New Substation

The New Substation will be constructed underground on a parcel of land that is currently occupied by the Kendall Center Blue Garage at #290 Binney Street in East Cambridge. The New Substation site is bordered by Binney Street to the north; the access driveway into the existing garage facility to the east; Broadway to the south; and Galileo Galilei Way to the west.

For the site to be developed for the New Substation, the landowner (Boston Properties, Inc. or "BXP") will demolish the existing Kendall Center Blue Garage and replace it with underground parking in roughly the same location. Following demolition of the existing parking garage facility, the New Substation will occupy roughly one-third of the parcel, or approximately 35,000 square feet (or 0.8 acres). The balance of the existing site will ultimately be re-developed by BXP as part of the Kendall Square MXD Substation Plan. <sup>2</sup>

The New Substation will be constructed to a depth of approximately 110-feet below grade. Except for vent stacks, a freight elevator headhouse and stair access headhouse, the New Substation will be completely underground. At grade level, above the underground substation, the area will be designed and created as publicly accessible open space, integrated into the larger BXP development project.

As part of the engineering design, the underground New Substation would have the following components: 115-kV gas-insulated switchgear ("GIS"); twenty two 115-kV circuit breakers; six 115-kV series inductors; control rooms with protective relay and control equipment; communication equipment and control batteries; three 90-MVA, 115/14-kV transformers; distribution switchgear; and six 14-kV, 9.6-MVAR capacitor banks. There will also be space reserved for an additional transformer, switchgear, capacitor bank, and shunt reactor, if and when needed in the future.

#### The Company's Proposed Transmission Line Routes

As noted above, the Project includes eight new 115-kV underground transmission lines within five new duct banks (8.3 miles in total, primarily in public roadways in portions of Cambridge, Somerville and the Allston-Brighton area of Boston), each of which would connect to the New Substation in Cambridge. The five Proposed Routes of the Project are summarized below.

#### Somerville Proposed Route S1A (Hampshire Street/D2 Site) and Route Variation S1

The Proposed Route (designated as "S1A") is approximately 1.3-miles long, connecting the New Substation to the existing Somerville Substation. This route heads west from the New Substation onto Broadway for about one block before turning northwest onto Hampshire Street. From Hampshire Street, the route heads north on Columbia Street. The route follows Columbia Street into Somerville to its intersection with Windsor Place. The route crosses Windsor Place and heads north across a private commercial parking lot towards the MBTA commuter rail tracks (Fitchburg Route Main Line). The railroad tracks would be crossed using a trenchless construction technique. After crossing the tracks, the route travels in a westerly direction across the D-2 Block-Union Square Project development ("D2 Site"), parallel to the MBTA railroad tracks and the MBTA's new Green Line train station platform, turning north running parallel to Prospect Street (and around the approximate limits of a building that is presently under construction on the D2 Site), and then west across Prospect Street where it enters the Somerville Substation.

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Route Variation S1 follows the same alignment described above for the Proposed Route S1A, except that it travels in a northwesterly direction around the eastern edge of the site of the MBTA's new Union Square train station platform, across the D2 Site, generally following the approximate alignment of two future roadways associated with the development, identified as Milk Alley and Bennett Court. The route then crosses over Prospect Street and accesses the Somerville Substation from the east. This route variation does not add any appreciable length or costs relative to the Proposed Route S1A.

#### Kendall Proposed Route K5A (Linskey Way)

The Proposed Route (designated as "K5A") is approximately 0.6 miles long, connecting the New Substation to the existing East Cambridge Substation. This route heads east from the New Substation onto Broadway, then turns northeast to the abutting U.S. Department of Transportation John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center ("Volpe Center Site") property and transitions onto Third Street near its intersection with Potter Street. The route crosses the Volpe Center Site to avoid utility congestion in parts of Third Street and specifically the Third Street/Broadway intersection. The route then turns east onto Linskey Way and south onto Second Street, where it connects into the existing East Cambridge Substation.

#### Putnam Proposed Route P13 (Ames Street)

The Proposed Route (designated as "P13") is approximately 0.5-mile long, located entirely within Cambridge. This route heads east from the proposed New Substation facility in East Cambridge onto Broadway and south on Ames Street. The route follows Ames Street through the Main Street intersection, and the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority ("MBTA") Red Line subway tunnel beneath it, to the intersection with Memorial Drive. At Memorial Drive, the route ends in a "T" configuration with the line being spliced into existing Eversource transmission line(s) to the east and west on Memorial Drive.

#### Brighton Proposed Route B2A East (Magazine Beach HDD) and Route Variation B2AN

The Proposed Route (designated as "B2A") is approximately 2.9-miles long, heading east from the New Substation to the existing Brighton Substation. This route heads east from the New Substation onto Broadway before turning south onto Ames Street. The route follows Ames Street through the Main Street intersection, and the MBTA Red Line subway tunnel beneath it, to the intersection with Memorial Drive. At Memorial Drive, the route turns to the west following the east bound lanes to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's ("MassDCR") Magazine Beach property. Magazine Beach and the Memorial Drive segment are located within the Charles River Reservation and are under the care and custody of MassDCR. At the Magazine Beach property, the route crosses beneath the Charles River into Boston via Horizontal Directional Drill ("HDD"), which is preliminarily anticipated to be approximately 1,750 feet in length. After crossing beneath the Charles River, the route follows the general alignment of the anticipated new street, referred to as the Lincoln Street Connector, that is proposed to be constructed as part of MassDOT's Allston Multimodal Project. From there, the route goes onto Cambridge Street, following Cambridge Street to Empire Street and Lincoln Street where it terminates at the Brighton Substation.

The Company proposed a route variation to Route B2A East across the MassDOT Allston Multimodal Project Site. The Proposed Route B2A East generally follows the future alignment of the Lincoln Street Connector through the multimodal site and Route Variation B2AN East generally runs parallel with the southerly property line of the multimodal site. Route Variation B2AN East provides routing flexibility if MassDOT's Allston Multimodal Project does not advance into construction as currently proposed, while also minimizing potential future development constraints by locating the transmission line and manhole infrastructure in areas of the site that will not negatively affect the present landowner's (Harvard University) ability to develop the property in the future. This route variation does not add any appreciable length or costs relative to the Proposed Route B2A East.

#### Brighton Proposed Route B29F West (River Street Bridge)

The Proposed Route (designated as "B29F") is approximately 3.0-miles long, heading west from New Substation to the existing Brighton Substation. This route heads west from the New Substation onto Broadway before turning south onto Galileo Galilei Way to Vassar Street. The route follows Vassar Street before crossing northwest through a parking lot, a portion of which is owned by MIT and the MBTA. From the parking lot, the route crosses the Grand Junction Railroad using a pipe jacking or other similar trenchless crossing technique to reach a parking lot on a second parcel of land owned by MIT (referred to as #634 Memorial Drive). The route then follows Waverly Street to Brookline Street through the Reid Rotary at the Boston University Bridge, continuing west on Memorial Drive to the River Street Bridge. At this location, the route turns to the west across the River Street Bridge, over the Charles River, and onto Cambridge Street in Boston. The bridge crossing would be accomplished by installing the transmission cable in the bridge deck/roadway pavement. On the Boston side of the Charles River, the route would cross over the I-90 ramps following the approximate location of Cambridge Street if it is reconstructed at-grade as part of MassDOT's Allston Multimodal Project. After passing through a short stretch of wooded, undeveloped land (~500-feet) adjacent to the roadway shoulder(s), the route transitions back onto Cambridge Street until it reaches Lincoln Street. The route follows Lincoln Street to the Brighton Substation.

#### The Company's Noticed Alternative Transmission Line Routes

The five Noticed Alternative routes are as follows

#### Somerville Noticed Alternative Route S11C (Grand Junction RR Multi-Use Pathway)

The Noticed Alternative Route (designated as "S11C") is approximately 1.6-miles long, connecting the New Substation to the existing Somerville Substation. This route heads west from the New Substation onto Broadway for about one block before turning north onto a parcel of land owned by the City of Cambridge abutting the east side of the MBTA Grand Junction Railroad corridor. The route continues north on the City of Cambridge owned properties parallel to the east side of the MBTA Grand Junction Railroad corridor. From Broadway to Medford Street in Somerville, the route collocates with the potential future alignment of Cambridge's Grand Junction Multi-Use Path, which requires crossing from City of Cambridge-owned land on the east side of the existing railroad corridor to City of Cambridge-owned land on the west side of the railroad corridor. These crossovers would occur at the following at-grade street crossings: Binney Street, Cambridge Street and Medford Street. The Cambridge/Somerville municipal boundary is located just south of Medford Street. After crossing Medford Street, Route S11C continues north along the western edge of the MBTA ROW up to the intersection of the Grand Junction railroad tracks and the MBTA commuter rail tracks (Fitchburg Route Main Line). The route would then cross beneath the MBTA commuter rail tracks and Mc-Grath Highway (Route 28) using a trenchless construction technique, to reach an Eversourceowned parcel of land on Linwood Street. The transmission line would then transition back to conventional open-trench construction as it turns northwest onto Linwood Street, Washington Street and Prospect Street where it connects with the Somerville Substation.

#### Kendall Noticed Alternative Route K11 (Fifth Street)

The Noticed Alternative Route (designated as "K11") is approximately 0.6-miles long connecting the New

Substation to the existing East Cambridge Substation. This route heads east from the New Substation onto Broadway before turning north across the abutting Volpe Center Site to Potter Street. From Potter Street, the route heads north onto 5th Street and west onto Munroe Street before crossing over Third Street onto Linskey Way. Potter Street, 5th Street, and Munroe Street are private roads. The route follows Linskey Way in an easterly direction before turning south onto Second Street to its interconnection point within the East Cambridge Substation.

#### Putnam Noticed Alternative Route P11 (Massachusetts Avenue)

The Noticed Alternative Route (designated as "P11") is approximately 0.9-miles long, located entirely within Cambridge. This route heads east from the New Substation onto Broadway and then south onto Ames Street to the intersection with Main Street. The route heads west on Main Street parallel to the MBTA Red Line subway tunnel before crossing over the tunnel onto Vassar Street. The route heads south on Vassar Street to Massachusetts Avenue, where it then turns towards the southeast on Massachusetts Avenue to Memorial Drive. At Memorial Drive, the route ends in a "T" configuration with the line being spliced into existing Eversource transmission line(s) to the east and west on Memorial Drive.

#### Brighton Noticed Alternative Route B31 East (River Street Bridge)

The Noticed Alternative Route (designated a "B31") is approximately 3.3-miles long, heading east to connect the New Substation to the existing Brighton Substation. The route follows Ames Street to the intersection with Memorial Drive. At Memorial Drive, the route turns to the west (following the east bound lanes of Memorial Drive) to the Reid Rotary at the Boston University Bridge, continuing west on Memorial Drive to the River Street Bridge. At this location, the route turns to the west across the River Street Bridge, over the Charles River, and onto Cambridge Street in Boston. The bridge crossing would be accomplished by installing the cable in the bridge deck/roadway pavement. On the Boston side of the Charles River, the route would cross over the I-90 ramps following the approximate location of Cambridge Street if it is reconstructed at-grade as part of Mass-DOT's Allston Multimodal Project. After passing through a short stretch of wooded, undeveloped land (~500-feet) adjacent to the roadway shoulder(s), the route transitions back onto Cambridge Street until it reaches Lincoln Street. The route follows Lincoln Street to the Brighton Substation.

#### Brighton Noticed Alternative Route B30 West (Anderson Street Bridge)

The Noticed Alternative Route (designated as "B30") is approximately 3.4-miles long, heading west from the New Substation to the existing Brighton Substation. The route follows Green Street to Putnam Avenue where it turns north and then west onto Mt. Auburn Street. The route follows Mt. Auburn Street to John F. Kennedy Street. The route then heads south along John F. Kennedy Street to the Anderson Memorial Bridge over the Charles River. The bridge crossing would be accomplished by installing the cable in the bridge deck/roadway pavement. On the Boston side of the Charles River, the route follows North Harvard Street to Franklin Street and Lincoln Street before terminating at the Brighton Substation.

#### Ancillary Project Work

The Project includes work at five existing substations to accommodate new transmission lines: Somerville Substation #402, Putnam Bulk Substation #831, East Cambridge Substation #875, Brighton Substation #329, and North Cambridge Substation #509. All work to be done at these existing stations will be performed within the existing station fence lines.

#### Somerville Substation #402 Improvements

Project-related work at Station #402 will consist of installing new below-grade duct banks, abovegrade cable terminations (in the location of the existing terminators), cable pulling/termination, and control and protection changes

#### East Cambridge Substation #875 Improvements

The 115-kV bus at the East Cambridge Substation #875 is the terminal for the output cable of the adjacent Vicinity Energy Generating Unit and two supply cables that connect to the existing transmission system. To integrate the New Substation into the transmission system, the output cable of the Vicinity Energy Generating Unit will be disconnected from the 115-kV bus and connected to a proposed new line connecting directly to the New Substation. A new 115-kV line proposed from the New Substation will be connected to the switching position formerly utilized by the Vicinity Energy Generating Unit. Work will consist of reconfiguring duct banks in the station yard, cable pulling/termination and control and protection changes.

#### Putnam Bulk Substation #831 Improvements

The 115-kV lines supplying the Putnam Bulk Substation #831 are proposed to be reconfigured at a location outside of the station footprint on Memorial Drive. Work at this substation facility will consist of protection and control changes. All work will be confined to the interior of the 115-kV relay room.

#### Brighton Substation #329 Improvements

Project-related work at the Brighton Substation #329 will consist of installing new below-grade duct banks, above-grade cable terminations (in the location of the existing terminators), cable pulling/termination, and control and protection changes.

#### North Cambridge #509 Substation Improvements

The 115-kV bus at North Cambridge Substation #509 is the source of the two 115-kV supply lines to Putnam Bulk Substation #831. To balance flows on the transmission system, air-core current limiting reactors ("CLRs") will be installed at Station #509 near the location of the existing line terminations towards the center of the site. In addition to the installation of the CLRs and their associated foundations, a small section of air-insulated bus will be replaced with gas-insulated bus to achieve required electrical clearances. There will also be work associated with required modifications to protection and control equipment. The substation is bordered on all sides by developed areas including the MBTA railroad tracks to the north; Alewife Brook Parkway to the east; a shopping center and medical offices to the south; and residential apartments to the west.

#### Miscellaneous Distribution System Upgrades

The Company will also be installing a set of 36 distribution feeders and associated duct banks and other equipment that connects the New Substation to the existing distribution network in public ways immediately adjacent to the New Substation. While distribution lines are not jurisdictional to the Siting Board's review under G.L. c. 164, \$69J or \$72, as part of the Project, the Company has nevertheless provided information about its build-out of the electric distribution system to identify the full scope of facilities that will be constructed in concert with the Project.

- 1 https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCklPj6xxSKww-Kr26IEZVTA
- <sup>2</sup> https://www.mxdsub.site/

6/15/22, 6/22/22 The Somerville Times

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#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts **The Trial Court Probate and Family Court MIDDLESEX** Division Docket No. MI22P2595EA **INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE** Estate of: Belski Joseph Middle Name Also Known As: Date of Death: December 17, 2021 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Kerry First Name M.I. Belski Somerville Last Name (City/Town) [x] a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Kerry Belski Somerville First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State) has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [ ] with [x] without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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PH: 857-488-5138

6/22/22 The Somerville Times

#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court

MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI21P6525EA

#### INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Estate of:

Carole Virginia DoCouto

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Also Known As:

Date of Death: November 17, 2021

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner Victor M. DoCouto of Somerville MA
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

[x] a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

x] <u>Victor M. DoCouto of Somerville MA</u>
First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [ ] with [x] without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

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#### NOTICE OF TIER CLASSIFICATION

#### 26 South Street RTN 3-36904 & 3-36928

A release of oil and/or hazardous materials has occurred at this location, which is a disposal site as defined by M.G.L. c. 21E, § 2 and the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0000. To evaluate the release, a Phase I Initial Site Investigation was performed pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0480. The site has been classified as TIER II pursuant to 310 CMR 40.0500. On June 16, 2022, Southville Development Partners, LLC filed a TIER II Classification Submittal with the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). To obtain more information on this disposal site, please contact Andrea Stiller, LSP, ADS ENVIRON-MENTAL ENGINEERING, LLC, 205 Woodland Street, Sherborn, MA 01770 781-727-6646. The Tier Classification Submittal and the disposal site file can be viewed at MassDEP website using Release Tracking Numbers (RTN) 3-36928 & 3-36904 at

MassDEP, NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE, 205 LOWELL STREET, WILMINGTON, MA 01887, 978-694-3200. Additional public involvement opportunities are available under 310 CMR 40.1403(9) and 310 CMR 40.1404.

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## CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT RFP#22-66

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

#### **Universal Basic Income Pilot**

The bid package and updates as they become available can be downloaded from: <a href="https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement">https://www.somervillema.gov/bidExpress</a> on or after: <a href="Wednesday, June">Wednesday, June</a> <a href="Mednesday, June">22, 2022</a>. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1143/jhand-1.50">Thursday, July 7, 2022, 2:00 pm</a>.

The City of Somerville may cancel this solicitation or reject in whole or in part any and all bids, if the City determines that cancellation or rejection serves the best interests of the City.

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

Jordan Remy Procurement Analyst 617-625-6600 x3409

6/22/22 The Somerville Times



## CITY OF SOMERVILLE PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT REBID IFB#22-58

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

#### Poured in Place Surfacing

The bid package and updates as they become available can be downloaded from: <a href="https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement">https://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress</a> on or after: <a href="Wednesday">Wednesday</a>, <a href="June 22">June 22</a>, <a href="2022">2022</a>. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: <a href="Thursday">Thursday</a>, <a href="July 7">July 7</a>, <a href="2022">2022</a>, <a href="202">1:00 PM</a>.

The City of Somerville may cancel this solicitation or reject in whole or in part any and all bids, if the City determines that cancellation or rejection serves the best interests of the City.

Massachusetts Prevailing Wage rates apply. 5% bid deposit required.

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

Jordan Remy Procurement Analyst 617-625-6600 x3409

6/22/22 The Somerville Times

### Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 11

South Malden. At that time, he was living in his mansion home on the summit of Winter Hill where he witnessed and loved the charming landscape of meadowlands and the farm area that hugged the Mystic River's shore.

This area was near today's Amelia Earhart Dam that is shared by Somerville and Everett. His Winter Hill home was on the path of Paul Revere's ride, and his fiftieth anniversary speech at Lexington brought the famous ride to light.

He never could have imagined the thousands of houses that are there today, the future Assembly Square, or the \$2.4 billion casino and convention design project across the Mystic.

During his lifetime, Everett became one of America's most famous public speakers. As an orator, he was the keynote speaker at Gettysburg, being eclipsed by President Lincoln's address. Everett stated to Lincoln, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came

as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes." It is said that Lincoln was humbled by Everett's praise.

He also canvassed the country giving dozens of free speeches to save President George Washington's home, Mt. Vernon. He died in 1865, the last year of the Civil War. Just scratching the surface of his incredible career, one would mention that he was a brilliant clergyman, a Massachusetts Congressman,

Senator, and Governor. He was Ambassador to England, President of Harvard College, United States Secretary of State and Vice-Presidential Candidate. In 1870, the proud residents of South Malden separated from Malden to become Everett. Its citizenry couldn't have elected a more deserving statesman to honor their new town.

Everett would certainly be proud looking down from today's Winter Hill!



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## The artistic journeys of Somerville women of color during pandemic

CONT. FROM PG 1



discussed how her work as a photographer connects to her family. She said in the documentary, "I like to take pictures because through pictures I have found my own voice – in this world, in our family."

Menjivar, whose parents immigrated from Guatemala, also talked about the importance of depicting immigrant success stories.

"When we refer to successful immigrant stories, we talk about the immigrants who are working the most prestigious jobs in the United States and have the most prestigious education," she said in the documentary. "An immigrant success story doesn't always have to be about that."

Weston, a lithographer and writer, shared in an interview with *The Somerville Times* that her art piece titled *Two Definitions of a Black Woman* inspired her to combine her lithography and writing skills. During the pandemic, she made various portraits of Black and brown women, which are featured in the documentary.

"There are things that society put in the documentary, "It was really

on Black women and Black women's bodies, but then Black women are always in a position to hype themselves up. We have to look at ourselves and know that we are amazing people," Weston said.

In the documentary, Shepard, a jazz singer, discussed her Creole heritage, as well her experiences during the Civil Rights Movement in comparison with the Black Lives Matter movement.

About the Civil Rights Movement and Martin Luther King Jr's assassination, Shepard said in the documentary. "It was really

frightening to be part of a generation that was really trying to help change things and just see it destroyed in front of you because it's all televised."

Sneha Shrestha (Imagine) is a graffiti artist whose work often features Napili lettering. Imagine has spent most of her life in Nepal and said that her work is the best way "to represent my culture in the most real way," she said in the documentary.

During the pandemic, Imagine created prints to raise funds for Stop Asian Hate, which sold out within 24 hours.

In an interview with *The Somerville Times*, Weston spoke about her experience as a Black woman during the pandemic, which *We Are Here Too* also highlights.

"It's been very stressful. I think the pandemic really pulls back layers of what has already been racial tensions in our country, but I think it really showed like 'oh wow, these things still exist," she said.

Weston said that she has to navigate issues like, "Am I safe in Somerville? When I walk outside of my house, what is going to happen?" She added, "And how can I be, not necessarily okay, but coexist in knowing that I think this is fabulous and beautiful and everything but enter a world every day that opposes that?"

Concerning her art during the

pandemic, Weston said she had to face many of her anxieties and emotions. "I feel like in some ways the pandemic has made, at least my work, a lot more honest and confronting of my own personal anxieties, but also being able to see well 'how to do I fit in a larger context," Weston said.

Weston also discussed how We Are Here Too sheds light on artists of color in Somerville.

"I think the documentary gives people a snippet of 'We exist in this city. We're here. But we're also trying to document what it's like to live in a city praised for being an amazing artistic community but you still feel like an outsider," Weston said.

She hopes the documentary will result in two things: getting the community interested in seeking out artists of color and using art to spark a conversation commenting on human experiences.

Weston said, "The pandemic was sort of the tip of the iceberg of how we can take something that is devastating and use art as a way to talk about our feelings. Use art as a way to get people to rethink how we see things."

To learn more about the artists and We Are Here Too, visit https://www.weareheretoo.com/?fbclid=IwAR1UYX-u6DEXdxJwz8EUCz6O-PYPe9Oy48LNpJYPwIdtZH-quqFcuWhGliHTIY.

## Class of 2022 graduates persevere, ready for next phase of their journeys

For the Class of 2022 graduates from Somerville High School, Full Circle, and SCALE (Somerville Center for Adult Learning Experiences), the journey to this milestone event has been anything but straightforward. Among the many qualities that this amazing group of graduates has demonstrated are resilience, compassion, and incredible determination to persevere through the many obstacles that the last few years have presented.

As they prepare for the next phase of their journeys, they do so as models of what it takes to succeed. We look forward to hearing about their continued success, wherever their paths may take them. Congratulations, Class of 2022 graduates!









## City of Somerville to offer three dedicated spaces for teens this summer

On Friday, June 10, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and Somerville Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper announced that the city will open three temporary spaces for teens to support Somerville's youth this summer.

"The community has been calling for a teen center in Somerville for decades," said Mayor Ballantyne, "and our teens can't wait any longer. We've heard student input in a variety of venues. They told us they want safe, fun, and accessible spaces where they can be themselves. They want options across the city so that all teens can enjoy them. We've heard their feedback and are providing three temporary spaces while we explore more long-term possibilities."

This summer, three locations will be available for teens, located throughout the city:

Somerville Public Library (SPL), Central Branch (79 Highland Avenue): The Teen Room at the Central Library offers manga, comics, and popular teen fiction in a welcoming, comfortable space. Summer programs include weekly lawn games, video game nights, a summer reading challenge with prizes, and more. Find more information at somervillepubliclibrary.org/teens. Open during regular library hours. Ages 13+.



Edgerly Education Center (33 Cross Street): Starting Monday, June 13, the Edgerly Education Center will offer a dedicated space for teens with crafts, snacks, games, and more. Enter on the Otis Street side. Open weekdays, 2:30 to 8:00 p.m. Ages 14+.

Powderhouse Park (838 Broadway): Starting Tuesday, July 5, teens are welcome to spend summertime afternoons at the Powderhouse Park building. Drop by for food, activities, creative programming, and more. Open weekdays, 2:30 to 8:00 p.m. Ages 14+.

Each site will provide space for teens to relax and socialize, as well as events and activities, connections to services, and access to City social workers. The sites will operate through the Somerville Public Schools, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Somerville Public Libraries. The city will use American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the sites at Edgerly and Powderhouse Park.

Over the summer, the city will begin efforts to identify a permanent home for a long-awaited Teen Center, while continuing to engage youth in the process of creating and shaping this space.

For a map of the sites open this summer and more information, go to somervillema.gov/teencenter.

#### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 9

clients, and as the weather warms, up bottled water, sunscreen, and bug spray become essentials. All donations can be dropped off weekdays at 1 Davis Square office from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for lunch. Visit their Facebook page to see a list of their client necessities: www.facebook.com/SomervilleHomelessCoalition.

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

Stay protected against COVID-19. The Somerville Public Library (MA), 79 Highland Ave., will host a vaccine clinic on Wednesday July 13, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. The Pfizer vaccine and boosters will be available for all people five years and up. The clinics are free, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Identification is not required. Appointments are required and can be made at: tinyurl.com/ SomervilleVax. For more vaccination options visit somervillema.gov/vaccine. If you need assistance to pre-register or help with transportation, please contact 3-1-1 at 617-666-3311.

This summer, the city is offering three spaces just for teens while efforts to identify a permanent Teen Center location continue. Temporary spaces include: Somerville Public Library, Cen-

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

tral Branch, 79 Highland Ave.; Edgerly Education Center, 33 Cross St.; Powderhouse Park, 838 Broadway. Each space will provide activities, snacks, connections to services, and access to city social workers. For opening dates and more information, visit somervillema. gov/teencenter.

The Somerville Museum along with the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS) will be hosting a Reading Frederick Douglass Together event on Thursday, June 30 at 4:30 p.m. We invite all members of our community to join in this public reading and discussion of Douglass' famous speech, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" This event was made possible by Mass Humanities. Learn more about RFDT and follow Mass Humanities to see the work they're doing across the Commonwealth. https://masshumanities.org/programs/douglass/

Starting July 13, a new Housing Stability Notification Act amendment will require landlords to provide tenants with information about their rights and resources at the start of all new housing rentals, rather than only when pursuing eviction. Anyone facing displacement or

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needing housing assistance is urged to contact the **Office of Housing Stability** at 617-625-6600 ext. 2581. For more information, visit somervillema.gov/ohs

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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? Contact SPS Volunteer Coordinator Jen Capuano at JCapuano@k12. somerville.ma.us.

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

The city's Adopt-A-Tree program has officially launched. Newly planted trees can be found around Somerville, and now they need your help. Look for the colorful "Adopt Me!" tags and scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/somervilletree to find a tree in your neighborhood and go through the steps to adopt it. Name it, water it and even receive an adoption certificate. For more information, visit somervillema.gov/adoptatree.

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Don't forget to visit Somerville's farmers markets. Every Wednesday through November 23, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. visit the Davis Square Farmers Market, across

from American Flatbread at 44 Day St. Visit: https://www.massfarmersmar-kets.org/davis. Every Saturday through October 29, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., the Union Square Farmers Market takes place at 66-70 Union Sq. visit: https://www.unionsquaremain.org/2022-fmseason. Every Sunday through November 20, the East Somerville Farmers Market takes place at 115 Broadway, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Visit https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/market. There is a \$15 SNAP match at all Farmers Markets across Somerville.

Somerville Public Library's Chapter Chatter for ages 9-11 meets the last Wednesday of every month. The next great read and discussion will be of Mark Oshiro's *The Insiders* on June 29. Meetings are held at the Central Library (79 Highland Ave.) from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. More details can be found at https://www.somervillepubliclibrary.org/kids/kids-book-clubs.

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

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.

## SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Coffee with Chief of Police, Charles Femino – Wednesday, June 22 at the Ralph and Jenny Center (located at 9 New Washington Street, behind the Holiday Inn) starting at 10:00 a.m. Join us for coffee and treats with Somerville Police Chief Femino and the Department of Racial and Social Justice. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov Grab & Go Lunch will be available after the session.

Brown Bag Supplemental Food Program – Pick Up Thursday, June 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.) For an application contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

June Boxed Lunch Pick Up – Friday, June 24 at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn) starting at 10:30 a.m. We hope you can stop by. Please reserve your lunch by calling Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Arts & Crafts – Zentangle – Monday, June 27 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Interested in learning how to create Zentangle? Come join Lowell Dorr and Local Artist Kate Parisi as they guide us in making great works of art. No need to bring anything - all materials provided for you. \$5 per person for materials payable to Lowell and Kate at start of class. Please RSVP in advance with Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at MBastardi@Somervillema.go.

Meet the Mobility Team – Monday, June 27, 11:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. Do you have

questions on how the city develops mobility safety improvements? Do you want to learn more about our transportation projects? Do you want to share your feedback on transportation options and infrastructure across the City? Join Mobility team members for a discussion and listening session. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321. Grab & Go Lunch will be available after the session.

Caregiver Check-In via Zoom – Tuesday, June 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Are you a caregiver for a loved one and want to connect with other caregivers? Would you like to discuss the joys and challenges of caregiving? The Somerville Council on Aging is hosting a monthly check-in via Zoom for caregivers. RSVP to Natasha Naim by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 or email Natasha at NNaim@Somervillema.gov.

Somerville Cambridge Elder Services – Wednesday, June 29 at the Holland Street Center from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Learn about different services that can help support you to be able to age in place. Including but not limited to homecare services, Meals on Wheels and other offerings. Continental breakfast will be provided. To RSVP, please call Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317.

Movie Matinee & Pizza – Wednesday, June 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ralph and Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street. Showing will be: Serendipity, starring John Cusack, Kate Beckinsale and Jeremy Piven. A couple search for each other years after the night they first met, fell in love, and separated, convinced that one day they'd end up together. Pizza will be served. \$2 per person Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov Grab & Go Lunch

will also be available.

**Fireworks!** – Thursday evening, June 30, Trum Field, transportation available. If you would like to join the COA reserved seating area, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

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

## The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program Returns

The Council on Aging is excited to announce the return of our Senior Transportation Program. The COA will be offering free taxi rides to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the City and to maximize the use of our funding, we will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.

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# On This Day in Kistory June 22

1772 - Slavery is outlawed in England.

1807 – British seamen board the USS Chesapeake, a provocation leading to the War of 1812.

1876 – General Alfred Terry sends Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer to the Rosebud and Little Bighorn rivers to search for Indian villages.

1910 - German bacteriologist Paul Ehrlich announces a definitive cure for syphilis.

1933 - Adolf Hitler bans political parties in Germany other than the Nazis.

1938 – Joe Louis floors Max Schmeling in the first round of the heavyweight bout at Yankee Stadium.

1944 - President Franklin Roosevelt signs the "GI Bill of Rights."

1970 – President Richard Nixon signs the 26th amendment, lowering the voting age to 18.

1981 - Mark David Chapman pleads guilty to killing John Lennon.

## Bicycle network plan under development

#### By Michael McHugh

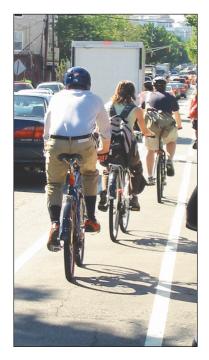
The City of Somerville and Street Plans, an urban planning and research-advocacy firm, are collaborating to design a bicycle network plan that would allow cyclists of any age or ability to safely ride to anywhere in the city.

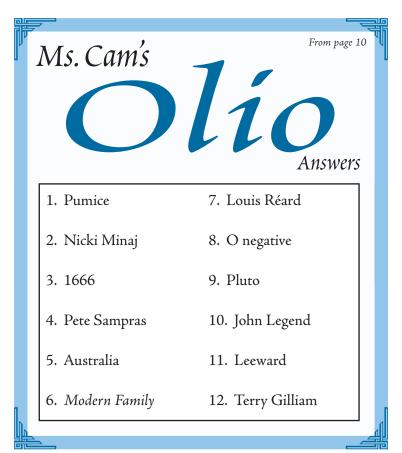
This will be done by designating specific routes and corridors as bicycle infrastructure, connecting gaps that exist within the current bike network, and by creating a guide for further design improvements. With this project the city hopes to increase safety for road users and priori-

tize walking, biking, and transit access to reduce emissions from personal vehicles.

On Friday, June 17, the team shared their draft bicycle network plan with the public at a pop-up event where attendees asked about the project and gave feedback.

The network draft, showing all proposed new routes as well as upgrades to existing infrastructure, will be outlined more formally in an online meeting on June 23 at 6:00 p.m. Questions about the project can be sent to transportation@somervillema.gov.





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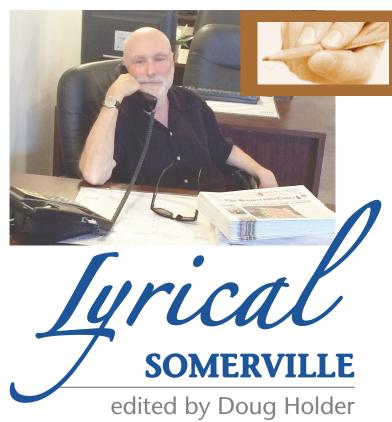
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Tom Laughlin is a professor at Middlesex Community College in Bedford and Lowell where he teaches creative writing, literature, and composition courses, as well as coordinating a visiting writers series and open readings for students, faculty, and community members. Prior to that, he coordinated an early academic interven-



tion program at Massasoit Community College in Brockton and taught literature classes in two Massachusetts prisons. He was a founding editor of Vortext, a literary journal of Massasoit Community College, and a volunteer staff reader for many years for Ploughshares. His poetry and fiction have appeared in Ibbetson Street, Green Mountains Review, Drunk Monkeys, Sand Hills Literary Magazine, The Blue Mountain Review, Superpresent Magazine, Hare's Paw Literary Journal, Molecule, North Essex Review, and elsewhere. He has also published academic articles in Teaching English in the Two-Year College and elsewhere, as well an annual calendar, Stone Balancing at Walden Pond, featuring photos of his stone balancing. The Rest of the Way, a book of his poetry, is being released by Finishing Line Press in July. He has been known to hike hills like Great Blue Hill on full moon nights. More of his work can be found at TomLaughlinPoet.com.

#### Mistress

she arrives quietly every month catching me unaware outside my office door dusk quickly spreading on my way to car, home the sight of her distracts me the night's air warm and musky damp from a week's ground-soaking rain

my car, too, conspires finds the too-familiar darkened lot my footsteps soundless, fearful feeling now toward the concealed path the gnarled protection of ancient limbs long versed in such escapades

by Doug Holder

## 'The Wild Goose Poems'

by Kevin Gallagher

The Wild Goose Poems By Kevin Gallagher Loom Press www.loompress.com 67 Pages – \$20.00

Review by Dennis Daly

poetic narratives better than Kevin Gallagher. In his latest effort, The Wild Goose Poems, Gallagher delves into Irish Americana, its background, and its sources. He uses a first-person sequence of poems on the rebel Irishman, then iconic Bostonian, John Boyle O'Reilly as the centerpiece of his collection. The poet leads into that sequence with a retelling of Celtic myth and finishes the book with a combination of classical myth and both local (Southie) and family lore. Think beginning, middle, and end. And that's the way it reads.

Gallagher initiates his saga gently with a piece he entitles Birth of a Nation. Chock full of one damsel confined to a tower, one greed-filled king, the mysterious De Danaan tribe, one lovely princess, one white witch (or, in this case, a she-druid), one charming prince, and the bane of Celtic life, a stolen cow, this piece gives necessary foundation and entrances the reader in with its dreamlike sexuality. Consider these alluring and delicate lines,

As Cian stared at her Eithlinn's whole body went warm.

She now saw what she only heard. She now had what she only dreamed of.

They each declared their love for each other in the same breath

then gently took off the other's clothes before they could breathe another.

No writer distills history utilizing the form of

Cian wanted to live with her forever

KEVIN GALLAGHER

As she put him between her thighs

and sang a long slow psalm

of love up to the skies.

Fenian to his core, John Boyle O'Reilly was sentenced for treasonous activities by a British tribunal to imprisonment in Australia. He escaped and as a poet, espouser of Irish causes, and editor of the Boston-based national newspaper The Pilot, earned regard and fame in America. In the poem 1867, Gallagher chronicles O'Reilly's prison ship experience. The poet captures the below-deck claustrophobia this way,

There were three hundred of us without shadows

Continued on page 23

He buried his face in her breasts smiling at these pungent urges

as I climb steadily pulse throbbing at my temples she whispers through the pines winking suggestively between splayed branches behind, beside around the distant beyond of this great dark hill

so I find myself here again atop a craggy-faced rock gazing at her naked glory bright and unabashed ever the tease, hovering beside Orion's belt and laughing now with this pale and hungry lunatic

— Tom Laughlin

## Annual Fourth of July celebration 2022

Get ready for summer fun at the City and Somerville Arts Council's Fourth of July celebration. Enjoy live music, food, and of course, a big, bold fireworks display. Head to Trum Field on Thursday, June 30, at 6:30 p.m. (rain date July 1). Learn more at https://somervilleartscouncil.org/fireworks Due to large crowds and noise associated with the fireworks, the City recommends that attendees leave pets at home and avoid bringing unnecessary bags or backpacks, all of which are subject to inspection. For more information, call 311 (617-666-3311).





KAIT, a play by Rebecca Petchenik, will be opening on Thursday, June 23 at The Rockwell, located at 255 Elm St, Somerville, MA. The play is a sci-fi legal drama that explores themes of women's empowerment, artificial intelligence, queerness, and trans rights.

KAIT premiered in Portland, Oregon as part of the Fertile Ground 2019 Festival lineup. KAIT will only have six performances. Tickets to the show cost \$35, and proceeds will go straight to local LGBTQ artists, Black artists, and artists of color.

KAIT is the story of true artificial intelligence occurring in an animatronic sex doll who kills her abusive owner and the efforts of Kait's original programmer and her lawyer to save her from destruction at the hands of an evil robotics corporation.

The play's author, Rebecca Petchenik, is directing, and Clara Tan is playing the titular role. KAIT features an all-women cast and crew and is written, directed, produced by, and starring members of the trans community. KAIT also stars Kimberly Dauber, Imani Powell, Andrea Humez, Demetria Curry, Ari Sylvin, E. Rosser, and Masha Sten-Clanton. Original music for the show will be composed and produced by trans artist, Jennifer Citarelli.

### Off The Shelf

CONT. FROM PG 22

cast by lamps under the forward hold.

We welcomed each other with loud Laughter curses of the most evil fear.

A warm stranger gripped my arm and whispered come O'Reilly we are waiting for you.

He led me through a small door amidships to the space where we waited to be slaves.

After O'Reilly's escape and raucous welcome to Boston by two thousand cheering Irishmen, he faced the reality of his political circumstances. These opening lines from Gallagher's poem *Help Wanted* explain,

Positively No Irish need apply? We were half-starved and penniless

farmers without any tools for the city. Most of us went working on the wharfs.

Women made factory shoes or sewed from home. We had our will, our music, and our God,

but many wondered why we traveled here.

Like most Irish immigrants, O'Reilly melted into the stew of multi-ethnic America. He left his Irish grudges behind (mostly) and became more American than the Americans. Writing for *The Pilot*, he railed against the old insular hatreds carried as baggage into his new country. When Irish Orangemen marched in the streets of New York demeaning Catholics, they were attacked and four of them gunned down by Fenians. In Gallagher's poem,

Boston Pilot, O'Reilly laments the outrage,

Why must we carry our cursed island feuds to disturb the peace of these citizens?

We are all aliens from a petty island in the eyes of our fellow Americans. Here

the Orange have as much right to parade as a Fenian regiment in green.

Both parties are to be blamed and condemned, yes both Fenians and the Orangemen.

The fishing vessel, The Valhalla, moored in Gloucester and for a while in the Saugus River has become part of Boston Irish lore. Even Whitey Bulger, the notorious gangster, reportedly played a tangential part in this mythological drama. This reviewer, in a past life, met the Valhalla's captain and off-loaded its cargo on the docks of Gloucester. It carried squid at the time. Later the same ship, tracked by satellite during the Reagan administration, was intercepted, carrying guns, off the coast of Ireland. Gallagher details the arms-running preparation in his poem entitled *The Valhalla*,

We had close to seven tons of mail-order Weapons delivered by UPS.

We purchased them through ads in Shotgun News by calling the 1-800 number.

We ordered ammunition cans, weapons, training manuals, nylon rifle clips,

piles of M-16 magazines, and rifle bags to hide them in the bogs.

We bought rocket warheads, anti-aircraft, and 20,000 rounds home delivery special.

But the handguns, the rifles, and shotguns, we stole those the old-fashioned way.

We packed all this in a couple of U-Hauls,

Then drove the trucks up to Gloucester Harbor.

My favorite poem in this collection, *The Rose in the Elysian Fields*, describes a classically based visit between the poet and his deceased father in the underworld. Mostly written in blank verse the piece, eleven pages long, conjures up an affecting blend of passion, wit, wisdom, and hope. Eight pages in, Gallagher inserts a lovely villanelle. Here's the heart of it,

You can't be dead for the rest of my life.

I'm so afraid that I will run out of time but I don't have any time to lose. I cannot wait to see you until I die.

When you aren't with me my life is a lie and there is no such thing as the truth. You can't be dead for the rest of my life.

The rest of my life is too long a line and I wouldn't have anything to prove. You can't be dead for the rest of my life.

Poets who breathe in the rarefied air of Elysium, I'm told, change forever. Here's hoping that Kevin Gallagher remains Kevin Gallagher.

