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VOL. 9 NO. 25

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Board of Health votes to extend eviction moratorium



The Somerville Board of Health has voted to extend the eviction moratorium through September 15 of this year.

By Rachael Hines

In a virtual meeting at on June 17, the Board of Health (BOH) voted to extend the end date of the eviction moratorium to September 15, 2021.

"We're still in a state of emergency in Somerville, though the state of emergency in Massachusetts has been rescinded," said Board member Robert Ciccia. "What's on the table is a sensible next step given the transition that the entire Commonwealth is in."

Director Doug Kress opened the meeting by addressing the issue of the moratorium, as well as vaccine accessibility and overcoming vaccine hesitation, as well as how the eviction legislation could impact public health. "We know that housing stability is one of the greatest public health predictors," Kress said.

Kress also emphasized that *Continued on page 4*

ArtBeat 2021 goes 'Pop'

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

With the arrival of the summer, more events and festivals have been planned due to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions imposed by Governor Baker. One of these events is ArtBeat.

Organized by the Somerville Arts Council (SAC), ArtBeat is a festival celebrating Somerville's local art community. In its thirtieth year, ArtBeat will be held on July 10 at 7 Hills Park, a few blocks away from Davis Square.

According to the ArtBeat website, this festival's theme will revolve around "Pop": "It's been a long, rough year, yet things are getting better and we're all emerging from hibernation. By summer, we expect things to pop – artistic activity, street life, and optimism! We're looking forward to business bustle, backyard barbecues, and popping in to visit friends and neighbors."

Although most Covid-19 regulations will be lifted by July 10, ArtBeat will hold a slightly modified version of their normal events.

From the official ArtBeat website, "Now, as our safety guidelines have *Continued on page 4*



ArtBeat is back and will be popping up at 7 hills Park on July 10.

— Design by Stephanie Vecellio



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The City of Somerville will host its annual Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration at Trum Field on Wednesday, June 30 (rain date July 1). Live entertainment at Trum Field will begin at 6:30 p.m. with DJ Brother Cleve playing pop, soul, funk, and other classic tunes followed by Booty Vortex taking the stage at 8:00 p.m. Fireworks will begin at approximately 9:15 p.m. While fireworks attendees are not required to wear masks, anyone who is not fully vaccinated is advised to wear one whenever they are in a crowd. To ensure public safety and pedestrian access to events, traffic and parking restrictions will be in place. For more information, please call 311 (or 617-666-3311), or visit www.somervillema.gov.

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

The City of Somerville's annual SomerMovie Fest returns this year with a series of seven family-friendly films being shown in parks around Somerville. Screenings begin at sundown and the schedule is as follows: **Thursday, July 8, *The Empire Strikes Back***, Seven Hills Park; **Thursday, July 15, *Mulan*** (animated version), Nathan Tufts Park; **Thursday, July 22, *Mrs. Doubtfire***, Nunziato Park; **Thursday, July 29, *The Sandlot***, Lincoln Park; **Thursday, August 5, *Coco***, East Somerville Community School; **Thursday, August 12, *Black Panther***, Baxter State Park; **Thursday, August 19, *Guardians of the Galaxy***, Seven Hills Park. While attendees are not required to wear masks, anyone who is not fully vaccinated is advised to wear one whenever they are in a crowd.

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 23 – June 30 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday June 23	Partly Cloudy	79°/56°	2%	1%	WNW 10 mph
Thursday June 24	Sunny	80°/59°	4%	2%	SE 11 mph
Friday June 25	Partly Cloudy	76°/64°	22%	14%	E 9 mph
Saturday June 26	Cloudy	86°/70°	19%	12%	SSW 16 mph
Sunday June 27	Partly Cloudy	90°/71°	14%	9%	SW 16 mph
Monday June 28	Sunny	94°/72°	18%	11%	SW 14 mph
Tuesday June 29	Sunny	92°/71°	23%	16%	SW 16 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: Somerville candidates denounce Our Revolution Somerville endorsement process

Biff says:

As much as I love seeing the ORS brats get bashed, I have to admit this is largely a BS story that's become a woke-wagon for all these candidates. Apparently (from the timeline they posted recently) they gave this guy numerous reminders / breaks / extensions over 2+ months to get his form in, which he ignored until well after the last extension expired. At most it's a case of them deciding to cut back on the amount of special treatment they gave the guy after realizing he was running against one of their own. Standard issue sleaziness, but certainly not an act of racism. And as an aside, do we really want councilors who can't manage a simple process like this?

Response to: City of Somerville Residential Eviction Moratorium extended to September 15

Laura Mullen says:

What about the landlords who still have to pay their mortgage? Is the mayor and the various politicians going to pay their mortgage payments for them? This has to be unconstitutional! Cities can't just take like this. I bet the number of rental properties in Somerville will quickly approach 0.

Response to: City Council candidates of color release statement to Our Revolution Somerville

Bill Shelton says:

This is what caring admonishment looks like. Righteous, nuanced, firm, and direct in calling on us to create the beloved community.

Villinous says:

ORS decided to freeze out the challenger in Ward 2? Could have seen that coming from a thousand miles away.

Response to: Shining a light on law enforcement

Hmm says:

The police officers clearly escalated the situation. They could have simply left after the person was evaluated by EMTs.

Response to: Somerville Museum's 'Access for All & More Campaign 2021

Steve Keenan says:

This was a very informative story by Gene. I learned some things about Somerville that I was not aware of. Thank you, Gene.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

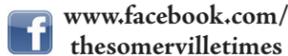
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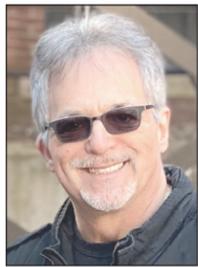
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

Shut that thing off!



When I was young, we didn't have cell phones or laptops but we sure loved our transistor radios! We took ours to bed and listened every night.

One of my prized possessions as a pre-teen was my little transistor radio. I still remember the smell of the plastic and connecting the earphone for the first time. In 1965 I was 12 years old. My sister was a year older and we both got transistor radios for Christmas. Transistor radios were sold at Radio Shack, Lechmere Sales, Woolworth's and Grants. You could probably get a slightly burnt and scorched one from Bargain Center.

We listened to Arnie Woo Woo Ginsburg on WMEX. My sister's favorite song was *Downtown* and mine was *Mrs. Brown You've Got A Lovely Daughter*.

We took our transistor radios to bed with us even though we weren't supposed to. I listened for hours after we went to bed. If I learned my school subjects as well as I memorized my favorite songs, I would have gotten all A's.

Comments:

"I remember walking around with friends and we would all have our radios up to our ears listening to the same station."

"Trying to keep it low so the other kids wouldn't hear it. They would want to hear it to. Then your mom would hear it BOOM it's gone."

"OMG. 1967 August 5! I had one, but those 9V batteries. My mom hated it 'cause I'd sleep with the ear bud and kill the battery. My Grandfather noticed and gave me a crystal set so it got AM without batteries! My mom was so mad. She hated how I'd fall asleep with the earbud and now he made it possible every night! The Great 68 WRKO!"

"I remember my mother listening to Jerry Williams and Larry Glick to the transistor radios."

"Nov 22, 1963, freshman year of high school. I had my transistor radio hidden in my snap ring notebook. I was on my way to gym when the hall monitor told us JFK was shot. The gym teacher let me climb up to the top of the bleachers to get a signal and we all listened to my radio."

"Listening to west coast Red Sox games and hearing that pop of the bat. Priceless."

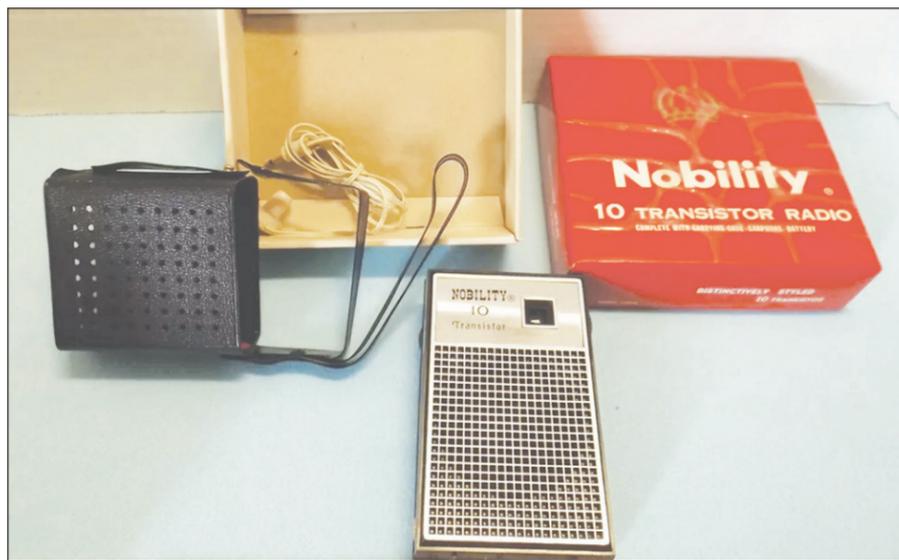
The stations we listened to back then were WBZ, WRKO, WMEX, WCOP, WCAS, WNTN, WILD, WXKS and a few others. My kids couldn't believe that we tested the transistor batteries by touching it to tongues! If you got a shock, the battery was good. I demonstrated. Maybe I was the only one.

We will never forget great Boston DJs like Dale Dorman, Arnie "Woo Woo" Ginsburg, Larry Glick, Ron Robin, Jess Cain, Dave Maynard, Norm Nathan, Wolfman Jack, Little Walter, Casey Casem, Carl DeSuze, Jerry Williams, Harry Nelson, Bud Ballou, Bruce Bradley, Jim Sands, Bill Cusack, Alan Dary, George Fenelll, Gary LaPierre, Joe and Andy, Dick Summer to name a few. I had the honor of working with Dale Dorman, Woo Woo, Bill Cusack, George Fennell and Alan Dary. Here's a jingle I learned from listening to Dick Summer on WBZ about 60 years ago that I still remember:

One hen, two ducks, three squawking geese, four limerick oysters, five corpulent porpoises, six pairs of Don Alvario's tweezers, SEVEN THOUSAND MACIDONIANS IN FULL BATTLE ARRAY, eight brass monkeys from the ancient, sacred crypts of Egypt, nine apathetic, sympathetic diabetic old men on roller skates with a marked propensity towards procrastination and sloth, ten lyrical, spherical, diabolical denizens of the deep who haul salt around the corner of the quay in a query ... AT THE VERY SAME TIME. So now I'll say goodnight all you Glick Niks!"



Me, Arnie "Woo Woo" Ginsburg and Bill Rossi.



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Scary 'parking attendant' stopped in his tracks

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Barton St. location last week on reports of a man that was trying to open a car door and had displayed a knife to the reporting party.

The suspect description fit the same from an earlier nearby call for a smashed windshield and it is believed that it is the same suspect for still another incident. The suspect was later identified

as Pershing B. Reid III.

Upon arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party, who stated that she had arrived home in front of her Barton St. residence where she encountered Reid in the street, appearing to attempt to direct or guide her to park in particular spot.

The reporting party was confused by the erratic behavior of Reid, who is unknown to her.

She attempted to park across the street instead, and that is when Reid approached her vehicle on the passenger side and attempted to open her car door that was locked.

The reporting party told police that she was alarmed and fearful of Reid and yelled for him to get away. He reportedly made demands for her to open the door and lower the window.

According to the reporting party, that is when Reid retrieved a folding pocket knife from his pocket and began to open it. The reporting party, fearing for her safety, drove off and called 911.

Reid was reportedly excitable and upon officers' commands would not comply with keeping his hands out of his pockets. For officer safety, Reid was placed in handcuffs.

A search of Reid's pockets produced the folding pocket knife that was tagged into evidence. Reid made numerous verbal threats toward officers and at one point began to kick at officers.

Reid was transported to the Somerville Police Department and booked on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and violation of city ordinance possession of a dangerous weapon.

Bond St. fire displaces 9 residents

An early Tuesday morning fire displaced 9 residents of 17 Bond St in Somerville. One resident reported a Somerville Police officer saved lives by knocking down their door and pulling people out of the home.

As firefighters arrived heavy fire was showing which was extending into the building, a second alarm was sounded. Firefighters worked extensively to keep it from spreading to neighboring houses. A third alarm was sounded to bring in extra personnel to overhaul and rotate to hydrate because of the high temperatures. One firefighter was taken to the hospital and treated for dehydration.

Cars and a second house were also damaged by the heat of the fire.

State and local authorities are investigating the cause.



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Eviction moratorium

CONT. FROM PG 1

both the BOH and the Office of Housing Stability (OHS) are committed to providing aid to homeowners, renters, and landlords financially affected by COVID-19. "The office of housing stability will work with you, regardless of your status. There are programs available, and the office of housing stability can help you with those kinds of questions," Kress said.

The meeting was also attended by Nicole Eigbretl, the director of community organizing for the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS). Eigbretl was there to advocate for a 12-month extension of the moratorium, and discussed how the community is still struggling as we return to normal. "Unfortunately, the need is still very great," she said, explaining how

families who have already been granted financial aid are still left in need since COVID has slashed the working hours of many.

"I'd be open to extending in August or July for a few more months. We'll see where we are in August and see if another extension is warranted," Ciccio said in response to Eigbretl, referencing the perpetual uncertainty regarding COVID-19 rates and the return to normal. He continued, "But this is the last resort, an eviction moratorium. Ideally, landlords are getting paid, and tenants are able to stay in their homes."

Anyone looking for housing assistance can contact the OHS by filling out the intake form at www.somervillema.gov/ohs or calling 617-625-6600 x2581.

ArtBeat 2021

CONT. FROM PG 1

been lifted, we are planning a more traditional ArtBeat event but with some changes. While there will be street closures, like in the past, we will have less traditional craft vendors on the streets; instead, more roaming performers."

SAC Office Manager Heather Balchunas also outlined the different offerings that this year's festival will have. "There's going to be a dance component at the very beginning of the festival, there is going to be music, the Somerville Flea is going to be curating the ArtBeat craft vendors this year. Community vendors are going to be taking places as well," Balchunas said.

During the pandemic, people were mostly isolated from the rest of the world, which has had a large impact on people's mental health. Balchunas highlighted how ArtBeat is one way of bringing people back to pre-Covid times. "Because art is important and having access to that safety is something, that in a cultural and emotional end is a need and when you're denied that, that is a public health concern. We were very mindful of that and we wanted to be able to have, enable people to access these things," Balchunas said. "It is going to be an exciting festival."

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.

City Council candidates of color release statement to Our Revolution Somerville

We are four first-time candidates, long-time Somerville residents, and people of color. We are issuing this joint statement to address a pattern of disturbing actions taken by an organization which claims to be committed to diversity and inclusion, but which has fallen critically short of those values in recent days.

If the members of Our Revolution Somerville (ORS) aspire to live their purported values, we hope that this statement is taken as intended: not as a reprimand, but as a catalyst for self-reflection and growth.

There were many examples of concern, but we want to focus on what we believe to be the most egregious. Stephenson Aman qualified for the

ballot and submitted his questionnaire to ORS in a reasonable time frame. The leadership of ORS, who had made changes and accommodations in their processes for their candidate forums prior to this incident, nonetheless denied him access to this forum and the endorsement process.

Stephenson has been a pillar of the Somerville community for many years. He is the son of Haitian immigrants who, despite many great challenges in his life, has overcome adversity and a physical disability to become a community leader, a youth coach and mentor, and a critical voice for underrepresented individuals in our city.

We live at a time where participation in our democra-

cy is under attack across the nation. Somerville residents usually stand against institutional efforts to exclude people, so it is disheartening to see the leadership of ORS lack the understanding that if you want to promote inclusivity and participation, you cannot create arbitrary rules which lead to exclusion. If we can understand the voting rights implications of exclusionary policies in Georgia, we should equally be able to see them in our local organizations.

We are all running campaigns rooted in the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

That is why we are calling on ORS to immediately suspend its political activities until it has gone through a formal pro-

cess to address its shortcomings, acknowledge and take action to rectify the harm it has done in recent days, and transparently let the Somerville community know what steps it has taken to ensure such actions will not be repeated.

We know that ORS has a short but proud history as it works to become part of the fabric of our political community. Our hope is that, with the following actions, it can become a leading voice for progressive change.

These should not be unreasonable steps to take for an organization which speaks of inclusion and diversity in its own mission. These are goals which we share but take work to achieve.

With gratitude and hope:

Tracey Leah Pratt, Candidate

for Somerville City Councilor At-Large (pratt4somerville@gmail.com)

Beatriz Gómez Mouakad, Candidate for Somerville Ward 5 Councilor (gomezmmouakad.ward5@gmail.com)

Judy Pineda Neufeld, Candidate for Somerville Ward 7 Councilor (judyforward7@gmail.com)

Stephenson Aman, Candidate for Somerville Ward 2 Councilor (citizensforstephman@gmail.com)

Editor's note: A number of current candidates for office in the City of Somerville has released statements that share the concerns listed here. Some have been posted on our website at: <http://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/109111>

House and Senate sponsors rally advocates in preparation for upcoming hearing on driver's license bill

On Wednesday, June 23, the Massachusetts Transportation Committee will hold a hearing for H.3456/S.2289 An Act relative to work and family mobility during and subsequent to the COVID-19 emergency. The Committee will hear testimony from legislators, law enforcement, impacted individuals, and other supporters.

Hundreds of supporters are anticipated to attend and watch the hearing virtually, drawing from a broad, diverse, and growing coalition including local organizations such as The Driving Families Forward Coalition and The Welcome Project.

Representatives Christine Barber (D-Somerville) and Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield) will testify in support of this critical legislation, along with Senate bill sponsors Senators Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn) and Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), and the Driving Families Forward Coalition. This bill would allow all qualified drivers, regardless of immigration status, to apply for a standard Massachusetts driver's license. Driving is a key tool of economic mobility, and having a driver's license allows people to safely get to work, drive their kids to school, and participate in their community.

Current state law includes two license options for all Massachusetts drivers: the standard license and the REAL ID. Under this bill, all people would be able to apply for a standard Massachusetts license, regardless of their federal immigration status. Applicants would have to pass standard vision and road tests, submit comprehensive documents about their identity and residency, and purchase auto insurance. The hearing starts at 2:00 p.m. on June 23. To watch, find the live-stream of the hearing listed under "Hearing & Events" on the MA legislature website at <https://malegislature.gov>.

— Office of Representative Christine Barber

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Portland Maine

It's nice to finally be able to get back to some favorite destinations in Portland since things are starting to get back to normal from the past 15 months.

One of my guilty pleasures is the lobster roll at The Highroller Lobster Company, (<https://highrollerlobster.com/about/>). Served on a griddled brioche roll, and I highly recommend you get the lobster meat dipped in clarified butter, and topped with the lime aioli. The flavor combination enhances the moist, sweet lobster meat. I'm sure you will order a second one, seriously.

I usually get the coleslaw which is lightly dressed and crunchy and the

crispy fries for sides. The craft beer selection is fantastic and it features the local breweries including Bissell Brothers. Keep an eye on their events calendar, sometimes they make their way down to The Greenway in Boston. It's definitely worth the stop.

Another great place located on the pier is J's Oysters, (<https://jsoysterportland.com/menu/>). They have outdoor dining, but with a full wall of windows it's a lot of fun to sit at the bar where you can look out at the pier or watch the oyster shucking station behind the bar where it's nonstop. Get a platter of oysters to share, or not, and a bucket of steamers all while enjoying an ice-cold beer. They also feature some of the local brews along



with the old standby.

If you're so inclined to visit some breweries in the area, here's a link with all the information you'll need. <https://mainebrewersguild.org/visit-breweries/our-breweries/>

It's such a great place to visit for great food, lots of shopping, and plenty of sightseeing in the area.

Visit Dorothy's website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix.com/thymethief>.

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.

Our Revolution perpetuates systemic racism

By Benjamin Echevarria

Systemic racism comes in many forms. While it is often hard to detect, the signs of systemic racism can be found in the way organizations use their rules to favor their white benefactors at the expense of black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). While conservative organizations such as the police, the Republican Party or Fortune 500 companies are often cited as examples of institutions that perpetuate systemic racism, such systems cannot exist without complicity from liberal and even leftist organizations.

The subtle nature of systemic racism was on full display at the recent Our Revolution Somerville (ORS) candidates forums. This organization, which is now a puppet of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) Boston chapter, claims to be committed to ending systemic racism, but cannot see their own role in perpetuating white supremacy.

The subtlety of systemic racism can be difficult to spot for the uninformed voter, but glaring when given context. DSA Boston are running three at large candidates and three candidates in wards two, five and seven. All but one of these candidates are white. Their main opponents are all members of the BIPOC community.

In the final section of the forum, all candidates were given specific questions meant for them. Knowing that all the DSA endorsed candidates are already favored by ORS over their BIPOC opponents, the biased questions are insultingly obvious. Watch the debates and judge for yourselves.

[https://youtu.be/-y9z40Z-](https://youtu.be/-y9z40Z-6w4Q?t=4452)

6w4Q?t=4452

<https://youtu.be/-veu4SwFiZU?t=5699>

Ward 2

Incumbent JT Scott is facing off against challenger Stephenson Aman, a disabled African American man and former affordable housing tenant. Stephenson is well known amongst housing activists and has served on numerous boards and commissions. Unfortunately, Stephenson was denied entry into this forum by ORS leadership. The organizers said he submitted his application too late. Artificial deadlines are often a tool of white supremacists to keep control over low income BIPOCS, according to organizer-scholars Tema Okun and Keith Jones. To make matters worse, ORS organizers asked Stephenson if he wrote the responses himself. How many white candidates were asked such an offensive question?

Stephenson was not allowed to attend, but his opponent JT was handled with kid gloves. The moderator highlighted JT's emasculate questionnaire and voting record. "However on issues where you don't align with your colleagues, how to you approach persuasion and coalition building to make sure that our shared values are actually implemented in city policy?"

JT Scott is the person I hold most responsible for the toxic political atmosphere in Somerville. It is no surprise to me that his candidate specially was excluded and he was given such a loaded question. Since his question was so farcical, I'd like to respond for him, which can serve as a message for the entire exclusive movement:

"We can approach coalition building by including people, not excluding them. We can persuade people through thoughtful debate, not bullying and public humiliation. We can implement our shared values by valuing diversity of people and of opinions. We can build a movement by promoting

Ward 5

This vacant seat has three candidates vying for the position, but only two candidates attended. Beatriz Gomes, a Puerto Rican architect and immigrant rights activist, is running against Tessa Bridge, a white DSA member who works during the day as ... an anti-racism instructor! One of the biggest core values of anti-racism is to step aside and allow people of color to have power and represent themselves. The irony seems to be lost Tessa and her and her supporters.

After outlining her stated commitment of doing regular canvassing of her neighborhood, a basic task of any campaign, the moderator asks "what concrete steps are you committed to doing ongoing constituent outreach?" Tessa of course thought that this was a great question.

Beatriz was less pleased with her question. The moderator called her out for not having an issues page on her website. They go on to question her knowledge on community issues. "Why should our members and the Somerville voters elect you if you are unable to take clear positions in advance on long-standing issues where data and experience has been developed over years and is already well known to the public?"

Beatriz responds by saying she has been busy helping the Latinx community recover from

Covid-19. "My boots are on the ground. I feel very offended that you said I don't know issues."

Ward 7

In another open seat, Judy Pine-da Neufeld, a Latinx community organizer who works teaching women how to run for office, is running against Becca Miller, a white DSA member. Judy is asked why she won't commit to defunding the police arbitrarily by 10 percent every year until they don't exist. It is clear her answers didn't please the group, despite the fact she has experience on the state level addressing police reform.

Becca is asked a far easier question. The moderator explains that both of Becca's opponents want to reduce the carbon footprint of the city by 2050, but Becca wants to reduce the carbon footprint by 2030, a proposal they call "bold." The word "bold" is used frequently to describe DSA candidate proposals during what are supposed to be hardest questions of the night. "How will you work with your colleagues to pursue this bold goal of climate justice?" Becca of course thanked the moderator for this freebie.

At large

There are eight candidates running at large for four seats. One candidate is Tracey Pratt, an African American teacher and co-founder of Just Us Somerville, a group that represents the BIPOC community. The moderator criticizes Tracey for calling for "partnerships" between the police and schools for "restorative justice" and once again calls on her to support cutting the police by ten percent a year. The audacity to ask a school teacher who ded-

icates her life to helping black and brown children about her commitment to them!

By contrast, Eve Seitchik, a white DSA member, was asked about their "bold ideas" twice, with the same language used for other DSA candidates. "How will you work with your colleagues to pursue these bold goals around housing justice?"

"I love this question!" Eve responded. Of course you do.

ORS has one black candidate, Willie Burnley, who they accept because he promotes their rigid ideology. This promotion of BIPOC members who legitimize their views over anyone who may dissent is highlighted in a question they asked all candidates. "How have you reached out BIOPIC and GLBTQ people who support defunding the police?" Shouldn't the question be "how have you reached out to BIPOC and GLBTQ residents, period?" This is a clear sign that the only black lives that matter are the ones that agree with them.

Conclusion

Systemic racism can take many forms. It can be in the form of a white person spitting in your face, or it could be the subtle manipulations white people use to maintain power over people of color. This year Somerville residents have a choice they have never had in city history: directly support people of color running for office to represent themselves, or support a well-organized slate of young white professionals who decided that they can represent us better than ourselves. I can only pray for our most vulnerable residents that you make the right choice. To be transparent and so people don't ask, I did ask someone to help with my grammar.

Changes to Somerville's textile recycling program start July 1

The City of Somerville and its contractor, Simple Recycling, are making several changes to Somerville's curbside textile recycling service to improve the program for residents and the environment. Each year, only 15 percent of all unwanted clothing in the United States is donated or recycled, while approximately 14.3 million tons of clothing (or about 80 pounds per person) ends up in landfills. These process adjustments will make recycling textiles even easier and make the "pink bag" program even greener. Starting Thursday, July 1, the following changes will go into effect:

- Pickups must be scheduled in advance. Under the current model, a Simple Recycling truck drives the entire trash route every day and picks up the pink textile-recycling bags on the curb. Scheduling pickups will significantly reduce the contractor's driving miles, which will reduce gas usage and emissions, and it will streamline service so bags don't get missed. Pickups can be scheduled at simplerecycling.com or by calling 866-835-5068.
- Pink bags will no longer be required. Items for recycling (up to 50 pounds) can be placed in a bag of any color or in a closed cardboard box for pickup.
- Pickup will be offered several days a week, rather than only on trash day, giving residents more flexibility and more opportunities to recycle.
- All Somerville residents will be eligible. Starting July 1, residents who don't receive City trash services will be able to participate in the textile recycling program.

Items eligible for textile recycling include clothing, shoes, jewelry, blankets, drapes, dishes, silverware, and more. For more information, visit simplerecycling.com or somer villema.gov/textilerecycling.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Summer 2021...bring it on.

Our View Of The Times



What is more delicious to the young mind than that savory and unrivaled treat, summer vacation? A well-deserved reward for all the hard work and irreplaceable time invested in the previous school year.

As adults, we can look back fondly on those golden days with a warm sense of nostalgia and a longing to return to the carefree days that linger now only in our memories. And yet, we can live those

times again vicariously as we engage with the present younger generation who will be making its own special memories.

Parents need to take as much time as they can to help make the summer break special and meaningful for their kids. Planning and taking a family vacation, even a simple weekend camping trip, can forge stronger bonds and create everlasting memories that could never be bought

or traded with gadgets, games, or videos. Simple day-to-day family activities are valuable, too, in making vacation time a rich and rewarding experience for all.

And now that we're so much safer from the scourge of COVID-19, we should encourage our youngsters to seek out those activities, on their own, that keep them engaged and active. Whether it is sports, arts activities, taking up a new hobby, or

any number of other options that kids are able to enjoy. They should be made aware of how precious this time is and urged to make the most of it.

It may be nearly impossible to convince them of how important this is, but it is still our duty to try to do so nonetheless. They will, without question, thank us for it in the years to come. Meanwhile, let's help motivate them to do so.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to a good guy, **Jonathan Buck**, who celebrates 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 paralegal at attorney **Sean O'Donovan's** law office. She is great! We wish her the very best and that all her wishes come true, and soon. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Terra Yan, Kenneth Lonergan, Marie Kearns, Hugo A Volpe, John O'Rourke, Cory Mashburn, Mike Bonanno, Diane Dee-Dee Smith, Mark Anthony Anderson, Dave Bertocchi** and **Peter Tsairidie** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Somerville landlords and realtors are invited to join the city's **Office of Housing Stability** for a virtual workshop about the benefits of renting to **Section 8 tenants**. Learn how Section 8 ensures stable rental income, how higher payment standards can lead to higher rent receipts, and how landlords and realtors can qualify for additional incentive payments and technical support through the

city's **SomerVIP program**. This event is **Thursday, June 24**, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Register to attend at somervillema.gov/OHS.

The **City of Somerville** and its contractor, **Simple Recycling**, are making several changes to Somerville's curbside textile recycling service to improve the program for residents and the environment starting **Thursday, July 1**. Pickups must be scheduled in advance. Under the current model, a Simple Recycling truck drives the entire trash route every day and picks up the pink textile-recycling bags on the curb. Scheduling pickups will significantly reduce the contractor's driving miles, which will reduce gas usage and emissions, and it will streamline service so bags don't get missed. Pickups can be scheduled at simplerecycling.com or by calling 866-835-5068. For more information, visit simplerecycling.com or somervillema.gov/textilerecycling.

On **Monday, June 21**, the implementation of a municipal **dedicated bus lane pilot** between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekdays on Mystic Avenue (Route 38) began. Painting and signage along the entire stretch from Main

Street in Medford to Wheatland Street in Somerville has been completed and the dedicated bus lane are now operational. The bus lane will be open for buses only on weekdays between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. For more information on traffic conditions, travelers are encouraged to: Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions. Visit www.mass511.com, a website that provides real-time traffic and incident advisory information and allows users to subscribe to text and email alerts for traffic conditions.

Healthy, local food is important. The **Farmers Markets** are open again in **Davis Square**. Fresh, locally-grown fruit, vegetables, meats, baked goods. Rain or shine, holiday or not. **Every Wednesday, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m.**, May 20 – November 25, at Day St. and Herbert St. (www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis) and at **Union Square, Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, May 15 – November 20. New Location: 366 Somerville Ave., Somerville. Rain or shine. Shop local in open air at their COVID-19 prepared market. For more details, check out their website: unionsquaremain.org.

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

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

Walk-in vaccinations are available at multiple locations: You now can get a COVID-19 vaccination without having to pre-register or make an appointment. There are walk-in vaccination sites all around Somerville, and just outside it as well. **Cambridge**

Continued on page 13

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#784

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. How many lines does a Haiku poem have? | edible food that never goes bad? |
| 2. What is the name of the villain that trains homeless children to pick pockets in Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist? | 7. How many players are on a baseball team? |
| 3. Which cartoon character was portrayed by Robin Williams in a 1980 movie? | 8. What number sets to the right of the number "20" on a standard dartboard? |
| 4. Mozzarella cheese is made from the milk of which animal? | 9. Who is the vocalist portrayed in the movie <i>Lady Sings the Blues</i> ? |
| 5. Who is the Greek Goddess of Agriculture? | 10. What band is Pat Smear in? |
| 6. Which is the only | 11. In which city was Anne Frank's hiding place? |
| | 12. What is Pink's real name? |

Answers on page 15

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Proportional to their size, cats have the largest eyes of all mammals.
2. In ancient Greece "idiot" meant a private citizen or layman.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD

ACROSS

1. ____ Code, or self-censorship guidelines for movies
5. Ship pronoun
8. ____ vera plant
12. Tiny piece of anything
13. Dateless one
14. Twist and distort
15. "Animal House" party garb
16. Cantatrice's offering
17. Frost-covered
18. Mary ____, star of 52 films and recipient of 1976 Academy Honorary Award
20. Rounded protuberance
21. Breaks off
22. Crime scene acronym
23. One who insists on implementing #1 Across
26. Anxiety, pl.
30. U.N. working-conditions agency
31. A-one
34. Do like exhaust pipe
35. Students' dwellings
37. Between sol and ti
38. Parkinson's disease drug
39. Larger-than-life
40. For the most part
42. ____ Aviv
43. Allow to rejoin
45. Between Paleocene and Oligocene
47. FEMA provisions, e.g.
48. Instrument central to 1945's "A Song to Remember"
50. Manage without help
52. Marx Brothers' 1933 classic
55. Florentine iris
56. Fourth largest Great Lake
57. Hitchcock's "The Man Who ____ Too Much"
59. Make children, biblical
60. Malicious look
61. Highest volcano in Europe
62. Object of worship
63. Always, in verse
64. Like happy people's glasses

DOWN

1. Humphrey Bogart's Fedora, e.g.
2. At the summit
3. Hanna-Barbera anthropomorphic bear
4. Kellogg's Sugar ____
5. Leather razor sharpener
6. Often used to pull #22 Across
7. Archaic expression of surprise
8. Like "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"
9. Mary's pet
10. Nabisco sandwich
11. Former times
13. "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" type of adventure
14. Straining sound
19. Nautical measures
22. Party bowlful
23. Pressed beverage
24. Skip the big wedding
25. Waterwheel
26. Drew Barrymore's grandfather
27. What actors do
28. Mature, as in fruit
29. Like an expired cracker
32. Surveyor's map
33. "Mai" follower
36. Hattie ____, first African-American to win an Oscar
38. City in France
40. Prefix for central
41. Deep throat, e.g.
44. Middle
46. Slow ____ or pressure ____
48. Baby food, e.g.
49. More unfriendly
50. Ginger's dance and movie partner
51. Therefore or consequently
52. Mark for omission
53. Archaic "to"
54. Back-to-school purchase, pl.
55. ____-Wan Kenobi
58. Bing Crosby's 1944 movie "Going My ____"

Solution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Solution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

SUDOKU

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--	---	--

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*Free date changes anytime up to 45 days prior to departure for land tours, up to 95 days prior to departure for cruise tours. Deposits and final payments remain non-refundable. Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 6/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

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

© StatePoint Media

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13					14			
15					16					17			
	18			19						20			
				21					22				
23	24	25					26				27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34			
35			36			37				38			
39				40				41			42		
43				44				45		46			
				47				48	49				
	50	51				52					53	54	
55						56				57		58	
59						60				61			
62						63				64			

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Belmont Park memorial

On June 21, Somerville friends held a memorial at Belmont Park to honor the lives of James Buff Macauley and Mike McLean. Families from both decedents were at the impromptu tribute to discuss and celebrate their lives. Both men, Somerville residents, recently passed and they were honored at Belmont Park, where they spent much of their younger days.



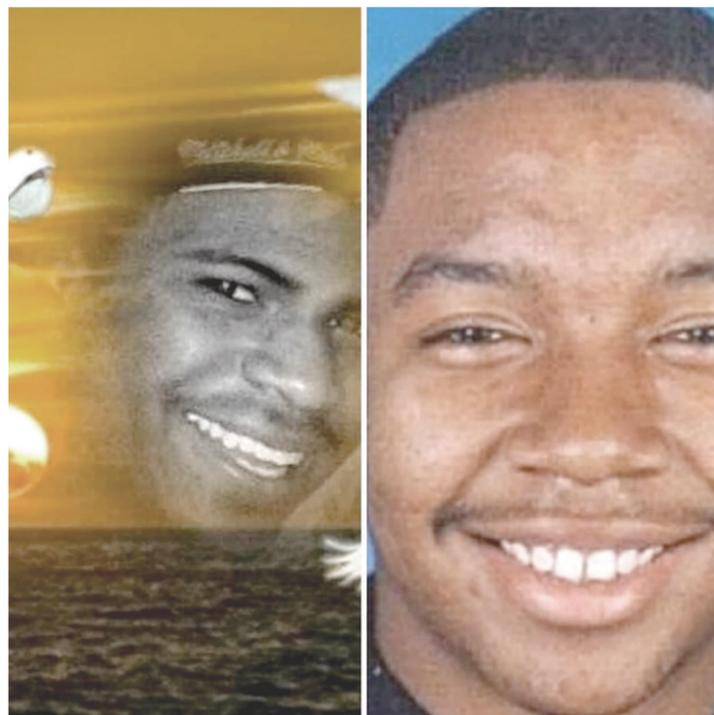
'The Just-in-Time Initiative' – easing the pain of grieving families

Denise Cosby, former realtor with Somerville's The Norton Group and current Realtor with The Messina Realty Collective and her colleague Fay Rackley, is launching a project named The Just-in-Time Initiative on zoom for parents and families of victims of murder. In addition to Denise being a realtor, she is a writer and a parent of a murdered child.

Denise lost her 21-year-old son Justin Cosby to murder on the grounds of Harvard University in May, 2009, and Fay lost her 19-year-old grandson to murder in July 2010. Their unexpected losses took a tremendous toll on both of them and their families.

Since that time Denise has written a memoir, "Murder at Harvard's Kirkland House – A Mother's Worst Nightmare" (available on Amazon and murderharvardkirklandhouse.com. It is also in several libraries including The National Library of Congress (Washington, DC). Denise and Fay have also been working as advocates with other parents and victims of murder trying to help them in their search for peace, justice and healing.

The mission of the Just-in-Time Initiative is to uplift, encourage, motivate and educate others "Just-in-Time" as we go



through this journey of surviving the murder of a loved one. They will invite professionals to help educate others in seeking justice and healing. "Some of your strengths are our weaknesses and some of your weaknesses are our strengths, so let's work together to encourage, motivate and support one another to a better place as we seek justice and peace and keep the powerful memories of our children alive," says Cosby.

Just-inTime will meet twice a month on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. EST. You may find out more about it on Facebook at Just-in-Time Initiative | Facebook and on YouTube at

<https://youtu.be/IaHFkMsiH-Vo> or The Just-inTime Initiative. Please check out the video and "like and share" with anyone you may know nationally or internationally who has experienced the murder of a loved one.

Please join Denise and Fay this Sunday, June 27, at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8447123456> register/tZIsfu6ppzwsGd-fjZWhzVqsMfnp6qOa6rOb0, Facebook or YouTube "The Just-in-Time Initiative" to get the link and register. Denise and Fay can be reached at survivingmurder1@gmail.com. They look to seeing you on Zoom.

Boynton Yards project zoning petitioned by residents

By Joe Creason

The Land Use Committee and the Planning Board held a joint public hearing on June 17 to hear the perspective of residents on several zoning ordinance amendments.

The public hearing began with a conversation regarding a petition requesting an amendment to the zoning ordinance in the Boynton Yards sub-overlay district submitted by 13 registered voters living in a condominium building at 80 Webster which abuts the Boynton Yards project.

"The 80 Webster Community is a pro-development community and one moves to 80 Webster for the appeal of what the neighborhood will be like in the future with the prospect of community friendly developments being built," said Roger Levy, a petition signatory presenting on behalf of the 13 registered voters requesting the adoption of an amendment to the zoning ordinance.

Levy's presentation contained a slide with an artist's rendition of the proposed Boynton Yards development, which he says first appeared in the 2016 Union

Square Neighborhood Plan and again in the July 2020 Boynton Yards Urban Design Framework, as well as in numerous public documents.

The artist rendition in discussion depicted new high-rise developments protruding up from the Union Square area with the surrounding buildings gradually decreasing in height from mid-rise developments to residential houses. The rendition shows the 80 Webster condominium building admits several other mid-rise buildings on that same block between Columbia Street and Webster Avenue

"If you ask members of our building community but also neighbors in the area, this is the kind of development that was expected for this block. That it would be a gate-way, a gradual transition from the largely residential neighborhood to the west of 80 Webster to the high-rises more at the heart of the Boynton Yards district," Levy said.

Levy says what the 80 Webster community was expecting for years based on the artist rendition, was very different from what they recently realized they

would be getting. An illustration from the Feb 1, 2021 neighborhood meeting of the Boynton Gateway Project, shows a 230-foot commercial high-rise standing within 20 feet of the 80 Webster condominium building.

"This was completely unexpected and the project was presented whole cloth without any input from us," Levy said.

Levy says the 80 Webster community was completely unaware of these plans until Oct. 5, 2020, when the pre-neighborhood meeting occurred for this project. Though a draft ordinance of the Boynton Yards Overlay District in August 2019 shows half of the Webster block zoned for high-rises, Levy says that residents were not made widely aware of this draft.

"Previously in January 2019, the ordinance was zoned for mid-rise on the entire block and only months before the ordinance was passed there was a change for high-rise buildings on our block," Levy said.

Levy says that the petitioners have not been able to find a record of this change being mentioned at any meetings between August 2019 and December

2019, when the ordinance was passed. Levy says there was no explicit notification to affected members of the community and they could not find anyone in their neighborhood who was aware of the change.

"We have had conversations with CV Properties which have led us nowhere and that is why we are here today. Our zoning amendment petition proposes to make the 80 Webster block a mixture of urban residential, mid-rise 5 and high rise, and we suggest moving that the high-rise portion to the northern part of the block," Levy said, "Though we don't want a high rise within 20 feet of our building, we want development and we want to see our neighborhood grow."

The zoning amendment petition also asks for 20 and 30-foot setbacks for buildings around the 80 Webster urban residential lot, citing that there are only two instances of high-rise buildings directly abutting residential property in Somerville as well as the fact that final Environmental Impact Report for Union Square shows the high-rise buildings with a setback of approximately 90 feet.

"We believe our amendments are grounded in the precedents of how high-rise zoning is handled elsewhere in Somerville," Levy said.

Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development George Proakis, spoke as representative of the City Administration during the public hearing.

"I know it's sometimes unpopular to try and defend where developers are coming from," Proakis said, "I'm comfortable working on the economic development side of this business if we are going to change zoning on a whim to the great effect of our development partners."

Proakis says that since the Boynton Yards plan was created, commercial interests have emphasized the development of life sciences buildings and of the life sciences industry in the area, stating that life science buildings have certain expectations in terms of shape and structure.

"If you narrow the high-rise buildings, then you take life science tenants and life science financing off the table," Proakis said.

LEGAL NOTICES

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



Notice of names of persons appearing to be owners of funds held by City of Somerville, and deemed abandoned.

To claim funds please go to www.somervillema.gov/treasury, and complete the Abandoned and Unclaimed Property Form and send completed form together with required documentation to the City of Somerville treasury department by August 23rd 2021. Mail to: City of Somerville Treasury, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143 or e-mail treasury@somervillema.gov. If you would like a printed copy of the Abandoned and Unclaimed Property Form mailed to you, please email treasury or call 617 625 6600, ext. 3500. Funds not claimed by August 23rd, 2021 will be deemed abandoned.

PAYROLL/NAME

Abrantes, Julianna	Cook, Lori	Gonzales Solis, Fabiola	Lincoln Investments	O'Kelly, Kevin	Saron, Isaac
Allen, Julia	Cooper, Candace	Goode, Joseph	Liston, Lisa	Oliveira, Luisa	Saron, Samuel
Alvarez, Melissa I.	Correia, Marlene	Goodridge, David	Liu, Jack	Onthank, Helen	Schorr-Sherer, Julia
Antoine, Suzanne	Corrison, Brennan	Gotoff, Joseph	Lopez, Margarita	O'regan, Denise	Schroeder, Helen
Archibald, Holly	Couture, Brian	Green, Andre	Lyons, Colleen	O'reilly, Cindie	Seeberg, Meghan
Arvanitis, Georgia	Couture, Jessica	Griffiths, Morgan	Macdonald, Alexander	Oshima, Anne	Seitsinger, R. Mark Esq.
Baer, Cori	Craig, Michelle	Grunko, Rebecca	Macelree, Pearl Poa	Pacheco, El Aderita	Semple Eric
Bahn, Allison	Craig, Leah	Hachey, Alyssa	Magil, Meagan	Pacheco, Jason	Sempleeric
Bakanova, Anna	Craig, Steven	Haddadin, Shirin	Magillmeagan	Palambo, David	Sermot Gesner
Barbieri, Jeffrey	Craven, Richard	Hadel, Caitlin	Magre Phillips	Palombo, David	Servos Katherine
Barrows, Roy C.	Cremens-Basbas, Cathry	Hairston, Kyle A.	Mahoneynicole	Patton, Samatha	Servoskatherine
Barry, Thomas	Crevier, Nathan	Hall, Patricia F.	Manfredianna	Patton, Robert	Shah Tristan
Barton, Patrick M.	Cronin, Maureen	Hamel, Lauren R.	Manning Mathew	Payne, Hannah	Sheehan Claire
Bates, Lillian	Cruz-Cioppa, Adriane	Hardy, Edward J.	Mansilla Gustavo	Peck, Philip III	Shresta, Moti
Baugh, St Patrick	Curtis, Allison	Hardy, John	Mansilla Steve	Peinado, Laura A.	Shrestha, Diksha
Bawson, Bradley	Dang, Huong	Hardy, Stephen	Maradianes Maria S.	Pelletier, Lisa	Sillari, Charles Jr.
Ben-Ur, Miriam	Darai, Roshan	Harper, Caitlin	Maradianos Maria	Pena, Marco T.	Silvestri, Austin
Berube, Megmo	Dasilva, Carla	Harris, Nelleke	Maria Alexandria	Pereira, Dawn	Simard, Marjorie
Bhargo, Anmol	De Oliveira, Silas	Harvey, Kathleen	Marino, Joseph	Pereira, Luis F.	Simolari, Tina
Bishop, Bryan P.	Dedrick, Lauren	Harvey, James T.	Martin, Emily J.	Performant Recovery Inc.	Slattery, Christopher
Bodo, Meghan	Delaney, Shannon	Hawkins, Steven	Martini, Janet	Pierce, Bedel	Smith, Nathaniel
Bonney, Ronald	Deluise, Theresa	Helfrich, William	Mastrobuoni, Michael	Pimentel, Omayra	Smith, Terence
Boudreau, Noelle	Deshpande, Vithal V.	Heller, Lovelee	Mastroianni, Claudia M.	Pino, Noelle	Smithers, Marlene
Bourdeau, Matthew	Desimone, Leo	Herman, Ariela	Mathews, Daniel L.	Pipken, Jenny	Snyder, Timothy
Bowler, Michael	Desir, Henock	Herrera, Prisca	Mattera, Vincent	Piqués, Jaclyn R.	Soares, Sarah
Braga, Simone	Devanthery, Jean	Hickey, Cindy L.	Matthew, Vincent	Polanco-Cabadas, Ithzel	Sommer, Benjamin
Braune, Ann Marie	Deyoung, Andrew	Hodgdon Mary Lou	Matthews, Diana	Polinski, Adam	Sousa Grilo, Isaac
Brazdaluz, Nicholas	Dickson, Kelley	Hosman Christopher	Mayerson, Madeline	Portes, Juan C.	Sprick, Eleanor
Brescia, Richard J.	Diep, Phuong	Huben, Peggy	Mccarron, Daniel	Portillo, Santiago	St. Pierre, Negrita
Briser, Kacey	Diep, Phung	Hudson, David	Mccracken, Lindsay	Portillo-Perez, Gabriela	Steigman, Philip
Brown, Amanda	Dill, Robert A.	Hudson, Stephanie	Mcdonough, Timothy	Post, Julia	Stephano-Shachter, Jacob I
Brown, Vanina	Diversified Collection Service	Hughes, Stephen	Mcgilluddy, Susan	Post, Julia	Strang, Roger E.
Brundage, Joan	Dixon, Nadia	Hypolite, Briana	Mclaren, Wanda	Pothier, Gerald W	Strell, Barbara
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Collazo, Jocelyn	Franzen, Arn D.	Kravitz, Alan	Oathank, Helen	Russell, Linda	Walkersteven
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Collins, Ellen F.	Galic	Lafuente, Alicia	O'connell, John	Sadkowski, Teresa	Warnick Kimberly
Conley, Tyler	Gautier, i Dvora	Lalaj, Oneda	O'connell, Margaret	Sahlas, Patricia	Welch John
Conneely, Kerri	Giardi, Michael	Lamer, Sharyn	O'connor, Elizabeth	Santana, Miguel	White Paul W.
Connolly, Colette	Gibson, Patrick	Lamothe, Immacula	O'connor, Caroline	Santerm, Roselie	Whitlock Jr Joseph
Connor, Lucy	Gibson, Evelyn	Lawwhite, Gavin	O'connor, Paul V.	Santiago, Ramona	Whitlock Jr Joseph
Consolo, William	Gilbert, Richard	Leis, Charlotte	O'donnell, Matthew	Santos, Marcus G	Wikstrom, Jessica
Consolo, Joseph S.	Glannon, Thomas	Lesser, Harriet	O'donovan, Seamus	Santos, Jose Mauro	Williams, Jessie
Constantine, Joseph	Glynn, Kristin	Lima, Rafael	Odumusu, Damilola S. Jr	Santos, Jose	Wong, Immei
Contente, Patricia	Goldstein-Gelb, Brayden	Lima, Jennifer B.	O'keefe, Kerri	Santos, Joshua	Woodstock, Caitlin
Cook, Gregory			O'keefe, Georgia	Santos, Ruth	Worley, Chad
					Xavier, Gregory

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REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)

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

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

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

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

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

6/16/21, 6/23/21 The Somerville Times

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Annual Fireworks Display Planned for June 30 at Trum Field

The City of Somerville will host its annual Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration at Trum Field on Wednesday, June 30 (rain date July 1). Live entertainment at Trum Field will begin at 6:30 p.m. with DJ Brother Cleve playing pop, soul, funk, and other classic tunes followed by Booty Vortex taking the stage at 8:00 p.m. Fireworks will begin at approximately 9:15 p.m. While fireworks attendees are not required to wear masks, anyone who is not fully vaccinated is advised to wear one whenever they are in a crowd. To ensure public safety and pedestrian access to events, traffic and parking restrictions will be in place as follows:

Broadway

No parking from Cedar Street to Charles E. Ryan Road (eastbound), 8:00 a.m. to midnight.

No parking from Ball Square to Magoun Square, 4:00 p.m. to midnight. Street closed from 5:00 p.m. to midnight.

Cedar Street

No parking 8:00 a.m. to midnight. Streets closed 4:30 p.m. to midnight.

Franey Road

No parking and street closed, 3:00 p.m. to midnight.

Charles E. Ryan Road

No parking 8 a.m. to midnight. Access for abutters only from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Street closed to all traffic 6:00 p.m. to midnight. MBTA Buses 80 & 89 rerouted from 5:00 p.m. to midnight. See www.mbta.com for full detour information.

Due to the large crowds and loud noise associated with the Fireworks Celebration, the city recommends that attendees leave pets at home and not bring unnecessary bags or backpacks. All bags and backpacks are subject to inspection. For more information, please call 311 (or 617-666-3311), or visit www.somervillema.gov.

Outstanding students win Somerville Math Fund scholarships

The Somerville Mathematics Fund is pleased to announce the winners of their renewable mathematics scholarships for 2021. The Math Fund was founded to celebrate and encourage math achievement and these students deserve to be celebrated for their work in math and science while in high school. Thanks to the generosity of many individuals and a few organizations, this year we were able to award a record 10 scholarships, totaling \$60,000 over four years.

Due to COVID-19, they were unable to award the scholarships at an awards night for a second year. The school notified the students they had won without telling them which scholarship, so they didn't know the President of the Somerville Math Fund or the donor of their scholarship would be calling each of them to tell them of their award and that a letter was in the mail.

The winners are attending a variety of schools next fall. Samiyr Afi and Brandon Goldstein-Gelb will attend Brown U; Henry Ayanna, Harvard U; Owen Chiu (Northeastern U); A J Feldman, Colby College; Nasreen Kaur, Boston U; Alexandra Marston, UMass Boston; Justin Millette, Tufts; Sophia Sim, UMass Lowell; and Kevin Wen, MIT.

Their annual scholarships of \$1500 are renewable for up to a total of four years as long as they maintain a B average and take mathematics or courses which use mathematics.

There were four memorial scholarships this year: Dr. Alice T Schafer Scholarship, Lt. Catherine M. Landers, S. Ramanujan, and Michael Voolich.

One of the scholarships was given in the memory of an outstanding woman mathematician, Dr. Alice T Schafer.

Nasreen Kaur was awarded the Alice T Schafer Memorial Scholarship, she is planning on majoring computer engineering at Boston University.

Dr. Schafer (1915 - 2009) was orphaned as an infant and raised by two aunts. When she went to college at the University of Richmond of Virginia, women students weren't allowed in the library and she was discouraged from majoring in mathematics. She won prizes, earned a PhD, taught at colleges (including Wellesley) and among the things she is known for is helping start the Association for Women in Mathematics (1971).

Less known about Dr. Schafer was her role helping to start the Somerville Mathematics Fund in 2000, attending all of the planning meetings and contributing to their work as long as she was able. She is remembered for her passion and work to insure mathematical opportunities for women. Since Dr. Schafer was committed to the education and supporting women in mathematics, Nasreen's majoring in computer science is a wonderful way to honor Dr. Alice Schafer's memory.

The Lt. Catherine M. Landers Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Samiyr Afi. Samiyr has in interest in health and human biology. When Lt. Landers (1920 - 2012) wanted to go to nursing school (graduating in 1942), her grandmother opened a cedar chest where she had been saving dollar bills to help pay for her granddaughter's education.

Lt Landers won a Bronze Star for her service during WW2, where she ran a field hospital outside Paris; she was about to be shipped to the far East when WW2 ended and so she boarded a transport ship for the USA instead. Jay Landers and Jasper



The Somerville Math Fund was pleased to be able to award four year renewable scholarships to these outstanding math and science students. They are Top (left to right): Samiyr Afi, Henry Ayanna, Owen Chew, AJ Feldman, Brayden Goldstein-Gelb; Bottom (left to right) Nasreen Kaur, Alexandra Marston, Justin Millette, Sophia Sim, and Kevin Wen.

Lawson donated a scholarship in her memory, honoring her commitment to education. Samiyr's interest in health is a wonderful way to honor Lt. Landers' commitment to education.

Our newest named scholarship is in memory of S. Ramanujan, it is a gift from the Jha Family and is awarded to Kevin Wen who is planning on attending MIT. Kevin wants a career in therapeutics where he can create drugs and medical therapies to help people. Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887 - 1920) was a mostly self-taught brilliant Indian mathematician who sadly died young. He discovered his love of mathematics while in high school when he found a book that listed 4000 mathematical theorems without information on how they were discovered or developed.

So, he continued his math work, often on a slate, only recording his concluding theorem on paper when finished, without the details of how he came to the conclusion. With his humble beginnings and no formal mathematical training, the story of his life and how he finally connected with the well-known mathematicians of his day is detailed in the book and movie, *The Man Who Knew Infinity*.

That book inspired the Jha family who gave your scholar-

ship in his honor. Ramanujan's notebooks and papers have included both previously discovered and new mathematical theorems many in number theory. These notebooks have continued to provide mathematicians with material to study and try to figure out how Ramanujan discovered these theorems and to see if they were provable. Kevin did original research on impact of plastic pollution. His original work is a way to honor S. Ramanujan.

The Michael Voolich Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Henry Ayanna who is interested in both science and music at Harvard U. Michael Voolich (1943 - 2019) was a person who was interested in how everything worked, if Renaissance man was a job offering, Michael would have applied. He learned by asking questions and then he loved telling everyone what he had learned and how seemingly disparate things were related. He had a career that included teaching many different subjects in local schools, none of which was math. But he married a math teacher. So, when the Somerville Math Fund was being discussed and organized in his living room, of course he joined the founding board.

He liked to do things for people and of course for the math

fund. His telephone calls and trips to Table Talk Pie Company each year for city-wide Pi Night celebration were a highlight each year. He especially loved helping find things for others to donate for the Scrapheap Showdown each year and his marvelous multiple clamps will still be a necessary part of future Scrapheap challenges to come.

Michael loved to be able to give and help others in the local community along with his extended family here and abroad. This scholarship was funded by the many people who donated in his memory to the Somerville Math Fund. Henry's taking the high-level science classes while also performing his violin at an award-winning level would clearly lead to many interesting discussions if Michael were still alive - he would want to know all about how they are related and work.

The Somerville Mathematics Fund was chartered in 2000 to celebrate and encourage achievement in mathematics in the city of Somerville, Massachusetts. It May 2011, it was recognized as the outstanding Dollars for Scholars Chapter in New England. Since its founding in 2000, it has awarded \$505,000 in four-year mathematics scholarships to ninety-nine outstanding Somerville students.



The Somerville Math Fund awarded Nasreen Kaur the Alice T Schafer Memorial Scholarship for her outstanding work in math and science.



The Lt. Catherine M. Landers Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Samiyr Afi for his outstanding working in math and science.



The Michael Voolich Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Henry Ayanna for his outstanding work in math and science.



The S. Ramanujan Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Kevin Wen by the Jha Family for his outstanding work in math and science

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ageless Grace Program – various dates – Ageless Grace is a fitness and wellness program consisting of 21 simple exercise tools designed for all ages and abilities. These exercises, based on everyday movements, focus on the healthy longevity of the body and mind. Classes are held bi-monthly in English and bi-monthly in Spanish via Zoom. Please contact Chris at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 or email ckowaleski@somervillema.gov with any questions or for additional information.

NEW Outdoor Exercise Group – Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Each class will meet in front of the Holland Street Center at the flag pole and will incorporate stretching, strength training and balance exercises. All classes and groups will be limited to 8 participants and will follow City of Somerville social distancing and mask policy. Pre-registration is required. For additional information or to register for one of the above programs, contact Chris by email at ckowaleski@somervillema.gov or by phone at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315.

NEW WALKING GROUP – Fridays at 9:30 a.m. The walking group will meet in front of the Holland Street Center and will enjoy walks through area neighborhoods. All classes and groups will be limited to 8 participants and will follow City of Somerville social distancing and mask policy. Pre-registration is required. For additional info or to register for one of the above programs, contact Chris by email at ckowaleski@somervillema.gov or by phone at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315.

Online De-Cluttering Class – Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. - Sometimes it's easier to collect items and harder to get rid of them. De-cluttering can be a difficult process, but you don't have to do it alone. If you are looking for support in regard to downsizing, decluttering or discarding items, consider joining the online de-cluttering support group. With a supportive group environment, you will learn how to turn your mountain of items into a manageable amount. Call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail nnaim@somervillema.gov to register.

Virtual Bingo Day – Tuesday, June 29 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Join us online or via phone to play BINGO. If you would like to participate, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov We will supply you with the bingo cards and instructions. Space is limited, RSVP a must.

Howie Newman via Zoom – Monday, June 28 at 1:00 p.m. Singing guitarist Howie Newman plays classic songs of yesteryear, including Sinatra, Dean Martin, old Rock 'n' Roll, some show tunes, and a bunch of popular tunes and standards from the '60s and earlier. It's a sing-along, toe-tapping musical journey from the early 1900s up through the 1960s. Howie also adds trivia, background stories about the songs and a little G-rated humor here and there. If you would like to join the performance email Debby Higgins at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 to receive the ZOOM link.

FIREWORKS! – Wednesday, June 30 at Trum Field. If you would like to join the COA reserved seating area, please call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319 - Transportation available

Virtual Concert hosted by the Boston Red Sox – Friday, July 2 11:00 a.m. to Noon. Patriotic Music and Poetry: A live stream concert from Fenway Park! Enjoy music and poetry celebrating our nation and our national pastime featuring Red Sox Organist Josh Kantor and Poet Laureate Dick Flavin. If you would like to attend the virtual concert live from Fenway Park please contact Debby Higgins for the Zoom link at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

ONGOING EVENTS

Taxi Rides - Do you need a ride? The COA has a program just for you. Taxi Rides for Somerville Residents 60 and Over Rides can be used for: Grocery Shopping in Somerville Pharmacy Prescription pick up in Somerville, Routine Medical Appointments in the follow areas: Somerville, Cambridge, Medford, Boston or the V.A. in Jamaica Plain or West Roxbury. Two Days Advanced Notice Required. For more information, 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 at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

EXERCISE

FIT-4-LIFE SCHEDULE

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
 Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
 Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
 Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
 Fit-4-Life YouTube
 Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hd26HjpwBI&t=68s>
 Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwHfyozEzaws&t=247s>
 Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcl2eBSS024&t=158s>
 Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EDtaldYSz0>
 Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAAnfwGybTI>

OUTDOOR EXERCISE PROGRAM

Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

OUTDOOR WALKING GROUP

Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22

The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF_EEbqF0&t=130s

Yoga with Janine video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zezcj9XXBU>

For questions or to register for a Fit-4-Life Zoom exercise class, please contact Chris at CKowaleski@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected via our Facebook page - often updated by Debby or Maureen. Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at <https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/>

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter and daily tips please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email MBastardi@Somervillema.gov.

If you would like to become part of our Google Group please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



The police have arrested two men for stealing batteries and fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off

On This Day in History

June 23

1683 – William Penn signs a friendship treaty with the Lenni Lenape Indians in Pennsylvania.

1848 – A bloody insurrection of workers erupts in Paris.

1885 – Former general and president Ulysses S. Grant dies at the age of 63.

1902 – Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy renew the Triple Alliance for a 12-year duration.

1944 – In one of the largest air strikes of the war, the U.S. Fifteenth Air Force sends 761 bombers against the oil refineries at Ploiesti, Romania.

1951 – Soviet U.N. delegate Jacob Malik proposes cease-fire discussions in the Korean War.

1964 – Henry Cabot Lodge resigns as the U.S. envoy to Vietnam and is succeeded by Maxwell Taylor.

1966 – Civil Rights marchers in Mississippi are dispersed by tear gas

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

Health Alliance vaccine clinics have larger supplies of doses and can vaccinate kids ages 12-17. You do not need to be a CHA patient to use these clinics. They are free and open to all. **Local CVS pharmacies** and the **Stop & Shop** on McGrath Hwy. are also offering walk-in vaccines. **Local Walgreens pharmacies** require a brief pre-registration, but can process people quickly if they have open slots and you walk in. Here are the CHA walk-in sites: **CHA Somerville Vaccine Center** at 176 Somerville Avenue in Somerville,

Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Tufts University Gantcher Center** at 161 College Ave. in Medford, Wed-Thurs. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Encore Boston Harbor** at 1 Broadway Center in Everett, Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Individuals younger than 18 will need **parental or guardian consent** to receive the **COVID-19 vaccine**. A parent or guardian can either accompany a minor age 16 or 17 to their vaccine appointment,

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

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

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

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

Somerville Eviction Response Network calls to extend eviction moratorium

By Bella Levavi

Somerville Eviction Response Network led a protest in Davis Square Tuesday, June 15, in response to the expiration of the eviction moratorium due to occur nationally June 30.

"Housing is the biggest justice issue facing our communities today," Bonnie Cohen, a Somerville resident who attended the protest, said. "I agree with extending it [the moratorium] as long as possible. In the long run we will need to come up with systemic solutions to gentrification and lack of affordable housing."

About thirty individuals attended the protest, as the busy street around Davis Square whirled with bikes, pedestrians, and busses. The action began with HONK!, an activist brass band, playing protest music while people gathered. The action continued with three speeches given by organizers.

The group demanded that the moratorium on evictions be extended for another year allowing for more safety nets in the Somerville community. Governor Charlie Baker has extended the moratorium several times. As of June 21, the moratorium will continue until Oct. 17, 2021.

The group claims that "97 evictions for nonpayment of rent have been filed in Somerville" since March.

At the protest, Michael Ventura gave a speech saying he was almost evicted from his apartment owned by LaCourt Realty when his roommates moved out during the pandemic.

The manager of LaCourt Realty, who prefers to not use his name, said the company worked with tenants to give them emergency housing during the pandemic. He went on to say they are not raising rents until Sept. 2022 giving "a recovery period for tenants to rebuild after

Covid." He concluded by saying LaCourt has never done an eviction due to failure to pay rent, but "other landlords who are not renting luxury apartments have a completely different financial crisis to deal with."

The Somerville Eviction Response Network came together January to protest in front of a local courthouse. A member of the group, Colin Kirkland, explained the group mostly met virtually until the protest last week. Many of the members were encouraged to join because of their friend Nicole Eigbrett. "She is a force," Kirkland said.

Many other Somerville community groups came out in support of this protest. Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville (MAMAS) was mentioned by many speakers at the protest. MAMAS is a group that started at the beginning of the pandemic. On their website they say their mission is "pooling our resources to make sure everyone has



what they need." Workers at the Somerville Homelessness Coalition also attended the protest. When Demi LaMonica, an Accountant at Somerville Homeless Coalition, was asked why she came, she said, "Our mission is preventing homelessness. We want to make sure people aren't displaced and that the moratorium extends."

Housing is a large issue this coming election, and many Somerville residents running for office attended the protest. Katjana Ballantyne, running for

mayor, Willie Burnley Jr., Becca Miller, and Judy Pineda Neufeld, all running for City Councilor, were in attendance.

"We stand out here for our most vulnerable neighbors, people that are facing intersectional oppression on the basis of their identity," Sophia Grogan, an organizer of the event said in a speech to the crowd. "We are also standing out here for ourselves; as renters, the line between needing and being able to help can change on the drop of a dime."



The 2021 farmers' market coupon season is here

By Nathan Lamb

Somerville Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is providing farmers' market coupons for eligible older adults, starting in early July.

Coordinated through the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, the program provides eligible older adults with \$25 in coupon vouchers to purchase locally grown produce at participating farmers' markets. Coupons can be used to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey.

For more information on how to receive the coupons, please call the Nutrition Department

at Somerville Cambridge Elder Services at 617-628-2601. Coupons are available while supplies last. If coupons run out, applicants may request to be put on a waiting list.

Coupon Information

+ Coupons are accepted by participating farmers' market stands. Look for a green and white "Farmers Market Coupons Accepted" sign. Many farmers' markets also accept SNAP benefits (Food Stamps) and may even double the value.

+ The total coupon book is worth \$25, each coupon voucher is worth \$2.50, no change can be given for voucher purchases.

+ Coupons expire Oct. 31, 2021.

+ One coupon book per eligible person each year.

Eligibility Guidelines

+ Applicants must be 60 years or older, or under 60 disabled living in elderly housing with a Congregate meal program.

+ Residents of Somerville and Cambridge only

+ Meet the following income eligibility:

in household Monthly pre-tax income is less than or equal to
 1 – \$1986
 2 – \$2686
 3 – \$3686
 4 – \$4086
 5 – \$4786
 6 – \$5486

SCES also provides several



year-round programs dedicated to supporting nutrition, including Meals on Wheels, nutrition counseling and reduced-cost nutrition supplements.

For more information about SCES Nutrition programs, contact the SCES Aging Informa-

tion Center at 617-628-2601 or info@eldercare.org.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older adults in Somerville and Cambridge.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Who Do You Think You Are? Reflections of a Writer's Life...'

As I sat on my porch with my cat Ketz, and a strong cup of coffee – I thought about Somerville writer Joseph Torra's new memoir, *Who Do You Think You Are? Reflections of a Writer's Life...*

One of the many things that struck me about this evocative memoir is the writer's relationship with his wife Molly. I know it is a cliché about the love of a good woman, but often clichés are based somewhat on truth. As I struggle with my own wife's battle with cancer, I can certainly relate to what Torra brings out here. Without Molly, Torra might not have had the strength to carry on; he would not have been exposed to the breadth of the arts; he might have remained stuck in the provincial milieu of Italian working-class Medford. He may never have realized his dream of being a poet, writer, educator, publisher and editor.

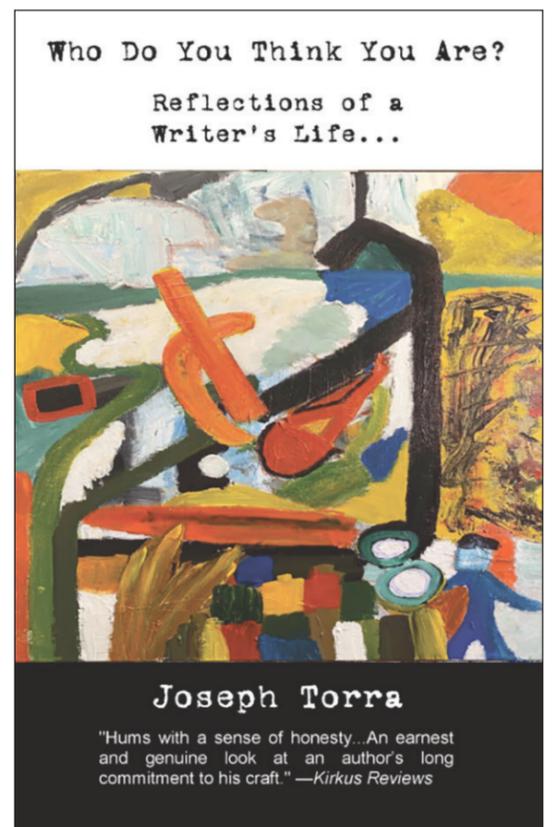
Yet Torra is all these things and more. He is the author of such novels as *Call Me Waiter* and *Gas Station*, to name just a couple. He founded the well-regarded literary journal *Lift Magazine*, and he teaches Creative Writing at U/Mass Boston.

Torra, although he is an adjunct professor of creative writing (where he got his advanced degree from) is not enamored with the academy. He realizes its worth, but on the other hand sees its major flaws. Torra read the literary cannon – but realized that the universities are not as open to the non-mainstream voices that he was so influenced by. He has dealt with the tenure-track professorial pomposity, and the narrow strictures of a curriculum that stifled him as a youth.

William Carlos Williams, a poet who had a great deal of influence on him, searched for the "American Voice," not the "English" one. And Torra's voice is truly authentic – an amalgam of the poets, artists, writers, Medford characters, old Italian men gesturing at each other in a corner coffee-shop, not to mention all the stumble-bums we all encounter in this life. He sees life straight, with no chaser.

Influenced by Kerouac and Beat generation writers, Torra has always experimented with form. His sentences can be like a short jazz riff, or long and breathless without punctuation. His fiction writing can be likened to an abstract painting, breaking out of the confines of traditional representational imagery. There is an immediacy to his prose and poetry.

Torra is unafraid to bleed in this memoir. He tells us of his struggle with his manic depression, the vagaries of addiction, and the nagging haunt of self-



doubt. But Torra is a survivor and he got by with the help of his community and the centering of his family. If he did not have domesticity in his life, and was the stereotypical footloose artist – well ... he might not be here to have written this book.

Like any writer worth his salt, he has read voraciously and gained solace and insight from Taoist philosophers and poets, Mark Twain, Gary Snyder and a host of others. He counts as his longtime mentors like Gloucester poets Gerrit Lansing, Vincent Ferrini, as well as Boston literary maestro Bill Corbett. He took what he could from these men, and recognized that some of them were deeply flawed, but brilliant in their own ways. He could separate the artist from the man or woman.

Torra is not one dimensional. He is primarily a writer, but he has engaged in cross-fertilization in the arts from painting, being part of Boston's vibrant punk rock scene, to the art of mushroom hunting. All of these things inform his body of work.

At 65, the writer looks back, meditating on his porch, at the struggle, joys, and the beauty of his life. He tells friends that "he is ready to die." Which I can only interpret as man who is finally comfortable in his own skin, and can truly say, "It is what it is."

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

In his newest volume, *Pieces of Bones and Rags*, Michael C. Keith brings to the reader more idiosyncratic and laconic narratives designed to amuse, enlighten, and provoke. This quirky collection mines the full range of human behavior and experience for all their varied and distinct manifestations and consequences. The epigrammatic tales between these covers provide a sometimes numinous often harrowing sojourn across landscapes both familiar and exotic.



Improvisation

The elderly woman in black shuffles about her dusty courtyard and spots a rattlesnake coiled up next to a mesquite bush. Instead of sticking it to death or brooming it away as she usual does, she grabs the canvas she's been working on intending to add the reptile to it and curses as it slithers into a hole at the base of the adobe wall. Undeterred, she applies a squiggly streak of ochre, steps back, and nods approvingly.

Immaculate Conception 2

She grew flowers from her vagina at a time when other girls were experiencing their first periods. A spray of fairy foxgloves and forget-me-nots had sprung from her lap. She believed she was having her first menstruation, since no one had told her what to expect. The following month, to her joy and puzzlement, a lovely baby's breath appeared.

— Michael C. Keith

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

From page 8

Ms. Cam's Olio

Answers

1. Three	7. Nine
2. Fagin	8. "1"
3. Popeye	9. Billie Holiday
4. Water buffalo	10. Foo Fighters
5. Demeter	11. Amsterdam
6. Honey	12. Alecia Beth Moore

East Somerville Market this Sunday, June 27

Join in for the East Somerville Market. Shop local small businesses from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sundays at Deano's Pasta parking lot. Pre-ordering is available. Some of the vendors will only be dropping off pre-orders so don't miss out. They look forward to seeing you at the market.

The pre-ordering deadline varies by vendor, so we recommend getting your pre-orders in by Wednesday evening. Please Note, as usual Deano's Pasta is Cash Only.

Visit the market website to learn more: <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/market>.

Follow East Somerville Market on Facebook and Instagram for all of the latest updates



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