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# The Somerville Times

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VOL. 3 NO. 25

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2015

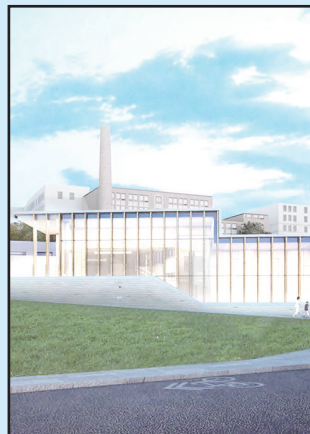
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Inside:



**Elm Street closure**

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**ESCS Spring Concert**

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## Somerville Overcoming Addiction's ongoing mission of hope



Somerville Overcoming Addiction has helped to shine a light on the need for compassion and positive action in the effort to give hope to those struggling with substance abuse. — Photo courtesy of Judi Walker

By Patrick McDonagh

"I sat in a cell for seven days. I could not leave; defecating, throwing up on myself." Jimmy Walker recalls the destructive trajectory of a former opiate addiction.

Walker survived six years in various Massachusetts super-max prison facilities; sentence served for addiction-fueled bank robbery that left three-year-old son, little Jimmy Walker, in grandmother Judi's care. With access to narcotics in prison described as readily available, Jimmy's habitual use would have ended in death had he not realized the necessity of self-worth.

"I think it is just the power of addiction," Walker's mother, Judi Walker, questions. "That you can watch your loved ones and your friends die and still do it."

Chasing his girlfriend, a heroin user since 15, Walker fell into the habit

Continued on page 4

## Scoop N Scootery: Delivering the goodies

By Oliver Bok

Driving home exhausted from a summer job on a hot and humid day in 2012, Austin Crittenden, then a student at Tufts, asked himself a simple question: "Why doesn't ice cream delivery exist?"

Crittenden knew little about ice cream, food delivery or running a business. But that didn't stop him from ordering tubs of ice cream and running deliveries with a few of his friends in his free time at college.

That "glorified lemonade stand," as Crittenden described it, was the beginning of The Scoop N Scootery, an ice cream business that now operates out of a licensed food truck, employs six people and delivers ice cream to anyone in a two mile radius around Somerville.

The Scoop N Scootery offers a range of unique sundaes, such as "The Grasshopper" (mint chocolate chip ice cream, Oreos, chocolate sprinkles and homemade whipped cream) and "The Car-Mallow Anthony" (vanilla ice cream, cashews, caramel fudge, caramel chips, marshmallow fluff and mini marshmallows).

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Luscious ice cream concoctions are delivered right to your door,, thanks to the clever and innovative service provided by Scoop N Scootery. — Photo courtesy of Scoop N Scootery

### Summer Special

Looking to increase business over the summer season? Run your ad with The Somerville Times. We are now offering a 6-week advertisement Summer Special. For more details call:

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Next Monday night, June 29, popular Ward 3 Alderman Bob McWatters will be hosting his first re-election kickoff party on Monday night, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Sally O’Brien’s on Somerville Avenue. A great guy and very busy running all over Ward 3, working hard representing his ward, just like Tom Taylor did. Special guest is Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan, another local who made good.

Please join Mayor Curtatone and the City of Somerville for the 4th of July Fireworks, Thursday, July 2nd at Trum Field with live entertainment beginning at 6 p.m. The entertainment lineup for the Fireworks includes performances by local Disco-Funk band Booty Vortex, the USO Metropolitan New York Performers, the Boston Windjammers, and the Somerville SunSetters, leading up to a 30-minute fireworks display at approximately 9:15 p.m.

The city budget is being debated and discussed this week. Very interesting, the people who have received pay raises. Even some part-timers that haven’t been working in their jobs for more than a year or two. We’re going over the budgets of the past 3-4 years and noticing how many got raises. Not even in the private sector do you see these kinds of raises. Go online and review for yourself, and in particular notice the title to some of these jobs your tax dollars are going towards: [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov) or go directly to our web site: [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com) and download the budget to review. Stay tuned, we will be releasing family ties. Interesting to see how many former city elected officials now work for the city of Somerville both full time and part time. Stand by for names and salaries. Go to our website for a direct link to the proposed budget.

Happy birthdays this week to some of our Villen friends and just friends of *The Times*: A Happy birthday to one of Somerville most popular ladies and lifer, Ms. Paula LeBlanc, frequently spotted walking around the city. She always has a bright and positive thing to say about everyone. She works at Sean’s O’Donovan’s law office in Ball

Continued on page 11

TheSomervilleTimes.com  
Comments of the Week

Response to: Rep. Provost challenging models of MBTA funding

Morgan Ames says:

This business of charging for transfers seems crooked to me. The idea should be to get someone from point A to point B at one fair rate. This proposal discriminates against those who just happen to need both the T and buses to get where they have to go. If anything raise fares across the board, but don’t allow this unfair policy to go into effect.

Edgar says:

Have to agree with Morgan. There is discrimination when someone who has to use both the T and a bus is required to pay more. That’s a no brainer. How do they get away with even proposing this? Unbelievable.

ritepride says:

Remember when “transfers” were free? Rep. Provost is correct, higher education should be paying a fee for having this convenience.

Colorado made businesses and higher education institutions pay half the cost of extending their LRV (GLX) lines to benefit the COLLEGE/BUSINESS areas.

Here in Me\$\$achu\$ett\$ they are “paying” Tufts over \$1 million+ dollars to have a GLX Station at the Tufts campus at Boston/College Aves.

Somerville BOA should reject the insulting offer from Tufts for Payment In Lieu Of Taxes and instead slap them with a USERS FEE for each FIRE/POLICE/EMS/DPW response by the city to the Tufts campus.

Matt says:

rightpride, well said on the users fee. If I remember right the assembly sq stop was paid for by frit and nut the mbta which seems in line with what happened in co. Regarding the green line, today we do not have many businesses along the proposed corridor, what we must demand is improved zoning and tax incentives for new businesses that will encourage development of business centers along the green lines path. We need bring good paying, permanent, full time jobs to the city.

Lally B says:

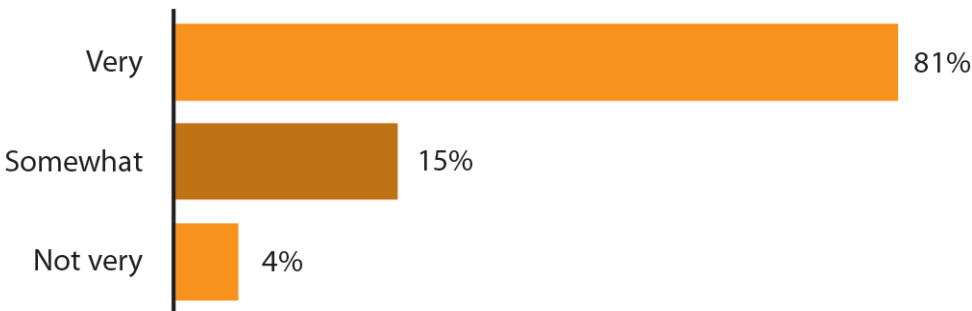
Let’s keep things the way they are. If fares must be raised then so be it but don’t single out those who have to use multiple modes of transportation. That just doesn’t check out.

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://TheSomervilleTimes.com) to leave your own comments

TheSomervilleTimes.com poll of the week

In addition to breaking news, sports and opinion, TheSomervilleTimes.com also features a daily poll in which you, the reader, tell us where you come down on local issues. Last week’s poll concerned your views on whether or not you are proud about Somerville being named 2015 All-America City. If you don’t agree with the results, simply log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://TheSomervilleTimes.com).

Are you proud about Somerville being named 2015 All-America City ?



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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc.  
Editor – Jim Clark  
Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

Advertising Director – Bobbie Toner  
Arts Editor – Doug Holder

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Photographer: Claudia Ferro

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# 240 Elm Street Closure

By Jim Clark

A portion of Elm St. in Davis Square was closed off to vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Monday because of structural damage to the exterior at 240 Elm St.

The City of Somerville issued the following statement on Tuesday detailing the situation at that time:

Due to public safety concerns over a structurally compromised front exterior of the building at 240 Elm St. in Davis Square, Elm Street between Dover Street and Russell Street will be closed to all cars and there will be no access for pedestrians between Chester Street and Grove Street until further notice.

UPDATE:

At approximately 9 p.m. on Tuesday, 6/23, a single lane of alternating traffic will reopen between Dover St. and Russell St. All businesses except those at the corner of Chester St. and Elm St. will reopen. Chester street is expected to remain closed until Thursday afternoon.

In the course of work to repair the parapet wall and façade of the building, a structural engineer from the firm Roome & Guarracino LLC, hired by the building’s owner, determined that “along [the Elm Street] wall, between the steel beam bearing piers, the masonry has been taken down below the roof framing level and no longer engages the wall with the roof diaphragm.” This unstable wall condition creates the risk that the front exterior wall could collapse onto the street and sidewalk below, the engineer concluded. The engineer also advised the building owner that masonry was being removed from the building’s



A usually busy portion of the Davis Square area was closed off on Monday due to structural failure of the building at 240 Elm St.

façade on the Elm Street side of the building without shoring installed, and that the sidewalk should be closed during the installation of required shoring.

Upon being informed of these unsafe conditions, City inspectors ordered the closure of businesses within the structure and immediate vicinity, worked with Somerville Police and Fire to establish precautionary sidewalk and lane closures on Elm Street, and reviewed the site. Based on the engineer’s findings and subsequent review, the City closed all street lanes, the opposite sidewalk and nearby businesses to ensure public safety. These closures will remain in effect until the structure and area is deemed safe. Business owners and the public will be kept informed in real time on the situation. To review the advisory from Roome & Guarrancino LLC, please see below.

During the street closure, the following temporary detours and traffic pattern changes will be in place, however if at all possible, please seek alternate routes, particularly during morning and evening rush hour commutes:

- Highland Avenue between College Avenue and Grove Street will be temporarily converted to accommodate two-

way traffic.

- Vehicles traveling east on Holland Street may take a right onto Dover Street, or continue onto Highland Avenue.

- Vehicles traveling west on Highland Avenue may continue onto Holland Street, or right onto College Avenue. Cars will not be permitted to turn left onto Dover Street.

- Vehicles traveling into Davis Square on College Avenue may only right onto Holland Street. Cars will not be permitted to travel straight onto Dover Street nor take a left turn onto Highland Avenue.

Somerville Police will be stationed in this area to assist with detours, and message boards will be placed in Teele Square and at the Powder House Rotary.

MBTA buses that normally stop at Elm Street and Chester Street—Routes 87, 88, 89, 90, 94, and 96—will stop in front of the Citizens Bank building at 212 Elm St. For more information please check the MBTA’s Service Alerts page at [mbta.com/rider\\_tools/transit\\_updates](http://mbta.com/rider_tools/transit_updates).

Text of letter from Jason Ferris, Structural Engineer for Roome & Guarracino LLC:

Michael,  
Jason Cohen, Continued on page 9

# Election 2015 update



By Donald Norton

The Election Department deadline for pulling papers ended this past Monday, June 22. Today, Wednesday, is the last day to certify to be on the ballot.

Late yesterday, Tuesday, potential candidate Philip Michael Mitza, who had pulled papers for mayor notified the Election Department he had decided to withdraw his name from the ballot.

So far, all incumbent ward aldermen have certified and have

no opponents. All the incumbents and challengers for Alderman at Large have been certified as of Tuesday.

Although there will be no primary, there will be six names on the ballot for four seats, with two challengers trying to unseat an incumbent.

The only races so far with a primary will be School Committee Ward 4 and Alderman Ward 6, with both incumbents deciding not to seek re-election.

It looks like it is all set for local elections this year.

# Something fishy going on

By Donald Norton

A lot of dead fishes and mystery came to Shore Drive and under the Wellington Bridge, as many large fish were found lying dead in the water, rotting away with the smell wafting through the air.

The Times contacted the Department of Conservation and Recreation on Tuesday and was given six different phone

numbers. Once someone at Fish & Game was reached, we were told they are aware of the problem but wouldn’t give a statement until we contacted their public relations department. When we called them we were sent to voice mail, where we left a message inquiring of the matter. We never got a call back as of our deadline.






Dead fish are suddenly showing up. — Photos by Donald Norton

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# THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

## DPW crew gets their man

Police received a call last Thursday afternoon reporting that a man who had stolen a truck and smashed through a locked gate was being followed by two Department of Public Works employees who had witnessed the incident.

The DPW personnel followed

the stolen truck in their own vehicle and were reporting their location to police by phone.

While stopped at a red light at Webster and Washington Streets, a police cruiser caught up with the stolen vehicle and pulled it over, thanks to the diligent assistance of the DPW em-

ployees.

The driver of the stolen truck, identified as Everett Goss, was placed into handcuffs as police officers questioned witnesses.

The DPW workers reportedly said that they witnessed Goss smashing through a locked gate with the stolen truck.

The truck’s owner was located and he reportedly informed officers that a second truck he owns was damaged by Goss as he fled the area in the truck.

When asked for his ID by officers, Goss reportedly told them that he was CIA and wanted to be informed of his rights.

He was subsequently placed under arrest and charged with larceny of a motor vehicle, operation of a motor vehicle with a revoked license, and destruction of property over \$250.

The Police Department praised the DPW workers for their invaluable assistance in the matter.

### Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

## SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

**Arrests:**

**Sarah Cunningham**, June 17, 2:18 a.m., arrested at 157 Walnut St. on warrant charges of disorderly conduct, wanton and malicious defacement of property, and threat to commit a crime.

**Bradley Sylvestre**, of 4 Violante St., Mattapan, June 17,

8:30 p.m., arrested at 35 Memorial Rd. on warrant charges of receiving stolen property over \$250, larceny over \$250, carrying a dangerous weapon, threat to commit a crime, and possession of a class B drug.

**Lovette Monteiro**, June 18, 8:43 a.m., arrested at Tufts St.

on a warrant charge of aggravated assault and battery.

**Everett Goss**, June 18, 3:37 p.m., arrested at 508 Somerville Ave. on charges of larceny of a motor vehicle, operation of a motor vehicle with a revoked license, and destruction of property over \$250.

**Antwaun McCollin**, of 224 Harold St., Apt. 2, Roxbury, June 19, 6:26 p.m., arrested at Grand Union Blvd. on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

**Daniel Sheehan**, of 194 Thorndike St., Cambridge, June 20, 2:15 a.m., arrested at

Central St. on charges of disorderly conduct, operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, and reckless operation of a motor vehicle.

**Liban Dahir**, of 165 College Ave., June 21, 1:57 a.m., arrested at Packard Ave. on a charge of disorderly conduct.

## Somerville Overcoming Addiction’s ongoing mission of hope CONT. FROM PG 1

after ten years of vehement opposition to the drug’s use. He equates his survival to the realization that his life is worth more than a bag of dope; a message Jimmy and fellow Somerville Overcoming Addiction (SOA) members have made a mission to share.

How exactly an addict realizes self-worth is not universal, but Walker and SOA members agree on the certainty of the realization’s intrinsic nature. “An addict is not going to get clean unless they want to get clean,” says Walker. A best friend’s overdose death in the bathroom of the Galleria Mall incited his anger, and continued use of the emotion-numbing narcotic.

Walker describes a psychosis-like tunnel vision, where the next high takes precedence over anything that once mattered. “I lost everything. I had to start selling all my stuff. I think it is an alter ego thing. When you are using you are definitely not yourself. You become this animal. The next high is all that matters. Your family, friends and kids don’t matter anymore. You don’t care about anything but that next high because you are sick. Then I was at rock bottom and hit a bank.”

Withdrawal in prison momentarily jolted this psychosis. Seven days isolation, a vomit

filled cell was opened and hosed off. Skinny 180 lb. Walker was asked “Are you alive?” to which an affirmative response began the rest of his six years.

Sobriety for Walker began in prison, as did a learned positivity he brings to the SOA group. GED and HVAC certificates acquired, boxing a found prison passion, and dog training his opportunity to help handicapped in need; though heroin was available even throughout incarceration.

“Let them know that they are not alone”

“There were drugs in jail, they were everywhere,” Jimmy says. “Do you know why I didn’t use in prison? Because my boys were over there stabbing each other over a piece of Suboxone. I wanted to live. I wanted to make it out of there. I figured out for myself that I am worth more than that.”

Similar life stories trade throughout the group’s meeting to no one’s surprise. SOA is a community led organization whose members have a versed

experience with the destructive tendency of addiction. Most have lost loved ones to opiate abuse. Some are former addicts.

Group member Jesse Clingan shares SOA motivations. “As a group we address bringing information to people, bringing people resources, and breaking down stigma of addiction.” Overcoming social stigma and demonization of addicts is a core group motive. Addiction shaming and stigmatization is a familiar feeling for Walker, who hid his problem for years.

How does one realize their life is worth more than a bag of dope? Walker responds with some firsthand insight. “You got to tell them that. You have to show them that. Let them know that they are not alone. I never had someone say that to me. My addiction was a hidden secret. I hid myself. I wouldn’t go around people.” Since SOA’s birthday of June 25, 2014, the organization has hosted candlelight vigils, meet and greets, and more recently, the Ryan Harrington Foundation’s Night of Hope and Awareness. Each event intended to provide education, to socialize, and to humanize addiction.

Judi Walker was in charge of organizing names for the previous September’s SOA candlelight vigil. “I can remember nobody leaving the vigil. We



had first responders, fire departments, ambulances, EMS’s. We had one of the firefighters dressed in full gear and played the bagpipes for us. The head of the firefighters union, Tommy Ross, used a 911 bell. I took care of the names. I think that the hardest thing about the names is when the pictures came. When you had a face to put to that name. They were coming and they weren’t stopping.”

Photos humanized the anonymity of a growing Massachusetts statistic. Prevention of overdose is priority for SOA, but at every hosted event the group distributes Narcan, an overdose reversal nasal spray.

In partnership with Cambridge needle exchange, hosted Narcan trainings have educated and prompted parents to call Judi, confessing their training helped reverse an overdose and save a family member’s life.

“It doesn’t matter who you are, what you are, what sex, what religion, it is non-denominated, and it just doesn’t care,” Judi Walker says. “Addiction takes you and rips you to pieces.” She is happy to have her now nine-year-old grandson and her six years sober son Jimmy. Somerville’s SOA community is working to pick up the pieces left in wake of addiction, providing hope for recovering addicts seeking help.

# New GLX stations are good to go

By Oliver Bok

The rumors aren't true: the Green Line Extension is fully funded and looks set to remain that way.

At least that's what Program Manager Karen Arpino-Shaffer told residents at a meeting to present the current plans for the Gilman Square and Lowell Street stations at the Armory on Tuesday, June 16.

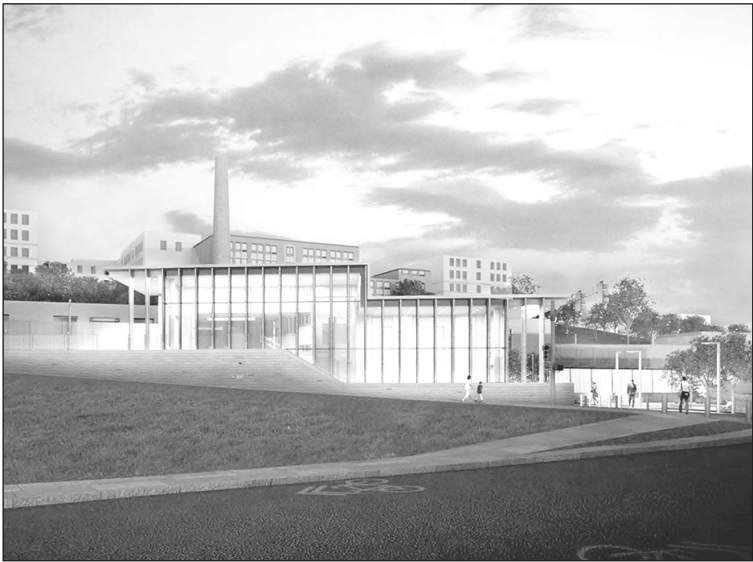
"We have gotten word from the governor, the secretary, the general manager, from all of those sources, that they are committed to the Green Line and they want the Green Line to move forward," Arpino-Shaffer said.

However, Arpino-Shaffer also stated that the project team needed to be careful about working within the full-funding grant agreement made with the state late last year.

Both the Gilman Square and Lowell Street stations are now 90 percent designed. The last community meetings took place in June 2013 when the stations were 60 percent designed.

According to Deborah Fennick, the architect on the project, the Gilman Square station will be made with a mix of terracotta and glass. Fennick used terracotta to help the station fit in with nearby brick buildings. The glass is intended to make the station visible from the outside and thus safer for residents.

Currently, the plans for the Gilman Square station have the turnstiles on the upper floor of the station above the tracks. Several residents asked if the team



Artists rendering of the new Gilman Square GLX station.

could move the turnstiles downstairs to let people walk through the station without having to pay a fare, allowing the station to act as a bridge between Medford Street and the high school. Arpino-Shaffer responded by saying that the problem with putting the turnstiles downstairs is the lack of width on the platform, but she also admitted that the team had not considered that option rigorously for Gilman Square.

Fennick stated that the Lowell Street station will consist mainly of steel and mesh in order to create open, visible space. The station entrance facing Magoun Square will have a steel overhang held up by vertical white supports. Al Weiss, a Somerville resident and architect, criticized the station exterior for not being welcoming or well thought out.

"It feels institutional, it feels like something out of Berlin of the 1960's and not in a good way," Weiss said. "It needs to be reworked."

The Lowell Street station

will also have two elevators and bike storage inside the station. Discussion at the meeting also focused on integrating the station with the Community Path, which will be extended as the new Green Line stations are being built.

Phase 1 construction on the Green Line Extension is already underway, as several utility bridges are currently being built. Arpino-Shaffer mentioned what she described as a "glitch" in recent negotiations with a construction company, but she also said that she expects the project to adhere to the current timeline that has construction complete by 2020.

"For many of us who've spent our careers doing transit work, this is a dream project for us," Arpino-Shaffer said.

The Green Line Extension team will give an update on the latest plans for the College Avenue station on Thursday, June 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the St. Clement School in Medford.

## The Scoop N Scootery: Delivering the goodies

CONT. FROM PG 1

The sundaes cost \$6 or \$7.50, depending on the size.

The Scoop N Scootery also caters events ranging from birthday parties to Tufts orientation to the Somerville Firemen vs. Police softball game. "We go anywhere we're wanted," Crittenden said.

The next goal for the business is to gain a storefront, preferably somewhere close to Harvard and Tufts. But according to Crittenden, they are taking it slow.

"We're not in such a hurry to get a storefront just yet. We're still nascent business, trying to get our legs still."

To Crittenden, the best part has been seeing customers come

back and the business grow.

"It's been fun to see customers we've had since last year, when we still only had one driver delivering five orders a day, making absolutely no money, continue to support us into this time where we're gaining a little more popularity," Crittenden said. "It's really cool they continue to think about us whenever they have that sweet tooth."

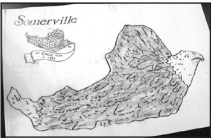
On Monday through Thursday, the Scoop N Scootery truck can be found next to Trum Field. On the weekends, the truck parks at the corner of College and Talbot at Tufts. The business is open from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through



Friday and from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. on the weekends.

You can contact them by phone at (617) 394-8634 or email at [info@thescoopnscootery.com](mailto:info@thescoopnscootery.com). Find them on the Web at <http://www.thescoopnscootery.com/info.html>.

## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

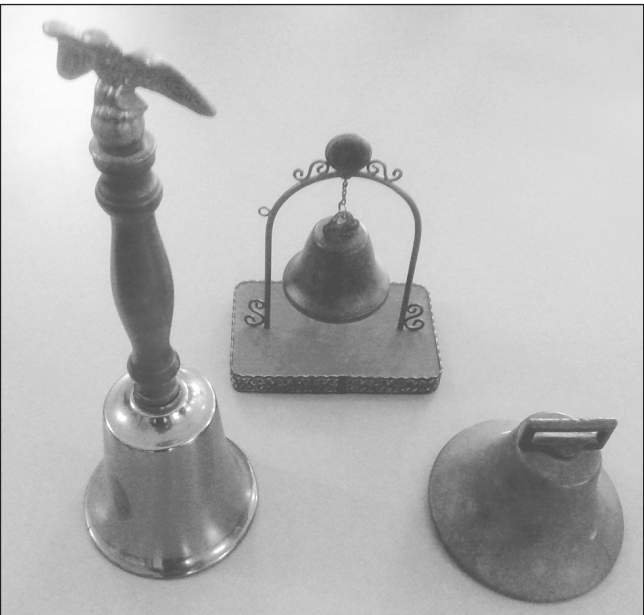


Eagle feathers #81

### Bells

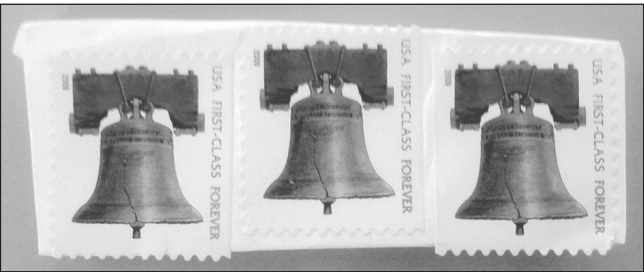
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Last Halloween, the Somerville Theatre presented a production called *Nevermore: An Evening With Edgar Allan Poe*. Poe's fascination with chimes led him to title one of his poems *The Bells*, wherein he invented the word *tintinnabulation*, which described their sound. Poe was born just three miles from Somerville in Boston.



How old you were, where you lived, and what you did, generally measured your memory of bells. Throughout time, bells have played a far-reaching part in our history but, sadly, those pleasant sounds seem to be disappearing. The ringing of them from steeples of churches and the bellfries of public buildings once sent daily messages with a calming effect. They would awaken people in the morning, call them to dinner at noon, and lull them to sleep at night after curfew. They would call children to school, alert them of fire or approaching trains, or they would simply tell us the time of day in a pleasant sounding way. Little bells were put above babies' heads in nurseries to amuse and calm them. Others were tied to animals' collars to find them when they were lost. They were often rung for celebrations, public or private. They were rung after the D-Day invasion of France had commenced. They were rung at the end of all of our wars, at Christmastime and, of course, on the Fourth of July.

In June, 1903, the Liberty Bell made a trip from its home in Philadelphia to the Bunker Hill Monument. It was displayed on the Boston Common, where 50,000 people gathered to view it. It travelled to numerous towns in the Boston vicinity, Somerville being one. Our Conway Park boasts with a photo of this event on one of its signs.



Bells were donated by groups and individuals. Mrs. Charles Tufts, wife of the University benefactor, gave her church the largest bell in the city. It was at the First Universalist Church located at the corner of Cross and Tufts Streets.

Eleven bells were hung in the First Congregational (Unitarian) Church, located next to the American Legion Post #19 on Highland Avenue. They were forged at the old Paul Revere's foundry of Boston. Unfortunately, many of Somerville's bells were lost during the

Continued on page 6

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# Aida Corredor’s fond farewell party

Parent Liaison at Parent Information Center (PIC) for Somerville Public Schools Aida Corredor recently retired after 20 years. Friends, family, co workers, and Somerville officials attended her retirement party and showed their appreciation of her and the great work she has done.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro

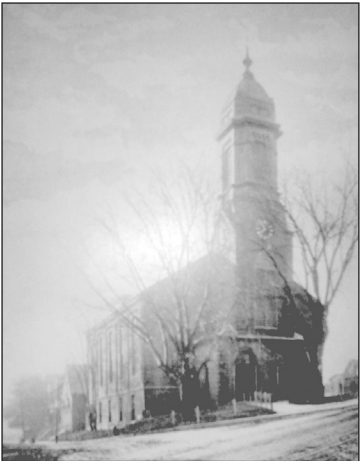


## Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 5

World War II scrap metal drives. Our terrible Civil War ended one hundred fifty years ago this year, and a special Somerville story is still told today about it. In 1863, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves. At that time, a free black gentleman from Somerville bought a bell at an auction at Boston harbor. This bell was one of many that were part of the cargo on a captured southern war supply ship. He brought his bell back to his Prospect Hill home,

mounted it in a garden tree, and rang it in honor of freedom. Every year thereafter, he would celebrate Emancipation Day by ringing his bell throughout the day. He attended Saint Thomas’ Church, near the intersection of Somerville Avenue and Washington Street in Union Square. In his later years, he wanted to protect his treasured bell so it would continue to be heard. For this reason, he donated it to his church. Although his bell is gone and the church has been commercialized, you

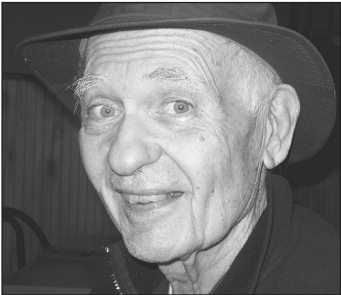


can still see the small turret on this building that housed his cherished Jubilee bell.

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Call **617-666-4010** and speak to the Assignment Editor

## OBITUARY

### Curtis Franklin Brown



Curtis Franklin Brown was born on July 15, 1925, in Cambridge, MA, the son of Thomas Franklin Brown and Mildred Spoffard Curtis with his sisters, Priscilla and Lucille. He was raised in West Somerville, near Boston. After attending local public schools, he entered the U.S. Navy in 1943, and as a Laboratory Technician he served aboard ship on the Pacific Ocean until 1946. He attended Tufts University, Medford, MA, until graduat-

ing in 1949. He entered Columbia University Graduate School, where he earned a Master’s Degree in American Literature. He taught at Tufts until 1952, when he was invited by Columbia Records Co. to become a LP Album notes annotator. After publishing biographies of Jean Harlow and Ingrid Bergman, he wrote and published an extensive work on bad taste in many aspects of American Culture, “Star Spangled Kitsch”. Mr. Brown moved to the Boerum Hill neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY where he resided with his long time friend, Professor Hayden Goldberg, originally of Gardiner, Maine. He will be put to rest in the Forest Dale Cemetery in Malden, MA.

**www.somervillema.com**  
**www.medfordma.com**

## Happenings at the Armory

Lots of things are happening at the Armory in the coming days ahead. Its regular Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Thursday, June 25 from 2–7 p.m. in the Performance Hall. On Saturday, June 27, The Boston Indie Mafia’s Wicked Film Challenge Premier comes to the Armory’s Performance Hall. Screening, contest, awards and hobnobbing from 6:30–10:30 p.m. Admission is \$10 at the door. Bring the kids out to The Armory for Alastair Mook’s CD Release on Sunday, June 28 from 4–6 p.m. in the Performance Hall. Tickets are \$12 at the door.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Maintaining a Civic Presence in Union Square

Over the past few years, many ideas and plans have been put forward by the City regarding major public and civic buildings in Somerville. This has often involved moving buildings to or from Union Square, yet planning for this has not yet been a significant part of the Neighborhood (Master) Plan currently being created for Union Square. Union Square Neighbors asks that the City's plans for major public and civic buildings be clarified and that the Neighborhood Plan include planning for public and civic buildings in Union Square.

Recently Union Square Neighbors held a round table discussion attended by the Director of the Somerville Public Library, members of the Library Board of Trustees and the director of SCATV where we discuss their plans and thoughts about Union Square and future facilities for those organizations.

We heard that the current central library building is inadequate to provide the services

that a modern library aspires to provide for Somerville's current population, let alone for the thousands of new residents who will occupy the thousands of new housing units expected to be built in the city. Architectural plans produced in the late 1990s for an expansion of the existing central library building are outdated, and a 2012 plan to build a new central library building in Union Square is no longer being actively pursued. The \$18 million in state funding that was awarded to this project has expired and the city would need to submit a new plan to receive state funding for a new library building. We also heard that other uses are being considered for the city-owned SCATV building, and SCATV anticipates being moved to a different location which has not yet been determined.

Both organizations expressed an interest in being part of Union Square in the future, and while it is not yet clear what the right outcome or location is for either organization, we believe planning for

this and other civic buildings needs to be incorporated into the Neighborhood Plan.

In order to accomplish this, we ask that the City prepare a long term capital projects plan. Most of Somerville's major public buildings, including the Central Library, Somerville High School, the Public Safety Building, and the Recreation Building are in need of significant capital investment for renovations or replacement with a new building. Given Somerville's limited financial capacity and limited number of buildable sites, each one of these projects has the potential to impact the viability of the others. While Somerville's Capital Improvements Plan for FY'14-'18 identifies these needs, it does not include scenarios that would address them. A long term strategy and prioritization of Somerville's public and civic building needs is essential to understanding what can reasonably be done and what is right for Somerville and Union Square over the next 15 years.

Additionally, we ask the City to address and integrate plans

for public and civic buildings into the Union Square Neighborhood Plan. Public and civic spaces are an essential component of a strong neighborhood and commercial center. With millions of square feet of development being planned – two or three times more than what exists in all of Union Square today – this is an opportunity to address existing needs while identifying our aspirations for the future. The Plan should address not only future city-owned civic buildings, but the potential for publically accessible spaces in private developments as well.

We believe there is an immediate need for a public community room in Union Square. Longer term, the potential for public/private partnerships with US2 or other developers to build a library and/or other type of community center should be explored. A community center could support a number of uses included teen and children's programs, recreation, community meeting space, a community policing office, Wi-Fi access, etc.

Among the most persistent

criticisms of other recently built districts around greater Boston, such as the Seaport, has been a lack of planning for the schools, libraries, community centers and other civic buildings that make a place more than a district, but a neighborhood. Strong communities are networks of green spaces, schools, cultural attractions, businesses and homes; and libraries, community centers or other civic buildings are hubs within them. We look forward to seeing all these components addressed in a complete Neighborhood Plan and integrated into US2's redevelopment plan.

Union Square Neighbors looks forward to continuing to work through the neighborhood planning process in the months and years to come to help ensure the realization of the vision we have spent years establishing, to make Union Square an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,  
Tim Talun, Chairperson  
Union Square Neighbors

Mayor Curtatone's Secret Citizen Initiative Will Cause Divide Between City Employees and Residents

On April 14th, an article appeared in The Boston Globe to introduce the Somerville "Secret Resident Program." Via Somervillema.gov, the goal of the program is: "to evaluate and improve our customer service standards across all City Departments and to better serve our constituents." The mayor's office asks for volunteers to go through a brief customer service training session, where the volunteers will be given a "script and an exit survey for every evaluation of City services," per Somervillema.gov.

This program is unethical. Plain and simple. The Globe article was the first broad public announcement. As Somerville residents we can understand

where the mayor's office is coming from; the ultimate intent—to better the services of the city for its residents—comes from a good place....doing so through spies disguised as residents will result in the exact opposite of the program's intent.

Trust cannot be gained through illusion. On micro levels in communities across the United States, the rift between residents and city employees—and the communication gap widening that rift—is as visible and obvious as it has ever been. In Somerville, clearly, the desire for improvement burns strongly. Attempting to traverse the rift in the dark, through a spy program, will result in a firestorm.

Somerville employees should be treated appropriately: not subjected to the constant possibility of a false interaction with

a fellow resident whose primary goal is to unearth a wrongdoing. Bettering the work of city employees needs to be accomplished through improved management, more thorough training, and an overall level of greater attention paid to the working environment and conditions of Somerville city employees. The Mayor's Office has already violated worker's rights by implementing this program without allowing for collective bargaining: Chapter 150 E of Massachusetts state law asserts the rights for all city employees to bargain for "terms and conditions of employment." The Mayor's Office's choice to skirt worker's rights reflects the larger issue their resident program will attempt to solve—inadequate management, subpar working conditions, and rude

interactions—if they truly want to solve those issues, they must look in the mirror.

Perception and perspective dictate our interpretations of all interactions. Viewing the adequacy of an employee through the eyes of a spy will undoubtedly result in a confirmation bias tainted with negativity. Issues must be brought into the daylight. Let's stop fumbling in the dark. Let's not believe spying on each other is the best solution. Instead, we should use the original intent behind the "Secret Resident Program" as the impetus for open dialogue, a focus on bettering worker management, training, and environment, and ultimately as the impetus for a better Somerville for all, workers and residents equally.

— Izak Shapiro

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This Saturday is Family Fun Day

This year's Family Fun Day will be held on Saturday, June 27, 12:00–4:00 PM An annual celebration for all those who are young at heart. The event includes a free BBQ, children's activities, face painting, Curious Creatures, Pony Rides and much more. To ensure public safety and pedestrian access to events the following traffic restrictions will be: Franey Road and Part of Charles E. Ryan Road will be closed to vehicular traffic from noon- 5 p.m. No parking of Franey Road and part of Charles E. Ryan Road from 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

The Norton Group

617-623-6600



# Beacon Hill Roll Call

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Our Legislators in the House and Senate for Somerville:



**Rep. Christine Barber**  
**DISTRICT REPRESENTED:** Thirty-fourth Middlesex. - Consisting of all precincts in wards 4 and 5, precinct 1 of ward 7, and precinct 2 of ward 8, of the city of Medford, precincts 1 and 2 of ward 4, and all precincts of ward 7, of the city of Somerville, both in the county of Middlesex.



**Rep. Denise Provost**  
**DISTRICT REPRESENTED:** Twenty-seventh Middlesex. - Consisting of precinct 3 of ward 2, all precincts of ward 3, precinct 3 of ward 4, and all precincts of wards 5 and 6, of the city of Somerville, in the county of Middlesex.



**Rep. Timothy Toomey**  
**DISTRICT REPRESENTED:** Twenty-sixth Middlesex. - Consisting of all precincts of ward 1, precinct 1 of ward 2, precincts 1 and 2 of ward 3, and precinct 1 of ward 6, of the city of Cambridge, and all precincts of ward 1 and precincts 1 and 2 of ward 2, of the city of Somerville, both in the county of Middlesex.



**Sen. Patricia Jehlen**  
**DISTRICT REPRESENTED:** Second Middlesex. - Consisting of the cities of Cambridge, wards 9 to 11, inclusive, Medford and Somerville, and the town of Winchester, precincts 4 to 7, inclusive, in the county of Middlesex.

**THE HOUSE AND SENATE:** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' votes on roll calls from debate on the \$38.1 billion fiscal 2016 state budget. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week.

**\$2.5 MILLION FOR REGIONAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION (S 3 - Amendment #545)**  
Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding for state reimbursement to communities for regional school district transportation by \$2.5 million (from \$56.5 million to \$59 million).

Supporters said these 85 regional school districts are having financial problems and noted that the state currently reimburses only some of the school transportation costs despite a promise several years ago that it would reimburse 100 percent. They noted that last year the state reimbursed 80 percent and this increase would bring the current year up to 75 percent.

(A "Yes" vote is for the \$2.5 million.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen      Yes

**ADDITIONAL \$2 MILLION FOR MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL (S 3 - Amendment #130)**

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding for The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) by \$2 million (from \$12 million to \$14 million). According to its website, the MCC is a state agency that promotes "excellence, access, education, and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities." The agency offers grant programs, partnerships and services to nonprofit cultural organizations as well as schools and local cities and towns.

Amendment supporters said the cultural economy contributes to the quality of life and is an economic driver. They said the additional \$2 million will generate more than that amount in the long term in hotel and meals taxes.

(A "Yes" vote is for full the \$2 million.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen      Yes

**ADDITIONAL \$500,000 FOR ADULT EDUCATION (S 3 - Amendment #564)**

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding for basic adult education by \$500,000 (from \$30.3 million to \$30.8 million).

Amendment supporters said there are currently over 18,000 people on waiting lists for these services, which will change their lives and help them get a high school equivalency diploma. They said the average dropout can expect to earn \$36,400 per year less than someone with a degree.

(A "Yes" vote is for full the \$500,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen      Yes

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**SENATE TAX HIKES ARE LEGAL ACCORDING TO SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT (SJC)** - The SJC ruled in favor of the Senate and said that the changes in tax policy, including a permanent freeze of the income tax rate at its current 5.15 percent, included in the Senate version of the fiscal 2016 budget were legal. The House, which did not include the hikes in its version of the budget, had challenged the Senate's au-

thority to raise taxes, saying that under the constitution, the Senate can only include changes in tax policy if the House version already included changes in tax policy. The ruling said that since the House had included a delay in the implementation of a business tax break and expanded a tax credit for land conservation, the Senate had the authority to include additional tax policy changes in its budget.

In addition to freezing the income tax at 5.15 percent instead of letting it drop to as low as 5 percent over the next few years, the Senate budget freezes the income tax rate at its current 5.15 percent; increases over a three-year period the earned income tax credit for low-income working families with children living at home from 15 percent to 22.5 percent of the federal credit; and raises personal income tax exemptions.

A six-member House-Senate conference committee is working on drafting a compromise version of the budget that may or may not include the tax hikes and tax cuts.

**PROHIBIT LOWER TUITION RATES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (H 1054)** - The Higher Education Committee will hold a public hearing on July 15 at 11 a.m. in room A-2 at the Statehouse in Boston on a bill that would prohibit Massachusetts state universities from offering lower in-state tuition and fees to illegal immigrants and their children. Currently, the lower tuition rate is offered to legal citizens who live in the Bay State and Massachusetts students who have been accepted into the federal program for those who immigrated illegally to the country as children and have a work permit.

Supporters say the state should not offer financial rewards to anyone who has broken the law and is in this country illegally. They argued it is outrageous to offer low tuition rates to these students while legal citizens from outside Massachusetts, including war veterans, are required to pay higher rates if they attend a Massachusetts state university.

Opponents say many of these students were babies when they were brought here by their parents and had no choice about entering the country illegally. They noted some hardworking students are currently required to pay out-of-state tuition rates that are significantly higher than the in-state rate.

**VETERANS AND MEMORIAL DAY OFF WITH PAY (H 3162)** - The Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, July 14, at 12:30 p.m. at Battleship Cove in Fall River on legislation allowing veterans a day off with pay on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Current law allows employees who want to participate in a Veterans Day or Memorial Day parade or service to be given the day off with or without pay at the discretion of the employer. Both the current and proposed law do not apply to employees whose services are essential and critical to public health or safety.

**DESIGNATE ON BALLOT THAT CANDIDATE IS A VETERAN (H 3160)** - Another proposal on the Veterans Affairs Committee agenda on July 14 would permit the word "veteran" to be placed next to any candidate's name, if requested by the candidate, on any general election and city or town election ballot. Current law only allows this designation on primary election ballots.

**CLOTHESLINES (S 1056)** - The Municipalities and Regional Government Committee held a hearing on a local option bill that would prohibit a condominium

Beacon Hill Roll Call

continued



association from unreasonably prohibiting the installation or use of clotheslines. The law would only take effect in cities or towns that opt into it.

Supporters said that using a clothesline in place of energy-intensive automatic dryers is a low-tech way of cutting energy use, reducing pollution and saving on bills. They noted the bill will protect the aesthetic and safety interests of homeowners by allowing homeowners' associations to impose reasonable location and manner restrictions on clothesline use.

**LICENSE AND REGULATE AU PAIRS AND NANNIES (H 117)** - The Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities held a hearing on legislation that would require the state to establish a licensing process for employment and placement agencies engaged in placing au pairs and nannies in a private residence to perform child care services. The agencies would be required to provide verification to the state that each au pair and nanny, prior to being placed in a private residence, has the proper screening, background checks and psychological assessments.

**FIRE CHIEF MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE (H 2141)** - The Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security held a hearing on a bill prohibiting anyone from being appointed to the position of fire chief in any city or town unless he or she has been a uniformed member of the firefighting force of a fire department for a minimum of ten years.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Firefighters have cancer rates three times higher than the general public. When we enter a home fire we breathe in gasses and toxins from flame retardants that put us at a higher risk. We’re calling on the legislature for swift passage of this bill as it will no doubt save lives.” — Edward Kelly, president of the Professional Firefighters of

Massachusetts, testifying on legislation that would ban the use of hazardous flame retardants in children’s products and upholstered furniture.

“We are always mindful of the impact that raising fees will have on our students and their families and, we approach such decisions with the utmost caution and reluctance.” — Victor Woolridge, chairman of the Umass Board of Trustees, on its vote to raise tuition and the mandatory curriculum fee by up to 5 percent for in-state undergraduates.

“There’s only one thing that’s gone up faster than the cost of health care over the course of the past 30 years, and that’s the cost of higher education.” — Gov. Charlie Baker expressing his opposition to the Umass tuition hikes.

“There is history and tradition of Boston and what it’s all about and I don’t want to lose that and that should be reflected in the 2024 Olympics. If they do it right, I think it will work; and if they don’t do it right, then we will be critical of it.” — Former Boston Mayor Ray Flynn on his support to bring the 2024 Olympics to Massachusetts.

“Effective July 6th, the so-called ‘honor box’ payment system will no longer exist at MBTA parking lots. The MBTA is eliminating the much-maligned process of folding individual dollar bills and stuffing them into tiny slots.” — Massachusetts Department of Transportation memo on the MBTA’s new convenient PayByPhone method which allows customers to pay parking fees by using any phone or any internet connected device.

“All of you have worked tirelessly in your communities without recognition or fanfare to improve the lives of your friends and neighbors. You represent a breadth of knowledge, compassion and diversity, and for that all of you should be proud.” — House Speaker Robert DeLeo (D-Winthrop) on the event honoring 100 women from around the state as “unsung heroines” by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women for the work they do

in their communities.

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK’S SESSION?

Beacon 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 15-19, the House met for a total of 30 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 23 minutes.

Mon. June 15	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:11 a.m. Senate 11:03 a.m. to 11:13 a.m.
Tues. June 16	No House session No Senate session
Wed. June 17	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. June 18	House 11:00 a.m. to 11:19 a.m. Senate 11:05 a.m. to 11:18 a.m.
Fri. June 19	No House session No Senate session
Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com	

240 Elm Street Closure

CONT. FROM PG 3

Jim Logue and myself just met on site to review the shoring on the Chester St side of the building. We find the shoring methodology acceptable, except for three missing towers on the first floor level where there are towers directly above and directly below. It is essential that the tower legs transfer load directly through to towers below all the way down to the basement. Jim Logue is aware of these locations. I also

pointed out to him where we’d like two additional post shores in the basement. Once these are adequately installed, we will come out for another inspection and sign off prior to further demolition proceeding. We also observed that masonry is being removed on the Elm St side of the building where no shoring has been installed. Also, the sidewalk directly below and Dunkin Donuts re-

mains open to the public. We did not authorize for masonry removal to proceed on this side of the building prior to shoring and feel that it currently presents a dangerous condition. Along this wall, between the steel beam bearing piers, the masonry has been taken down below the roof framing level and no longer engages the wall with the roof diaphragm. Not only does this result in an

unstable wall condition, it also results in weakening the stabilization of the piers supporting the steel girders. These piers had already been deemed precarious as were and we did not want to exacerbate their condition prior to the roof and floor framing being shored. In addition, debris is falling while the demolition is in progress. I understand there is another level of staging platform below,

but is this considered an overhead protection system that is completely sealed off while open to the public below? We urge that no further demolition of this wall commence until its shoring is completed and signed off on and the sidewalk and Dunkin Donuts is closed to public traffic. Thanks, Jason Ferriss, PE Structural Engineer

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## COMMENTARY

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

## Thanks to a superintendent who led the way



By Joseph A. Curtatone

We know that people are returning to the urban core and in particular to Somerville. There are a host of reasons why people are choosing to move to our community, from our arts and culture to our diverse local businesses and award-winning services, but there is one reason why families are staying: our schools. That's a testament to what retiring Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi has achieved over the past decade. Superintendent Pierantozzi moved to Somerville after he was hired in 2005 to lead our schools, becoming part of our community and embracing it. As he leaves us at the end of this month to enjoy a well-earned retirement, we should take the time to thank Superintendent Pierantozzi for what our schools have become and his tremendous

work on behalf of all our kids over the past decade.

Somerville Public Schools are now the envy of every urban school district in the Commonwealth—and many non-urban districts, too. Families are moving here and staying because people know that no matter where their child starts academically, they will learn more and faster in Somerville Schools. This is reflected in the Student Growth Percentile (SGP), a measurement adopted by Massachusetts to better understand how well schools are educating students at all achievement levels.

Instead looking at a student's MCAS scores only in an individual context, SGP compares how a student's performance has improved relative to other students across the state with similar past scores, so it can measure how much a school is helping its students improve. Somerville's SGP scores show that our schools are accelerating learning for students at every proficiency level. It's not only our high performers who are continuing to excel and our proficient test takers moving on to the next level—those stu-

dents with lower initial scores are markedly improving over time. For the past two years, Somerville Public Schools has been the best performing urban school district in the Commonwealth for student growth—and is now the only urban district in the top 15 percent of all Massachusetts districts for student growth. This tremendous achievement reflects Superintendent Pierantozzi's leadership in reaching and helping every student who enters Somerville Public Schools.

Families are also staying here because they know no matter what a family or student needs, Somerville Schools will provide that support. One of the great strengths of our schools is that they embrace the philosophy of educating the whole child, acknowledging that the work of education extends beyond pure academics, classrooms and grades on a test. Superintendent Pierantozzi has driven that approach. Under his leadership, Somerville Schools have expanded our arts, music, intramural athletics, world language and afterschool programs, all for little or no cost to families, during a time when a strug-

gling economy led many other school districts to slash those programs or hike up fees. That work continues in the proposed school budget for the coming year. Despite a difficult winter, Superintendent Pierantozzi continues to make investments in full-time positions that support the health and well-being of each student, while also investing in classroom positions that manage class sizes and ensure we are delivering the classroom education our students deserve.

Superintendent Pierantozzi also led by working with the whole community to build upon the great foundation, values and character we already had here in Somerville. He did not come in and institute his vision for Somerville Schools—he came in and instituted the community's vision. Somerville partnered with local universities to boost and support our programs, leadership roles were created for teachers and students in our schools, and now underway is the new universal kindergarten readiness strategy that leverages both public and private resources to connect every family with young children

with the information and resources they need. The hallmark of Superintendent Pierantozzi's tenure as our educational leader has been innovative, continuous improvement by working in concert with all members of the community, from parents and guardians to local service providers. That's the way we do it in Somerville—together.

Education is the first pillar of our community, the most important part of our foundation. Everything that affects our community and our quality of life, from our economy to public safety, starts with how highly we value education. Thanks to Superintendent Pierantozzi, that pillar has never been stronger. After years of decline, enrollment in Somerville Public Schools is rising again. Families look to us and recognize that we are a community where a strong education for every child is one of our core values, a school district that works with every family to support each and every child, and they want to be a part of it. This is the legacy Superintendent Pierantozzi leaves in Somerville, and we owe him our gratitude and thanks.

## The people's Pope pulls no punches



By William C. Shelton

An essential principle of environmental science is that everything is interconnected. An ecology's climate, geology, and every one of its life forms influence each other.

In last week's brilliant and inspiring encyclical, Pope Francis applies the same principle to the integration of natural and human worlds. "Praise be to you, my Lord" is nominally about climate change. It is subtitled, "On care for our common home," and in it, Francis says that our common home "is beginning to look like an immense pile of filth."

To accurately describe climate change's causes and solutions, Francis explores interconnections among pollution, resource

depletion, species extinction, suffering of the poor, greed of the rich, economic and political institutions that produce these conditions, and the culture that accommodates them.

In the first of five chapters, Francis vividly describes "the present ecological crisis," "drawing on the results of the best scientific research available today." He states that, "The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation."

He identifies the link between the two as "economic powers [that] continue to justify the current global system where priority tends to be given to speculation and the pursuit of financial gain..."

He writes movingly about economic inequality and how the environmental crisis disproportionately affects the poor, although they are the least re-

sponsible for it.

He describes the disintegration of human relationships, that "now tend to be replaced by a type of internet communication which enables us to choose or eliminate relationships at whim, thus giving rise to a new type of contrived emotion which has more to do with devices and displays than with other people and with nature."

In Chapter 2, Francis reviews Judeo-Christian scriptural injunctions regarding humans' obligation to the natural world. He rejects those who take out of context the Genesis account wherein God grants man "dominion" over the earth. Instead, God put humanity on earth to till and keep it (Genesis 2:15), and "keeping it" means "caring, protecting, overseeing and preserving."

Francis rejects any claim by humanity or individual humans to "absolute ownership." "The Christian tradition has never recognized the right to private property as absolute or

inviolable, and has stressed the social purpose of all forms of private property."

He says that nature is not just God's creation, but God's location. And he advocates a "sense of deep communion with nature." "When our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one."

In Chapter 3, Francis examines "the roots of the present situation, so as to consider not only its symptoms, but also its deepest causes." He begins by praising a number of science's and technology's accomplishments. "Technoscience, when well directed, can produce important means of improving the quality of human life."

But he goes on to condemn the emergence of a paradigm in which technoscience becomes its own end and its own morality. "This paradigm exalts the concept of a subject who...progressively approaches and gains control over an external object. This

has made it easy to accept...the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods."

Francis believes that "We have the freedom needed to limit and direct technology; we can put it at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral."

Moneyed interests who oppose environmental regulation, trade constraints, and social programs in the name of "freedom" block such efforts. But, "to ensure economic freedom from which all can effectively benefit, restraints occasionally have to be imposed on those possessing greater resources and financial power. To claim economic freedom while real conditions bar many people from real access to it, and while possibilities for employment continue to shrink, is to practice a doublespeak which brings politics into disrepute."

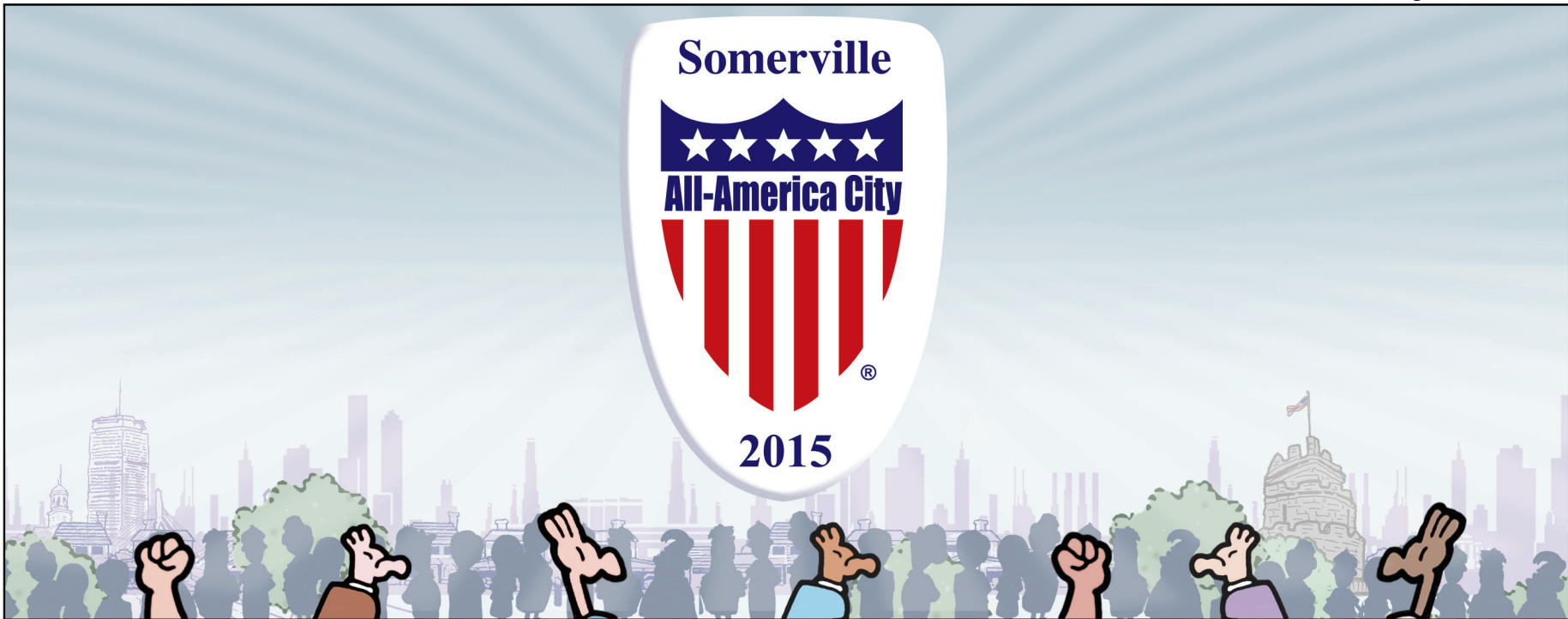
So, "It is remarkable how weak international political responses have been... There are too many special

Continued on page 17

# COMMENTARY

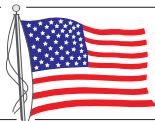
## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville takes pride in being named an All-America City once again!

## Our View Of The Times



We did it back in 1972 and once again in 2009. And now we find ourselves living in and completely loving our All-America City in 2015.

The National Civic League, based in Denver, CO, bestowed the tile upon the City of Somerville, along with nine other deserving cities, in recognition of its ability to “demonstrate close and effective col-

laboration among the public, private and nonprofit sectors to identify and advance the progress of key goals shared by the community.”

Additionally, according to the NCL, Somerville excels in “recognition and inclusion of the diverse segments of the population in community decision-making, creative use of community resources,

and clear demonstration of project results and impacts, among many others.”

Fancy jargon for Somerville is a city that knows how to get things done while taking care of its own, and that’s enough for any community to brag about.

This award shines a light on the city. It shows us at our best. Some may dismiss the honor as being a mere public relations

gimmick. But what’s wrong with presenting ourselves in a positive way? After all, what’s the alternative?

Perhaps it’s best to embrace this honor for all it’s worth and enjoy exercising our bragging rights.

When you get right down to it, what city could be more All-America than ours?

We can’t think of any.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Square. You can easily spot Paula by her latest hair design and color! Another Happy Birthday to former Assistant Editor Jack Nicas, a smart guy and good guy who is now currently a reporter for the Wall Street Journal. We wish him the very best. Happy birthday to Dave Mata, formerly of Somerville for a short stay, now living in San Francisco. A good guy. We wish him the very best. Happy birthday to Joe Grafton, formerly of Local Somerville who is celebrating this week. To all the others we wish a big happy birthday. If you know of someone who is celebrating their birthday or any special day, let us at The Times know by calling 617 666-4010, and we’re at 699 Broadway anytime.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Celia Taylor has asked everyone to remember to stop by and spread the word about their yard sale at 32 Vinyl Avenue, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. this Wednesday, June 24.**

\*\*\*\*\*

The popular owner of Thurston Spa, Gerald LaFee, of Everett, passed away last week at the age of 63. His wake is at Doherty’s Funeral Home tonight, Wednesday the 24th from 4-8 p.m. Our sincere condolences to his family and many many friends and patrons over the years who thought very highly of him.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Congratulations to the team from the city that worked hard to get us the All-America City award again for the third time. We heard that a lot of work and dedication went into the program and we thank them all on behalf of a grateful city.**

\*\*\*\*\*

A bunch of rumors are going around this week. We can’t confirm it, but we heard they might be closing down St. Joseph’s Church in Union Square.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Our good friend Jimmy DelPonte has decided to take up being a DJ again, so if you’re looking for a DJ for a party that does it all, contact Jimmy for the job. He’s on Facebook and is easy to contact. We wish him success, but we also know this is what he loves to do.**

\*\*\*\*\*

None of the incumbents but one ward alderman face a race this year. Imagine a free ride in six of the wards. With only a Ward 6 Alderman race (seat being left vacant) heading to a primary this year and the Ward 4 School Committee seat also looks like a primary. Years ago, you’d have maybe 10 or more running for Alderman at Large, at least four, maybe five, in each ward and the salary was about \$1,800. Now with the salary at about

\$23K and a city of 75K people, and no one will run against the incumbents. Are all the potential challengers applying for jobs at City Hall? And why not?

\*\*\*\*\*

**We heard from several sources that there is disciplinary action being taken down at the Police Department. We heard that one of the police officers had been called into Chief Fallon’s office. We are not sure what is going on, except that a certain officer might have a problem. As of Tuesday we couldn’t get more information except that this was going to happen yesterday.**

\*\*\*\*\*

There’s a new web site in town. Check it out at [www.somervillema.com](http://www.somervillema.com). *The Somerville Times* on the site.

\*\*\*\*\*

**There will be a community meeting, sponsored by Ward 5 Alderman Mark Niedergang, regarding the proposed mixed-use development at 231 Lowell Street (19 condominium units and two commercial units) next Monday, June 29, 7:00 p.m. at the Visiting Nurses Association, 259 Lowell St. Plans can be seen at the City of Somerville website, <http://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/LowellSt231-PlansOption1.pdf>. Developer Steven Caruso, his Attorney**

**Richard Di Girolamo, and Architect Peter Quinn will present the plans and answer questions. This would be an important project in the heart of Ward 5 and Somerville. 231 Lowell Street is near the coming Green Line Lowell/Magoun T station, the Lowell Street Bridge, and the Community Path Extension current end point. For more information contact Ward 5 Alderman Mark Niedergang, 617-629-8033 or [mniedergang@somervillema.gov](mailto:mniedergang@somervillema.gov).**

\*\*\*\*\*

You still have time to enroll in two great summer music camps: Somerville String Camp will be held at the Kennedy School, July 13-24, from 9:00am to 12:10pm. String Camp is open to violin, viola, cello and bass players of all ages, including beginners aged 7 and older. Tuition for the 2-week camp is \$110 for Somerville residents; \$120 for non-residents. For enquiries, email [joannesadler@rocketmail.com](mailto:joannesadler@rocketmail.com). Download an application at [www.somerville.k12.ma.us/music\\_camps](http://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/music_camps). Camp Honk will be held at the Kennedy School, July 13-24, from 9:00am to noon. Campers will learn to have fun the street band way, be playful and spontaneous in playing their instrument, basic street band musical forms, and the history and culture of street bands around the world.

Continued on page 20

# ESCS Spring Concert

The East Somerville Community School Spring Concert took place on Friday, June 19 in the school auditorium. Students played instruments and sang for the appreciative crowd of attendees.





Photos by Claudia Ferro



SPORTS

Somerville High breaks Guinness world record

By Rebecca Danvers

The Guinness World Records Management Team confirmed on Friday, June 19th, that 59 students at Somerville High School had succeeded in breaking a world record before the end of the school year. The word from Guinness came by email: "We are thrilled to inform you that 'Students of Somerville High School (MA)' are now the Guinness World Records Title Holder for Most Arm-Linked People To Stand Up Simultaneously."

According to information provided by Somerville Public Schools, the student-organized "World Record Day"

event held at Somerville High School on June 2 involved 59 students attempting to surpass the prior record number of 49 people to stand up simultaneously while their arms were linked, set by the Glory Global Solutions Management Team in Japan. The rules required all participants to sit on the ground with their arms-linked to each other, and attempt to stand-up as a circle. If any part of the body touched the ground, or if the link broke before everyone stood up, the attempt restarted. Once accomplished, photo and video evidence were submitted to the Guinness Headquarters in England for review.



Your record-breaking Somerville High School Most Arm-Linked People To Stand Up Simultaneously squad.

"I still cannot believe that we did it!" said Flavia Martins, class president. "What's more satisfying is that every student who participated was counted. It's an exciting achievement for

our school." The official certificate will arrive at the school this summer and will be unveiled in the fall. Visit <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/>

[world-records/most-arm-linked-people-to-stand-up-simultaneously](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/most-arm-linked-people-to-stand-up-simultaneously) to see the official posting of Somerville High Schools' Guinness World Record achievement.

Enjoy an 'American Rendezvous' this coming weekend

By Tom Bannister

Somerville's third annual American Rendezvous weekend (ARDV) is scheduled to take place from June 26 to June 28. Parkour practitioners will participate in training sessions led by elite coaches from across the country and abroad. As described by event sponsors, Parkour is a form of movement rooted in a variety of physical disciplines – gymnastics, martial arts, climbing, break-dancing, and track – and its popularity has grown rapidly in the Boston metropolitan area. It was born in the banlieues (suburbs) of Paris in the 1980s and is now one of the world's fastest-growing sports. The 2015 ARDV weekend is sponsored in part by the City of Somerville, Somerville Recreation, and Shape Up Somerville. ARDV is open to adults and high-school students (age 14+) of all experience levels and athletic backgrounds. It is designed as a "melting-pot event" for people to meet and train with each other in a safe, fun, and hard-working atmosphere, while celebrating a healthy and active lifestyle. The event will kick off with a half day of "Welcome Training" plus an exclusive night training



session for a limited number of participants on Friday evening, June 26. On June 27, the main event will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., both inside and outside the gym at Somerville High School (81 Highland Ave., atrium entrance). Participants will train on a specially built and very creative "Scaffolding City." A 90-minute lunch halfway through the day encourages participants to eat at nearby establishments endorsed by Shape Up Somerville and offering discounts to registrants. On Sunday, outdoor "parkour hotspots" will be visited in downtown Boston, enabling participants to train in the type of urban settings that originally gave birth to the sport in France. The registration fee for the full weekend workshop is \$95/per-

son, \$80 for the Saturday-Sunday session, or \$55 for just Saturday. Local high school students may also apply for partial or full scholarships, made possible through the generous sponsorship of several local businesses: Gentle Giant, New England College of Business, Middlesex Federal, Triumvirate Environmental, and Redbones. Several local restaurants are also offering significant discounts to registrants and the team, including Meju Korean Restaurant, Mr. Crepe, and Sound Bites. To register, or for more details, visit [www.pkgamericas.com/american-rendezvous-2015/](http://www.pkgamericas.com/american-rendezvous-2015/) or contact Blake Evitt, Director and Senior Coach of Parkour Generations Americas via [blake@parkourgenerations.com](mailto:blake@parkourgenerations.com) or 617-302-7542.

Ms. Cam's

# Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge #480

1. What is the significance of 4th of July?

2. What Presidents of the United States died on the same day, July 4, 1826?

3. What year did Massachusetts General Court became the first state legislature to recognize July 4 as a state celebration?

4. The earliest documentation of fireworks dates back to when?

5. How long has the Boston Pops hosted a music and fireworks show on the Esplanade?

6. To a competitive swimmer, what does the abbreviation d.p.s. mean?

7. According to Aristotle, what determined whether a baby would turn out to be a girl or a boy?

8. What famous medal depicts three naked men with their hands on each other's shoulders?

9. What day is the middle day of the year, in non-leap years?

10. Who produced the first jumbo jet in 1975?

11. On which label did Chuck Berry record in the 1950s and 1960s?

12. Which musical featured the song *Tonight*?

Answers on page 17



## Ad Agent

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Make 20% commission on every ad you sell.  
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**617 666-4010**

# Joe’s Jazz and Blues Fest



On Saturday, June 20, about 80 to 100 residents and jazz fans attended Joe’s Jazz and Blues Festival 2015 at Powderhouse Park. The crowd enjoyed live bands and lots of music. Everyone seemed to enjoy this nice Saturday afternoon of music, which seemed like an old fashion band concert.

— Text and photos by Donald Norton

## What’s on Somerville Neighborhood News

There are some great news headlines from the latest Somerville Neighborhood Newscast #42. Here is one headline: Somerville Fire Department Seeks New Home.

The current Union Square fire station is a converted car barn from the 1930’s. The Lowell Street fire station is undersized for today’s equipment. The City of Somerville is looking to replace the two inadequate stations with one up to date facility.



Interim Fire Chief Patrick Sullivan outlined these deficiencies for SNN, explaining, “The union square station has been hit with many disasters over the recent years with flooding, very prone to flooding, which caused a problem for storing apparatus, because it was at risk of getting damaged. The Lowell street station is a single one-story firehouse, there’s no basement, no real workshop area where the fire fighters can do their maintenance of some of their equipment. No set training facilities, they’re just inadequate to today’s fire service needs.”

The city considers a currently unoccupied one-acre parcel of land at 515 Somerville Avenue to be the ideal location for a 6-bay fire station, equipped with a training facility and space for maintenance work. The lot is current owned by an independent construction company with a different vision for the land.

Vincent Beaudet is an owner of the parcel and currently has development plans before the city to build residential housing units on the site. Beaudet explained, “We bought this land in May of 2014, with the intention to improve the site and build housing that is sorely needed in Somerville. We’re hoping to build apartments with a beautiful outdoor green space and gardens and fountains, and really improve this area.”

Within six months of buying the parcel, Beaudet received a notice from the city explaining its intention to take the land through eminent domain in order to build the new fire station.

For this full news story and others, visit [www.somervilleneighborhood-news.org](http://www.somervilleneighborhood-news.org).

# Arbor Day Celebration and poster contest winners

By Rebecca Danvers

On Friday, June 19, at 10:00 a.m., the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation held an Arbor Day Celebration at the Argenziano School to present awards to the 2015 Massachusetts Arbor Day Poster Contest winners, including three students from the Somerville Public Schools.

A tree was planted at the school to honor all poster contest winners. Winners were presented with prizes including art supplies and a T-shirt with their poster image impressed upon it.

This year’s contest theme was “Trees Are Champions in My Community.” Students were asked to create a poster to depict the important role that trees play in their community.

Congratulations to the following Arbor Day poster contest winners from our district — 1st place: Stephka Lubin (Argenziano) – Grade 5 – Art Teacher Diana Taremi; Honorable Mention: Joselyn Torres (Healey) – Grade 5 – Art Teacher Mikkell Della Camera; Honorable Mention: Ashley Sousa (Kennedy) – Grade 5 – Art Teacher Stephanie Stiassni.



Argenziano School hosted the Arbor Day Celebration presented by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation last week. Several students from around the Somerville school district participated in the associated poster contest.

## ATTENTION HOME BUYERS

For your home buying process contact us today, talk to an experienced Buyers Agent who will represent your interest and guide you through the buying process. We make the process of home buying easy.

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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**


There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen’s Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Tuesday, June 30, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the Petition for a Mobile Food Vendor License for Bon Me Foods LLC, dba Bon Me, which seeks to operate on College Avenue at Tufts University, weekdays from 11 AM to 8 PM.

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen’s Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Tuesday, June 30, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the Petition for a Mobile Food Vendor License for Dino’s Market LLC, dba Dino’s Market, which seeks to operate on Grand Union Blvd. at meters L8 or L9, daily from 8 AM to 8 PM.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.**

**JOHN J. LONG  
CITY CLERK**

6/17/15, 6/24/15 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR**

**STAN KOTY  
Commissioner**

**GINGER BARRETT  
Water Superintendent**


**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Commissioner of Public Works will be holding a public hearing on Monday, June 29, 2015 in the Committee Room on the 2nd floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue at 5:00 pm. The purpose of this hearing is to compile testimony from Somerville ratepayers relevant to the setting of the Fiscal Year 2016 water and sewer rates. Anyone interested in providing testimony is welcome to attend.

Stan Koty  
Commissioner

Ginger Barrett  
Water Superintendent

6/24/15 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen’s Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Tuesday, June 30, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the petition of Edgard Fayad dba Mass Inspection, 712 Mystic Avenue, to amend his Garage License, to allow the use of a lift on the premises for mechanical repairs.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.**

**JOHN J. LONG  
CITY CLERK**

6/24/15 The Somerville Times




**CCITY OF SOMERVILLE  
OFFICE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD OF HEALTH**

On June 18, 2015, the Somerville Board of Health enacted regulations governing variances granted to utilize reduced oxygen packaging of food in food establishments that go into effect on June 22, 2015. Provisions in the regulations include, but are not limited to, variance requirements, packaging criteria and requirements, and use of a qualified consultant to prepare plans and training.

**Douglass Kress  
Director of Health & Human Services**

6/24/15 The Somerville Times




**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen’s Committee on Finance on **Monday, July 6, 2015, at 6:00 PM**, in the Aldermanic Chambers, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the Order of Alderman Tony Lafuente, Chairman of the Committee, for public input on #197852, an Order of Taking of the property at 515 Somerville Avenue to provide for the relocation of the Fire Department from its current facility in Union Square.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.**

**JOHN J. LONG  
CITY CLERK**

6/24/15 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

There will be a Public Hearing before the Board of Aldermen’s Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Tuesday, June 30, 2015, at 7:00 PM**, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the Petition for Extended Operating Hours submitted by Plzzaiolatp, dba Papa John’s, 622 Somerville Avenue, which seeks to operate for delivery and carryout only, Sundays through Thursdays until 1 AM, and Fridays and Saturdays until 3 PM.

**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.**

**JOHN J. LONG  
CITY CLERK**

6/24/15 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)788-8300**

**Docket No. SU15D1116DR**

**DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING**

**Ahmed M Abdalla vs. Joan S James**

**To Defendant: Joan James  
103 Concord Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02143  
(last known address)**

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for ir retrievable breakdown of the marriage pursuant to G. L. c.208 Sec 1B

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party .**SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:  
**Ahmed M Abdalla  
15 Channel Center Street  
Apt 507  
Boston, MA 02210**

your answer, if any on or before **08/20/2015**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court.

**Witness, Hon. Joan P Armstrong, First Justice of this Court.**

Date: June 4, 2015.

**Felix D. Arroyo  
Register of Probate**

6/24/15 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Suffolk Probate and Family Court  
24 New Chardon Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617)788-8300**

**Docket No. SU15D1116DR**

**ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING**

**Ahmed M Abdalla vs. Joan S James**

Upon motion of plaintiff for an order directing the defendant, to appear, plead, or answer, in accordance with Mass.R.Civ.P./ Mass.R.Dom.Rel.P.Rule 4, it appearing to the court that this is an action for **Divorce 1B**.

Pursuant to Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411, an Automatic Restraining Order has been entered against the above named parties. Defendant cannot be found within the Commonwealth and his/her present whereabouts are unknown. Personal service on defendant is therefore not practicable, and defendant has not voluntarily appeared in this action.

It is **Ordered** that defendant is directed to appear, plead, answer, or otherwise move with respect to the complaint therein on or before **August 20, 2015**

If you fail to do so this Court will proceed to a hearing and adjudication of this matter.

It is further Ordered that the accompanying summons be published once in **The Somerville Times** a newspaper published in: **Somerville, 699 Broadway, MA, 02144, 617-666-4010**

the publication to be **20 days** at least before said return day. It is further **Ordered** that a copy of the summons be mailed to the defendant at his/her last known address by registered or

Date 6/8/15

Elaine M. Moriarty  
JUSTICE OF PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT  
By Kathleen Kavey(AJCM)

6/24/15 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Middlesex Probate and Family Court  
208 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA. 02141  
(617) 768- 5800**

**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

**MIDDLESEX Division Docket No. MI 94P1341**

**Estate of: Katherine S Huffhines**

**Also know as: Katherine Schulz Huffhines**

**Date of Death: 07/18/1991**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy** has been filed by:

**Cynthia A Beers of Hawthorne CA**

requesting that the court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00a.m. on 07/13/2015. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**This estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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.**

Witness, Hon. Edward F Donnelly Jr., First Justice of this Court.

**Tara E. De Cristofaro  
Register of Probate**

Date: June 15, 2015

6/24/15 The Somerville Times

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY PH: 617.666.4010 • FAX: 617.628.0422

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# ESCS Middle Grades Project

Middle grades students at East Somerville Community School participated in a special project at the school auditorium on June 16.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



The people’s Pope pulls no punches

CONT. FROM PG 10

interests, and economic interests easily end up trumping the common good and manipulating information so that their own plans will not be affected.”

In Chapter 3, Francis advances, “some broader proposals for dialogue and action.” He insists that our interconnectedness with nature makes it necessary to seek comprehensive solutions to “one complex crisis, which is both social and environmental.”

He suggests an “integrative ecology” that begins with human solidarity and respect for the common good. “Every violation of solidarity and civic friendship harms the environment.”

The common good is “the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment.” Considerations of common good must extend to future generations.

In Chapter 4, he outlines “major paths of dialogue which can help us escape the spiral of self-destruction,” because “a global consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems,” and “enforceable international agreements are urgently needed.”

Elements of that consensus include recognition that coal and oil technology need to be “progressively replaced without delay.” And “the countries which

have benefited from a high degree of industrialization, at the cost of enormous emissions of greenhouse gases, have a greater responsibility for providing a solution to the problems they have caused.”

He states that, “The principle of the maximization of profits...reflects a misunderstanding of the very concept of the economy.”

In this context, he takes special aim at the finance sector: “Saving banks at any cost, making the public pay the price, foregoing a firm commitment to reviewing and reforming the entire system, only reaffirms the absolute power of a financial system, a power which has no future and will only give rise to new crises after a slow, costly, and only apparent recovery.”

Francis begins Chapter 5 by stating, “Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change.” He then offers “some inspired guidelines for human development to be found in the treasure of Christian spiritual experience.” Any human, regardless of faith, will be uplifted by these observations.

In response to the encyclical, right-wingers who in the past have misappropriated Catholic Social Teaching are furious. Last week Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum pronounced that, “The church has gotten it wrong a few times on science, and I think we probably are better off leaving science to the scientists and focusing on what we’re good at, which is theology and morality.” Santorum suggested that he knows more about climate science than the Pope.

That’s laughable on several counts. Santorum and his ilk regularly reject scientific validity in favor of “faith.” Now, the leader of a billion of the world’s faithful, who was a chemist before he was a priest, applies the principles of faith to the findings of science.

Regarding politicians like Santorum, Francis says, “The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty.”

In fact, Catholic Social Teaching has always challenged the wealthy and the politicians who serve them. In the first encyclical ever written, Pope Leo XIII called for the pursuit of justice in behalf of workers. In a 1931, Pope Pius condemned “the alarming concentration of wealth and power.”

In 1963 and 1971, Pope Paul VI issued encyclicals that gave conservatives fits. He condemned imperialism and the

marginalization of the poor. His teaching is often summed up by his statement that, “If you want peace, work for justice.”

Right-wingers took comfort in Polish Pope John Paul II’s anti-communism. But they ignored exhortations from him like this: “It is manifestly unjust that a privileged few should continue to accumulate excess goods, squandering available resources, while masses of people are living in conditions of misery....Today, the dramatic threat of ecological

breakdown is teaching us the extent to which greed and selfishness...are contrary to the order of creation, an order which is characterized by mutual interdependence.”

For me, the best response to reactionaries who say that the Pope ought to confine himself to “religious” matters is provided by Francis himself in these eight words that appear on the first page of his encyclical:

Nothing in this world is indifferent to us.

Ms. Cam’s

Olíio

Answers

1. It was the day in 1776 that the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress

2. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson

3. 1781

4. 7th century China, where they were invented

5. Annually since 1973

6. Distance per stroke

7. Wind direction

8. The Nobel Peace Prize

9. July 2 – there are 182 days before then, and 182 after

10. Boeing

11. Chess

12. West Side Story

• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

**Wednesday|June 24**

**East Branch Library**  
Preschool: Storytime  
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

**Central Library**  
Middle School Writers’ Den  
Alan Ball  
6 p.m.-7:15 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

**Thursday|June 25**

**Central Library**  
Preschool: Storytime for 3 to 5 year olds  
10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.|79 Highland Avenue

**Central Library**  
Probably the Best Party to Ever Happen, Ever  
Eduardo Barrera|8577566222  
11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

**Friday|June 26**

**Central Library**  
Preschool: Storytime for 2 year olds  
10:30 a.m.-11 a.m.|79 Highland Avenue

**Monday|June 29**

**Central Library**  
Summer Reading Program Kick-Off: Super Hero Training with Jungle Jim Cathy Piantiginil|617-623-5000, x2950  
4 p.m.-5 p.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

**Central Library**  
Middle School Writers’ Den  
Alan Ball-617 636-9033  
7 p.m.-8:15 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

**Tuesday|June 30**

**West Branch Library**  
Preschool Storytime  
11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|40 College Avenue

**Wednesday|July 1**

**Central Library**  
Middle School Writers’ Den  
Alan Ball  
6 p.m.-6:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

**MUSIC|ARTS**

**Wednesday|June 24**

**Johnny D’s**  
Papa Mali Record Release Party (Blues/Soul/Funk from New Orleans)  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s Bar**  
Free Poker, lots of prizes!  
6 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Exile on Elm  
Back Room  
Comedy@10  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**On The Hill Tavern**  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

**Bull McCabe’s Pub**  
The A-Beez – Funk & Soul  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

**Highland Kitchen**  
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

**Joshua Tree Bar & Grill**  
Pub Trivia  
8:30 p.m.|256 Elm Street|(617) 623-9910

**Arts at the Armory**  
Youth Art Arise : Stop Motion Origami Animation  
3:30 p.m.|Mezzanine  
This Armenian Life - a Benefit for COAF  
7:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

**Thursday|June 25**

**Johnny D’s**  
Lee Ann Womack – Grammy and Country Music Award Winner  
#TBT Late Night “Throwback Thursday” Party hosted by Dysko!  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s**  
Heavy Bass Roots Sound with Sound Chalice, Jah Rich, Craig Akira Fujita  
9p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Acoustic/Bluegrass|9:30 p.m.  
Back Room  
Scattershot  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**On The Hill Tavern**  
Live DJ Music  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

**Bull McCabe’s**  
Dub Down Reggae  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

**Joshua Tree**  
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

**Somerville Theatre**  
Awkward Compliment’s Thursday Night Comedy Night  
8 p.m.|55 Davis Square

**Arts at the Armory**  
Red Cross Blood Drive  
2 p.m.-7 p.m.|Performance Hall  
The Loop  
7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

**Davis Square Theatre**  
Shit-faced Shakespeare  
7pm  
Strange Behavior  
8 p.m.|255 Elm Street

**Friday|June 26**

**Johnny D’s**  
Fat City Band (Blues/Swing)  
We Dig Free Fridays! + Afropop Night Presents: Opposite People plus Machine 475  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s**  
Tom Hagerty Acoustic Band |6 p.m.  
HearNowLive presents Apollo Blue, RadioVolta, Uncle Rusty \$10 cover |9 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Irish Session|9:30 p.m.  
Back Room  
Ripcord  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
DJ  
10 p.m.|65 Holland St

**On The Hill Tavern**  
499 Broadway |617-629-5302

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
DJ starting at 10 p.m.  
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

**Bull McCabe’s**  
TBA  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

**Joshua Tree**  
DJ McRiddleton  
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
Live music  
9 p.m.|608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

**Casey’s**  
Entertainment every Friday  
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

**Arts at the Armory**  
Tigers Jaw: A Seated, Acoustic Performance, with lowercase roses  
7:30 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

**Davis Square Theatre**  
Shit-faced Shakespeare  
11pm|255 Elm Street

**Saturday|June 27**

**Johnny D’s**  
Jazz Brunch  
Jeff Jam Dance Party  
Denny Laine (of The Moody Blues & Wings) & The Cryers + Steve Holley from Wings  
Koa FREE SATURDAY - Party Rock from Nashville  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s**  
Adam Klein|3 p.m.  
Patsy Hamel Band |6 p.m.  
HearNowLive presents \$10 cover |9 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

**The Burren**  
Back Room  
Jimmy’s Down  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
Karaoke  
65 Holland St

**On the Hill Tavern**  
Live DJ Music  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**Bull McCabe’s**  
TBA  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

**Joshua Tree**  
DJ El Sid!  
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
Live Band & DJ  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

**Casey’s**  
Entertainment every Saturday  
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

**Arts at the Armory**  
Rick, Dave, & Friends  
10 a.m.|Café  
Wicked Film Challenge Premiere, by Boston Indie Mafia  
6:30 p.m.|Performance Hall  
Shawn Fogel (Golden Bloom / Brothers in Yarn) with special guests TBA  
8 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

**Davis Square Theatre**  
Comedysportz Boston|7 p.m.  
Old School Game Show  
9 pm|255 Elm Street

**Sunday|June 28**

**Johnny D’s**  
Jazz Brunch  
Open Blues Jam! featuring Dr Grant & The Medical Marijuana Band  
17 Holland St.|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s Bar**  
Mark Brine|4 p.m.  
Natalie Flanagan & The F-Bombs, Jeremy Wallace Trio, Trusty Sidekick |8 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Sunday Americana with Sean Staples, Eric Royer, Tim Gearan, Dave Westner and Dan Keller|7 p.m.  
Back Room  
Burren Acoustic Music Series  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**Bull McCabe’s Pub**  
Dub Apocalypse  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

**Highland Kitchen**  
Sunday Brunch Live Country & Bluegrass  
Sunday Night Live Music  
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
Game Night  
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
Live Band & DJ  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

**Arts at the Armory**  
Alastair Moock: All Kinds of You and Me CD Release  
4 p.m.|Performance Hall  
Cafe Raqs  
7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

**Davis Square Theatre**

Paint Nite|3:30 p.m.  
Shit-faced Shakespeare  
8 pm|255 Elm Street

**Monday|June 29**

**Johnny D’s**  
Johnny D’s Comedy Showcase Presents: Interesting Points (Panel Show) Stump! Pub Trivia|8:30 p.m.  
17 Holland St | 617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s Bar**  
Shawn Cater’s Cheapshots Comedy Jam |7 p.m.  
Marley Mondays with The Duppy Conquerors|10 p.m.  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Bur-Run  
Helena Delaney, Johnny O’Leary & Friends Irish Session|9 p.m.  
Back Room  
Science by the Pint  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**On The Hill Tavern**  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**Bull McCabe’s Pub**  
Stump! Team Trivia  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

**Tuesday|June 30**

**Johnny D’s**  
WERS Discovery Show: Novalima Record Release (Afro-Peruvian, Latin Alternative, Dub) + Lookie Lookie  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s Bar**  
Honkytonk Masquerade  
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Jason Anick and the Swingers Swing/Jazz|8:30 p.m.  
Back Room  
Open Mic w/ Hugh McGowan|8 p.m.  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**On The Hill Tavern**  
Stump Trivia (with prizes)  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**Bull McCabe’s Pub**  
The Ghetto People Band  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

**Highland Kitchen**  
First Tuesday of the Month|Spelling Bee Night  
hosted by Victor and Nicole of Egoart.  
The fun starts at 10:00p.m.  
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

**PJ Ryan’s**  
Pub Quiz  
10 p.m.|239 Holland St.|617-625-8200

**Arts at the Armory**  
Youth Arts Arise: Spring Showcase  
6 p.m.|Performance Hall  
Triton Taylor  
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

**Wednesday|July 1**

**Johnny D’s**  
TBA  
17 Holland St|617-776-2004

**Sally O’Brien’s Bar**  
Free Poker, lots of prizes!  
6 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

**The Burren**  
Front Room  
Exile on Elm  
Back Room  
Comedy@10  
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

**On The Hill Tavern**  
499 Broadway|617-629-5302

**Orleans Restaurant and Bar**  
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

**Bull McCabe’s Pub**  
The A-Beez – Funk & Soul  
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

**Highland Kitchen**  
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

**Samba Bar & Grille**  
608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

**Joshua Tree Bar & Grill**  
Pub Trivia  
8:30 p.m.|256 Elm Street|(617) 623-9910

**Arts at the Armory**  
Wiretap Wednesday Open Stage  
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

**CLASSES AND GROUPS**

**Wednesday|June 24**

**Central Library**  
Poetry and Songwriting Workshop featuring Jasen Sousa  
Marco Jean-Baptiste|857-237-4206  
2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

**Central Library**  
Ibbetson Street Press #37 Release Party and Potluck  
Harris Gardner  
6 p.m.-8:45 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

**Thursday|June 25**

**Central Library**  
Probably the Best Party to Ever Happen, Ever  
Eduardo Barrera|8577566222  
11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

**Central Library**  
Friends Annual Meeting  
James Fox|617-710-0676  
7 p.m.-9 p.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

**West Branch Library**  
Learn English at the Library!  
(Session 1) 6 p.m.-7 p.m.  
(Session 2) 7:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
40 College Avenue

**First Church Somerville**  
Debtors Anonymous- a 12 Step program for people with problems with money and debt. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|89 College Ave (Upstairs Parlor).  
For more info call: 781-762-6629

**Friday|June 26**

**Central Library**  
Affordable Housing Opportunity Lottery  
Vicki Wairi|617.625.6600 x 2588  
10 a.m.-10:30 a.m.| 79 Highland Avenue

**Saturday|June 27**

**Bagel Bards**  
Somerville Writers and Poets meet weekly to discuss their work  
9 a.m.-12 p.m.|Au Bon Pain| 18-48 Holland St

**Sunday|June 28**

**Somerville Historic Bike Ride**  
2 p.m.|93 Highland Ave

**Unity Church of God**  
Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon Family Groups  
7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street  
Enter upstairs, meeting is in basement.

**Monday|June 29**

**East Branch Library**  
Learn English at the Library!  
(Session 1) 6 p.m.-7 p.m.  
(Session 2) 7:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m.  
115 Broadway

**Tuesday|June 30**

**Central Library**  
Learn English at the Library!  
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

**Arts at the Armory**  
Prenatal Yoga  
7 p.m.|Mezzanine|191 Highland Ave

**Wednesday|July 1**

**Central Library**  
Board Game Night  
Ellen Jacobs|617-623-5000 x2914  
7 p.m.-8:45 p.m.|79 Highland Avenue

# SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

**Welcome to our centers.** Everyone 55+ is encouraged to join us for fitness, culture, films, lunch and Bingo. Our centers are open to everyone from Somerville and surrounding communities. Check out our calendar and give a call with any questions or to make a reservation. 617-625-6600 ext. 2300. Stay for lunch and receive free transportation.

**All clubs and groups welcome new members.**

**Holland Street:** 167 Holland Street  
Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
617-625-6600 Ext. 2300

**Cross Street Center:** 165 Broadway  
Tuesday & Wednesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
(617) 625-6600 Ext. 2335

**Ralph and Jenny Center:** 9 New Washington Street,  
Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
(617) 666-5223.

**Foundations of Knowledge Lecture Series** – If you haven’t attended one of these lectures you just don’t know what you are missing. The next one is scheduled for August and the title of the lecture is, “When Johnny Comes Marching Home (Again)...Affordable Housing After WWII.” The Foundations of Knowledge Lecture Series is an educational program that brings a series of low-cost, themed lectures to you each month. A nominal fee of \$20. will include five, one-hour long lectures in any one subject area. Or, if you prefer to take in a variety of different subjects, each lecture we present costs \$5. If you do attend the three (3) lectures in the same subject area you will receive a “Foundations of Knowledge Subject Matter” Certificate. Attend all lectures and receive a “Foundation of Knowledge Humanities Aficionado” Certificate. Series themes include, but not limited to: Art & Art History, The Many Voices of Music and American Literature. Please contact Janine Lottie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 for more details and to sign up for these wonderful lectures.

**Conversations about Dementia** – Wednesday, June 24 – Noon – 2:00 P.M. at our Holland Street Center – This is the 3rd in a 4 part series on “Caregiver Education” –This workshop offers tips on difficult topics, the importance of going to the doctor for a diagnosis or follow-up, concerns about driving and much more – Presented by the Alzheimer’s Association. To register please contact our social worker, Suzanne Norton at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 – Please note that this workshop is intended for caregivers only and is NOT appropriate for persons with dementia to attend.

**Summer Fun Fridays** – Museum and Cultural outings on the following Fridays – July 17 – The Anderson Auto Museum / July 24th – The Fruitlands Museum / July 31st – Institute of Comtemporary Art / August 14th – John F. Kennedy Library and Museum / August 28th – The Griffin Museum of Photography. All trips depart from our Holland Street Center at 9:00 A.M. Trip prices will vary depending upon mode of transportation. Lunch is always on your own and at your own expense. Space is extremely limited so please call Janine Lotti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 to reserve your spot.

**Caregiver & Respite Services** – Tuesday, July 21 – 6:00 – 7:00 P.M. at our Holland Street Center – This is the last in a 4 part series on “Caregiver Education” – This will explain the nuances of caregiver and respite care services presented by Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services. Guest speaker Colleen Morrissey - to register for this event please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

**Lantana’s** – Tuesday, July 21 – Departing our Ralph & Jenny Center at 10:15 A.M. with an approximate return time of 4:45 P.M. Lunch choice of Chicken Marsala or Baked Scrod, salad, vegetables, mashed potatoes, rolls, coffee and dessert. A fee of \$82. includes transportation, lunch and entertainment by Ron Gartner and his band as they play a rocking salute to Bandstand and Motown music. Please call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 to reserve your spot or for more information.

**Hu Ke Lau** – Tuesday, August 11 – departing 9:00 A.M. from our Ralph & Jenny Center and 9:15 A.M. at our Holland Street Center. A fee of \$84.- covers transportation, The Triple Lobsterfeast (triple lobster or prime rib,, rolls with butter, baked potato, green beans, ice cream & coffee) as well as The Riverboat Ramblers Show. Please contact Connie or Kim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 to reserve your spot or for additional information.

**Lowell Spinners** – Wednesday, August 26 – departing our Holland Street Center at 3:30 P.M. with an approximate return time of 10:00 P.M. A fee of \$30.- includes transportation, seating at the Lowell Spinners game and an all you can eat BBQ. Game time is 7:05 P.M. Please contact Connie or Kim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 to reserve your spot or for additional information.

**Boston Red Sox vs. Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto** – Thursday, September 17th – Saturday, September 19th - \$479.-/DO \$629.-/SO ...Come join us as we take in a Red Sox game and see the beauty of Niagara Falls as well as Cooperstown. 3 days / 2 nights include roundtrip deluxe motorcoach – 2 nights at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel – 2 full American Breakfasts – Niagara Falls, Niagara on the Falls Vineyard Tours & Tasting, Red Sox vs. Blue Jays baseball game seating – The Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, baggage & room tax. Check-in time is 6:30 A.M. at our Ralph & Jenny Center on Thursday, September 17th with an approximate return time of 8:00 P.M. on Saturday, September 19th. PASSPORT REQUIRED and upon registration a copy is requested - Please contact Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300

**The Beach Boys at Venus DeMilo** – Wednesday, September 23 – for a fee of \$81. You will also enjoy lunch with a choice of Baked Chicken or Baked Scrod. Please contact Connie for additional information or to reserve your spot at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

**All Aboard! Hart’s Turkey Farm & The Tilton Outlets** – Thursday, October 8th – Departing our Holland Street Center at 8:30 A.M. and our Ralph & Jenny Center at 8:45 A.M. with an approximate return time of 5:30 P.M. A fee of \$86. Includes, transportation & lunch in the dining car (roast turkey, whipped potatoes, butternut squash, beverage an dessert.) Beautiful fall foliage, great gift shop and a mystery stop that is sure to sweeten your day. Please call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 to reserve your spot or if you would like any additional information.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

**The Mohegan/Foxwoods trip** scheduled for Thursday & Friday, June 25 & 26 is SOLD OUT.

**The dance** scheduled for Monday, June 29th at the Holiday Inn is SOLD OUT.

**The supper & bingo night** at Hanscom Air Force Base is SOLD OUT.

**Friendly Caller Program**

Do you know someone who could benefit from a friendly call? Maybe you are feeling isolated and want someone to talk to – or you just want someone to listen. Please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 to sign up for our “Friendly Caller” Program.

**There has been a lot happening at the SCOA** – Keep your eyes open for more details on the upcoming trips

- 9/11 Museum & Memorial – a 2 day / 1 night trip
- The Drifters at Lake Pearl
- Best of the Golden Oldies
- Boothbay Harbor & Cabbage Island
- Hu Ke Lau, Riverboat Ramblers / Triple Lobster Fest
- The Beach Boys Tribute
- Italian Festival at the Danversport Yacht Club
- The Manhattan Dolls Music through the decades
- Our own “Antique Road Show” – One man’s junk just might be a treasure

**Back by popular demand are the Holiday Inn Dances.** Lunch and dance to music provided by Hank our resident DJ. June 29 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. A \$15.00 fee is required along with a RSVP so please contact Connie at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 to make your reservation.

**LGBT EVENTS:**

**LGBT Monthly Lunch** – Monday, July 13 – 11:30 A.M. at our Holland Street Center. More information to follow. This lunch happens the 2nd Monday of every month excluding City Holidays and snow emergencies.

**LGBT Dinner & Movie Night** – Monday, July 20 – 5:30 P.M. at our Holland Street Center. This event happens the 3rd Monday of every month excluding City Holidays and snow emergencies.

**LBT Women Fit-4-Life** - Fitness and Nutrition Classes. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 P.M. \$10 a month fee - scholarships available & it just might be covered under your insurance. We have

available slots and would love to have you. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our Health & Wellness Coordinator, Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300.

**STAY ACTIVE:**

**Weekly Exercise Class Schedule**  
**Holland = (H) Ralph & Jenny = (RJ) Cross Street = (C)**

**Mondays:**  
Wii Bowling, noon, Free. (H)  
Fit 4 Life\* Group C, 1:00 P.M. (H)

**Tuesdays:**  
Strengthening, 9:15 A.M., \$3 per class (H)  
Dalcroze Eurhythmics, \$2.00, 1:00 P.M., (H)  
LBT Fit 4 Life\*, 6:00 P.M., (H)

**Wednesdays:**  
Fit 4 Life\* Group A, 8:45 A.M (H)  
Fit 4 Life\* Group B, 9:00 A.M. (H)  
Fit 4 Life\* Group C, Noon (H)  
Bowling @ Flatbreads, 1:00 P.M., \$10/week for shoes and dues  
Zumba for All, 5:15 P.M., \$3 per class (H)

**Thursdays:**  
Strengthening, 9:30 A.M., \$3 per class (RJ)  
LBT Fit 4 Life\*, 6:00 P.M.

**Fridays:**  
Fit 4 Life\* Group A, 8:45 A.M.  
Fit 4 Life\* Group B, 9:00 A.M.  
Fit 4 Life\* Group C 12:00 P.M.  
\*Fit 4 Life classes \$10/month, pre-registration required.

**Upcoming Schedule**  
**Holland = (H) Ralph & Jenny = (RJ) Cross Street = (C)**

**Wednesday|June 24**  
10:00 Cards (RJ)  
10:00 English Conversation (C)  
11:30 Lunch (H, RJ, C)  
12:00 Caregivers Workshop / Tips for Family Conversations about Dementia  
12:45 Bingo (RJ) HAFB

**Thursday|June 25**  
10:00 Cards (RJ)  
10:00 Scarves for Soldiers (RJ)  
10:00 Blood Pressure Screening (RJ, H)  
10:00 Current Events (H)  
11:00 Computer tutorial with Barbara (H)  
11:30 Lunch (H, RJ)  
12:45 Bingo (RJ, H)  
Foxwoods / Mohegan

**Friday|June 26**  
11:00 Nutrition Counseling with Mimi (H)  
11:30 Lunch  
12:45 Bingo  
Foxwoods / Mohegan

**Monday|June 29**  
8:30 Walking/Talking Group (H)  
11:30 Lunch (H)  
12:00 Nutrition Counseling with Mimi (H)  
Holiday Inn Dance

**Tuesday|June 30**  
10:00 English Conversation (C)  
10:00 Scarves for Soldiers (RJ)  
10:00 Cards (RJ)  
10:00 Senior Housing 101 (H)  
11:30 Lunch (RJ, C)  
12:00 Computer tutorial with Norbert (H)  
12:45 Bingo (RJ)

**Wednesday|July 1**  
10:00 Cards (RJ)  
10:00 English Conversation (C)  
11:30 Lunch (H, RJ, C)  
12:00 Caregivers Workshop / Tips for Family Conversations about Dementia  
12:45 Bingo (RJ)

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 11

Cost for 2 weeks is \$160 (\$80/week); family discounts and some scholarships may be available. To register, visit www.schoolofhonk.org/camphonk.

Are you about to enter 5th through 9th grade? Do you love to write? Add to your fun and productivity this summer by coming to the middle school Writers’ Den. They meet informal-ly to share writing, workshop ideas, learn some tips, choose and hear reading for writers, and participate in publishing. Summer Writing Adven-tures is now in its third year, Monday and Wednesday evenings, summer 2015, at the Somerville (Central)

Public Library. Starting at 6:00 p.m. and usually going to 7:15 p.m. Come when you can and want to. Poetry, fic-tion, nonfiction, magazine features, school newspaper reporting – what’s your interest? Please pack a pencil or a pen, a notebook or a pad, flashlight. Please bring a short completed piece of writing. Starting June 29th and continuing through the summer. Free. Drop in whenever you can. Interest-ed? Contact aball@tuftsmedicalcen-ter.org or just show up.

Join the Cambridge Symphony Or-chestra (CSO) this Sunday, 3 p.m., for POPS ON THE LAWN in Sen-

nott Park (at Broadway and Norfolk Street, Cambridge) near Central Square, or in case of rain, indoors at Area IV Youth Center (243 Harvard Street) next to the park. Bring a pic-nic blanket and kick back for some fun for the whole family. Take a journey from Rossini to John Philip Sousa, from The Planets to Star Wars. Our youngest audience members even get to conduct the orchestra themselves. Many Somerville residents will be participating in the concert: Violin-ists Lane Marder and Josh Garst-ka, violist Kim Etingoff, cellist Nick Pittman, string bassist Dave Shrake, oboist Carolyn Hayes, trumpet player

Dan Stringer, and CSO’s very special Music Director Cynthia Woods.

It’s beautiful weather for a bike tour. The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission, The Somerville Bicycle Committee, and Groundwork Somer-ville are teaming up to present the 2015 Somerville Historic Bike Tour. Departing from City Hall on Sunday, June 28 from 2 to 5 p.m., this ride is for people of all ages and riding abili-ties to explore food, flowers, and farm-ing in our city. Join in to see the sights and enjoy light refreshments at Aero-naut Brewing Company afterwards. \$3 donation appreciated.

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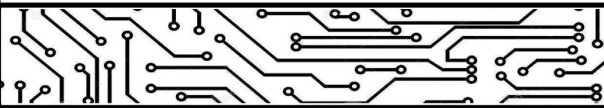
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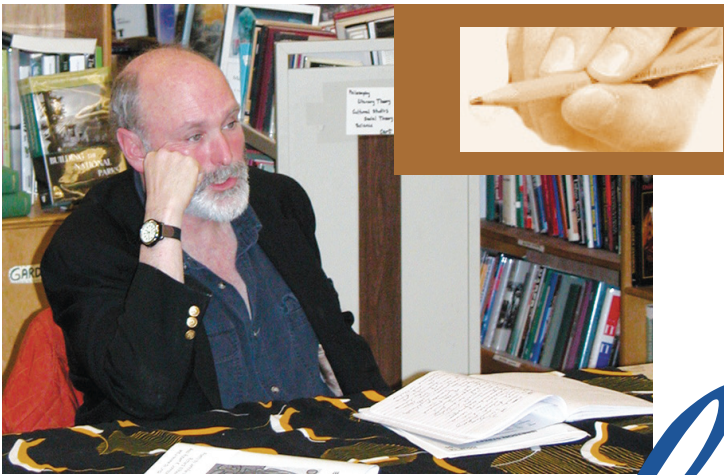
Somerville Community Access TV Ch.3 Programming Guide

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<b>Wednesday, June 24</b>		6:00pm	TBT: Throwback Thursday	1:00pm	Art as Protest	9:00am	The Stephanie Miller Show (Free Speech TV)
6:30am	Road to Recovery	6:30pm	Health is Wealth	1:30pm	MAPS Health Connector	10:00am	Bay State Biking News
7:00am	Somerville Film Group	7:00pm	Taking Back your Health (Live call-in)	2:00pm	Henry Parker Presents	11:00am	Pearls of Irregular Shape
7:30am	Life Matters	7:30pm	Active Aging	3:00pm	Telemagazine	12:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00pm	Fouye Zo Nan Kalalou (Live call-in)	4:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	1:00pm	Somerville Film Group
9:00am	SCATV Presents Potluck and Lecture Series	9:30pm	The White House Chronicle	4:30pm	Culture Club	2:00pm	Exercise with Robyn and Max
10:00am	Somerville Neighborhood News	10:00pm	Somerville Film Group	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	2:30pm	Esoteric Science
10:30am	Art at SCATV	11:00pm	Art as Protest	6:00pm	Pearls of Irregular Shape	4:00pm	Free Speech Television
11:00am	Abugida TV	<b>Friday, June 26</b>		7:00pm	Somerville Film Group	5:00pm	Henry Parker Presents
12:00pm	The Big Picture with Thom Hartmann Show	6:00pm	Somerville Film Group	7:30pm	Creative Somerville	5:30pm	Literati Scene
1:30pm	Henry Parker Presents	7:30am	Shrink Rap	8:00pm	David Pakman (Free Speech TV)	6:00pm	Ville Pirates
2:00pm	Physician Focus	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	6:30pm	Youth Programing
2:30pm	SCATV Presents	9:00am	SCATV Presents Potluck and Lecture Series	10:00pm	Open Line News with Davey D	7:00pm	The Somerville Line
4:00pm	Free Speech Television	10:00am	Pearls of Irregular Shape	11:00pm	Gay News USA (Free Speech TV)	8:00pm	Abugida TV
5:00pm	Energy Theater	11:00am	Henry Parker Presents:	<b>Sunday, June 28</b>		9:00pm	Dedilhando au Saudade
6:00pm	Ville Pirates	12:00pm	Brunch with Sen. Bernie Sanders	6:00am	Program Celebrai	10:00pm	Bate Papo com Shirley
6:30pm	Somerville Housing Authority	1:00pm	Creative Somerville Series	7:00am	Rompendo em Fe	11:00pm	The Entertainer's Show
7:00pm	Art as Protest	2:00pm	SCATV Presents Honk Festival	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ	<b>Tuesday, June 30</b>	
8:00pm	Somerville Pundits	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	7:00am	The Struggle
8:30pm	The Steve Katsos Show	4:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)	10:00am	Evangelico	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00pm	Bay State Biking News	5:00pm	Somerville Jazz Festival 2014	10:30am	Active Aging	9:00am	The Struggle
10:00pm	Art at SCATV	5:30pm	Mystic Learning Center: Variety Hour	11:00am	Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer	10:00am	Shrink Wrap
10:30pm	SCATV Presents Honk Festival	6:00pm	Somerville Housing Authority	11:30am	Taking Back Your Health	11:00am	Wicked Sober
11:00pm	Visual Radio	6:30pm	Art at SCATV	12:00pm	Inside Talk	11:30am	Ablevision
<b>Thursday, June 25</b>		7:00pm	Somerville Film Group:	12:30pm	Somerville Film Group	12:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show (Free Speech TV)
6:00am	Atheist Viewpoint	8:00pm	Pearls of Irregular Shape	1:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	1:00pm	Art as Protest
7:00am	Creating Cooperative Kids	9:00pm	Energy Theater	1:30pm	Somerville Journal & Times Reading	2:00pm	Art at SCATV
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:30pm	The Steve Katsos Show	2:00pm	Legacies - A SCATV Production	2:30pm	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show
9:00am	Cancer Explained!	10:00pm	The Somerville Line	2:30pm	Life Matters	3:00pm	Tele Galxie
9:30am	Girls Talk	11:00pm	Acronym TV (Free Speech TV)	3:00pm	Rompendo em Fe	4:00pm	Ring of Fire (Free Speech TV)
10:00am	Dead Air Live	11:30pm	Wikiest link	4:00pm	Dedilhando a Saudade	5:00pm	Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer
11:00am	Greater Somerville	<b>Saturday, June 27</b>		5:00pm	Race, Community, and Police Relations	5:30pm	The Literati Scene
11:30am	Ablevision	6:00am	Arabic Hour	6:00pm	Abugida TV	6:00pm	Creative Somerville
12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show (Free Speech TV)	7:00am	The Somerville Line	7:00pm	African Television Network	6:30pm	Culture Club
1:00pm	Chef's Table Series	8:00am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	8:00pm	Tele Magazine	7:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News
2:00pm	Neighborhood Cooking w/ Candy	8:30am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	9:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	7:30pm	Greater Somerville
2:30pm	Cooking with Georgia & Dez	9:00am	Festival Kreyol	<b>Monday, June 29</b>		8:00pm	Dead Air Live
3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	10:00am	Tele Galaxie	6:00am	Ablevision	9:00pm	Energy Theater
4:00pm	Free Speech Television	11:00am	Dead Air Live	6:30am	Creating Cooperative Kids	11:00pm	The David Pakman Show (Free Speech TV)
5:00pm	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	12:00pm	Honk Festival	7:30am	Eckankar		
5:30pm	Eat Well Be Happy Cooking Show	12:30pm	Taking Back Your Health	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)		

City Cable TV Schedule for the Week

<b>CITY TV 13/22</b>		1:25am:	Porchfest 2015	<b>Wednesday, June 24</b>		3:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
<b>Wednesday, June 24</b>		2:25am:	Connecting Communities – Alderman Bob McWatters	9:00am:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience	5:00pm:	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert
9:00am:	SomerViva em Kreyol	3:15am:	Taste of Somerville	10:00am:	Kennedy School Drama Club	5:30pm:	Kennedy School Drama Club
12:00pm:	Board of Aldermen: Budget Hearing	9:00am:	SomerViva em Portugues	12:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball	7:00pm:	Healey School Instrumental Spring Concert
4:00pm:	Somerville Preservation Awards	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	1:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball	7:30pm:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience
6:30pm:	SomerViva em Portugues	12:30pm:	SomerViva en Espanol	3:00pm:	Capuano School Spring Concert	8:30pm:	Healey School K-2 Spring Concert
7:00pm:	Board of Aldermen: Budget Hearing/Cut Night - 6.23.15	1:00pm:	Milk Row Cemetery Tour	4:00pm:	Argenziano School Spring Concert	9:00pm:	Argenziano School Spring Concert
<b>Thursday, June 25</b>		2:00pm:	Somerville Preservation Awards	5:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience	10:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball
12:00am:	Aldermen at Work – Mark Niedergang	4:00pm:	Taste of Somerville	6:00pm:	Kennedy School Drama Club	<b>Sunday, June 28</b>	
12:30am:	SomerViva em Portugues	6:30pm:	Congressional Update	8:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball	12:00am:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
1:00am:	Congressional Update	7:00pm:	Senior Circuit	9:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball	1:30am:	Argenziano School Memorial Day Concert
2:00am:	Connecting Communities – Aldermen Bob McWatters	7:30pm:	Congressional Update	11:00pm:	Capuano School Spring Concert	2:30am:	Public Domain Theater
2:30am:	SomerViva em Kreyol	8:00pm:	SomerViva em Portugues	<b>Thursday, June 25</b>		9:00am:	Healey School Instrumental Spring Concert
9:00am:	Taste of Somerville	8:30pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting - REPLAY	12:00am:	Argenziano School Spring Concert	10:00am:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball
9:15am:	Congressional Update	<b>Monday, June 29</b>		1:00am:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball	11:00am:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	12:00am:	Senior Circuit	2:00am:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball	1:00pm:	Capuano School Spring Concert
12:30pm:	SomerViva en Espanol	12:30am:	Somerville Preservation Awards	9:00am:	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert	2:00pm:	Kennedy School Drama Club
1:00pm:	Aldermen at Work – Mark Niedergang	2:30pm:	SomerViva em Portugues	10:00am:	Healey School K-2 Spring Concert	4:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience
1:30pm:	SCAP Annual Meeting	3:00pm:	Milk Row Cemetery Tour	11:00am:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience	5:00pm:	Healey School Instrumental Spring Concert
3:00pm:	Congressional Update	9:00am:	Somerville By Design: Union Square	12:00pm:	Healey School Instrumental Spring Concert	6:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball
3:30pm:	LGBTQ Flag Raising	12:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting - REPLAY	1:00pm:	SHS Graduation 2015	7:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
4:00pm:	BOA Agenda for 6.25.15 Meeting	3:30pm:	Congressional Update	3:00pm:	Capuano School Spring Concert	9:00pm:	Capuano School Spring Concert
7:00pm:	Board of Aldermen Meeting - LIVE	4:00pm:	The History of Somerville Agriculture	4:00pm:	Argenziano School Heritage Night	10:00pm:	Kennedy School Drama Club
<b>Friday, June 26</b>		7:00pm:	Family Fun Day 2015	5:00pm:	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert	<b>Monday, June 29</b>	
12:00am:	The History of Agriculture in Somerville	7:15pm:	Somerville Preservation Awards	6:00pm:	Healey School K-2 Spring Concert	12:00am:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience
1:00pm	Porchfest 2015	9:15pm	Somerville By Design: Union Square	7:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience	1:00am:	Chris Herren Speaks to SHS
2:00am:	Congressional Update	<b>Tuesday, June 30</b>		8:00pm:	Healey School Instrumental Spring Concert	9:00am:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience
2:30am:	Taste of Somerville	12:00am:	Taste of Somerville	9:00pm:	SHS Graduation 2015	10:00am:	Kennedy School Drama Club
9:00am:	SomerStreets: Carnaval on Broadway	12:30am:	Connecting Communities – Alderman Bob McWatters	11:00pm:	Capuano School Spring Concert	12:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball
12:00pm:	Somerville Preservation Awards	1:00am:	SomerStreets – Carnaval on Broadway	<b>Friday, June 26</b>		1:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
2:00pm:	Board of Aldermen: Budget Hearing	1:30am:	The History of Agriculture in Somerville	12:00am:	Argenziano School Heritage Night	3:00pm:	Capuano School Spring Concert
6:00pm:	2015 Memorial Day Parade	2:30am:	E. Somerville Walking Tour	1:00am:	SHS Baseball v St. Clement	4:00pm:	Argenziano School Spring Concert
8:00pm:	Board of Aldermen: Budget Hearing	9:00am:	LGBTQ Flag Raising	2:30am:	Public Domain Theater	5:00pm:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience
<b>Saturday, June 27</b>		9:15am:	Family Fun Day 2015	9:00am:	Class of '15 Scholarship Awards Night	6:00pm:	Kennedy School Drama Club
12:00am:	Congressional Update	12:00pm:	Senior Circuit	11:30am:	Healey School K-2 Spring Concert	8:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball
12:30am:	The History of Agriculture in Somerville	12:30pm:	LGBTQ Flag Raising	12:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball	9:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
1:30am:	Somerville en Espanol	12:45pm:	The History of Agriculture in Somerville	1:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball	11:00pm:	Capuano School Spring Concert
2:00am:	E. Somerville Walking Tour	1:45pm:	Taste of Somerville	3:00pm:	Argenziano School Spring Concert	<b>Tuesday, June 30</b>	
9:00am:	Congressional Update	2:05pm:	Congressional Update	4:00pm:	Kennedy School Drama Club	12:00am:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
12:00pm:	Somerville By Design: Union Square - 6.24.15	2:35pm:	SomerStreets: Carnaval on Broadway	6:00pm:	Class of '15 Scholarship Awards Night	1:00am:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball
1:30pm:	SCAP Annual Meeting	3:00pm:	Family Fun Day 2015	8:30pm:	Healey School K-2 Spring Concert	2:30am:	Public Domain Theater
3:00pm:	2015 Memorial Day Parade	6:30pm:	SomerViva em Portugues	9:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball	9:00am:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience
6:30pm:	SomerViva em Portugues	7:00pm:	SomerStreets: Carnaval on Broadway	10:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Boys' Basketball	10:00am:	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert
7:00pm:	SomerStreets: Carnaval on Broadway	7:30pm:	Taste of Somerville	<b>Saturday, June 27</b>		11:00am:	Class of '15 Scholarship Awards Night
7:00pm:	Taste of Somerville	8:20pm:	SCAP Annual Meeting	12:00am:	Argenziano School Spring Concert	2:00pm:	WHCS Spring Concert
7:30pm:	Somerville By Design: Union Square - 6.24.15	10:00pm:	Congressional Update	1:00am:	Argenziano School Spring Concert	3:00pm:	Healey School Instrumental Spring Concert
<b>Sunday, June 28</b>		12:00am:	Senior Circuit	9:00am:	Kennedy School K-3 Spring Concert	4:00pm:	SHS Multicultural Fair
12:00am:	SomerViva en Espanol	12:30am:	Congressional Update	9:30am:	Kennedy School Drama Club	5:00pm:	WHCS Spring Concert
12:30am:	Aldermen at Work – Mark Niedergang	1:00am:	SomerViva en Espanol	11:00am:	Healey School Instrumental Spring Concert	6:00pm:	Healey School Instrumental Spring Concert
1:00am:	SomerViva em Kreyol	1:30am:	Somerville Preservation Awards	11:30am:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience	7:00pm:	Somerville Cares About Prevention Mtg.
		3:30pm:	2015 Memorial Day Parade	12:30pm:	Healey School K-2 Spring Concert	9:00pm:	Class of '15 Scholarship Awards Night
		<b>EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL 15</b>		1:00pm:	Argenziano School Spring Concert	12:00am:	Our Schools, Our City - the SPS Experience
				2:00pm:	7th & 8th Grade Girls' Basketball	12:30am:	Kennedy School Drama Club
						2:00am:	Argenziano School Spring Concert



OFF THE SHELF  
by Doug Holder

An interview with Somerville, Mass. author Pagan Kennedy, concerning her life and work

This is an interview I conducted with Pagan Kennedy for The Somerville Times back in 2002:

Pagan Kennedy, a critically acclaimed Somerville, Massachusetts novelist, once described the city she calls home as “a rock and roll, Vietnamese student neighborhood part of Boston.” Much like Somerville itself, Kennedy has changed a bit since then. This writer, who has written about everything from rock musicians in the hardscrabble hoods of Boston, to two eccentric spinsters who hit the road, has taken a new direction in her writing. Kennedy has just completed an accomplished work of nonfiction entitled *BLACK LIVING-STONE: A TRUE TALE OF ADVENTURE IN THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY CONGO*. This book concerns the experiences of a black American missionary, William Sheppard, who traveled to the Congo in the late 19th century. Sheppard exposed the cruelties of the Belgian colonists, and worked to dispel the “savage” stereotype of native African tribes, that was rampant in white Europe. I talked to Ms. Kennedy at Starbucks in the heart of Somerville’s Davis Square, a stone’s throw from downtown Boston.

DH: Why did you become a writer?

PK: Wow. That all happened so long ago. In college I took some writing courses, and had the experience of stories, just coming to me. I had this coat that I bought at a thrift store, that was very much the picture of faded elegance. I began to see the character who had it before. A white Russian baroness. I made up this whole story, wrote it down, and this was my first short story. It was the experience of something coming full-blown out of my subconscious, that spurred me on. I had no control over it. I wanted to learn how to consciously bring these experiences on. So, I took writing classes in college.

When I graduated I worked for the *VILLAGE VOICE* as an arts journalist. I did everything. I was a gopher, and I wrote literary criticism, etc. In New York City I lived in eight places in two years. I couldn’t take it anymore. I had friends who lived in the Boston area. I moved into a group home in Allston (a section of Boston) for \$160/month.

You could live for next to nothing then. Now, you can’t do that anymore.

DH: You have lived in New York City, Baltimore, Allston, and you have been in Somerville for awhile now. What is it about the city that draws you here?

PK: I have lived in Somerville for five years. There was a time when I said, “I will never move across the river.” My image of growing up, was moving to Somerville (laughs). This is not everyone’s idea of growing up and becoming an adult.

I had a whole bunch of friends in Allston. We had a vision of the kind of artistic community we wanted to form there. This was a place with cafes and venues. We tried to make that happen. I managed to buy a house with a friend. A tiny, falling-apart house that cost very little. We had a coup with that house. We were living in Lower Allston, but I became disenchanted. We watched Harvard knock down historic buildings, and put in box stores. The world we wanted to create was destroyed. This broke my heart. I felt there was no chance for Allston.

I bought a house in Somerville some 5 years ago. In Somerville I found what I was looking for in Allston. It is the most inspiring arts community I have ever been part of.

DH: Your first novel was *SPINSTERS*. In this novel you capture the sensibility of two spinster sisters, whose stifling stasis is threatened by a rapidly changing world. What experiences did you draw on to flesh out these two eccentric characters?

PK: *SPINSTERS* was a combination of two obsessions of mine. One was the rapid change in the country during 1968. I wrote my senior thesis about this. The other side for me in that book was my Southern roots. My grandmother’s family was full of spinsters. My grandmother collected hundreds of family anecdotes. She carried on the oral tradition. She was obviously married, but she was fascinated by all the spinsters, and celebrated them in stories. The South really loves their eccentrics. This leached through in my work, without me intending it to.

I was nominated for the Orange Award (British Award) as a result of this novel. I got to read with all these amazing women, like Amy Tan, Mary Anne Wiggins, Salman Rushdie’s ex-wife) and others.

DH: I also understand that you have put out your own little magazine or “zine”, *PAGAN’S HEAD*, that was actually picked up by St. Martin’s Press. I’ve been involved with the Small Press for years. I think it serves as the “minor leagues” of writing, and sometimes people go on to bigger and better



things. Any comment?

PK: Boston was a hub in the 80’s for the zine scene. I had graduated from grad school in fiction writing. I found a real antidote in the zine world for some of the ills of the Lit world, like its over-seriousness and rigidity. I started to embrace it and put out my own zine. With 50 copies of my own zine, people would stop me on the street, and say, “Hey, Pagan, I read your piece!” It was really fun because it was so community-minded. I like zines that break the form. The person who collects Pez dispensers, and makes up a zine for it. The best zines are about community.

DH: You have just finished a book, *BLACK LIVING-STONE...*, that is a departure from your usual fare. Sheppard was a black man who ran in direct opposition to the conventions of the time. He was a missionary in Africa, when this vocation was usually reserved for whites. He discovered the sophisticated Kuba tribe in the Congo, and spread the word about these aristocratic people around Europe. He was a crusader against racism, a truly unique character. Why have you gone from writing about fictional rock musicians in Boston, to writing about a true-to-life, charismatic Black missionary who travels to the Congo in the 1890’s?

PK: I have done a number of nonfiction books. I’ve always done a lot of journalism. This was a great story. I found out about this story that no one told before. I burned with a desire to tell this story. I read about William Sheppard (the Black missionary) in a book. He was a side-character. I then searched for his own writing. This enchanted me all the more. He really wrote in that boy’s adventure style, a very 19th century way. There was something very familiar about the way he put together stories and his sense of humor. I really didn’t think I was writing a book. I just wanted to understand who this guy had been. I was fascinated by this story because it was a reverse *HEART OF DARKNESS*. Through my grandmother I learned that her first cousin replaced Sheppard at his job. At this point I was off and running. I thought this was beyond a coincidence. I felt I had to do this.

DH: Do you think this was a book that needed to be written?

PK: First off it was a great story. William Sheppard was completely lost to history. The story of black missionaries who went to Africa in the 19th century has been lost. This was a certain moment in time where all this could happen, before it was seen as threatening by the white world.

DH: Do you think William H. Sheppard shared any traits with your fictional characters?

PK: People who have vivid internal lives, and what happens when they try to realize it. The tragedies and ecstasies that come about, as a result. It is so difficult to map your vision to the world. So Sheppard fascinated me. To write about a black man was a leap and the fact that he was a missionary was a leap.

DH: How did you manage to portray Sheppard’s internal life and the racist milieu he lived in?

PK: It was hard to get into Sheppard’s internal life., There were things he couldn’t say. I did an enormous amount of research about his contemporaries. There are well-documented scenes, where I gave a fully fleshed account. I tried to create scenes that would give the reader a sense that they were there. I didn’t put words into Sheppard’s mouth. I tried to fill in the patches of his life in America, where he couldn’t openly complain about racism. I felt a deep moral obligation to say this is what he faced.

DH: Moving from the Congo to Somerville, where in Somerville do you hang out?

PK: I love the Diesel Cafe. I have so many friends here, so I find I spend time at their houses. It’s like a big family.

Lyrical  
SOMERVILLE  
edited by Doug Holder

Poet Mary Buchinger reminded me recently that the first poem she published was in Somerville’s literary magazine *Ibbetson Street* that I founded with Dianne Robitaille, and Richard Wilhelm in 1998. So it is a pleasure to have her here in the *LYRICAL*, in celebration of a new collection of poetry she released, *Aerialist*.



Photo by Tony Majahad

Mary Buchinger of Cambridge celebrated a book launch at the Grolier this month for her new book of poems entitled *Aerialist* (Gold Wake Press, 2015; shortlisted for the May Swenson Poetry Award/Utah State University Press, the OSU Press/The Journal Wheeler Prize, and the Perugia Press Prize). Writing about *Aerialist*, Bob Brooks, poet and author of *Un-guarded Crossing and Subverse*, notes: “A typical poem in Mary Buchinger’s wonderfully titled collection displays, like the *Aerialist* herself, the strength to maintain both motion and pinpoint grace and look good doing it. But the collection’s scope extends far beyond this, ranging from sturdy memory-intensive stories of farm life in the thumb of Michigan to impressions painted as with a single hair (the Proust poems) and from metaphysical speculations (*Redeem/the unread vision*) and queries (*The Latest Rapture*) to linguistic hijinks (*Call, Me, Ishmael*). Among many outstanding pieces are one entitled *We wander through the cemetery*, which reproduces an ambulatory recollection of a companion’s great-aunt, studded with small surprises set forth among the quiet features of the cemetery and ending on a note that lingers deliciously. Meanwhile the *Aerialist* rises from her seat on the subway and performs hanging from the hand-straps. In the concluding poem, a final delight (*On the River’s Edge*), geese in the river float on the water, feel the winter’s ice in the sky, and say, “We live in two places at once, /Hwaann! Hwaann! You too. You too.” This is an exciting and satisfying collection.

Poem from *Aerialist*, by Mary Buchinger:

On the river’s edge

geese float like speckled seeds.

Later, they will sprout wings, leave  
the naked frogs tumbling in the current.

The geese sip air and water alike, press against  
the liquids, they too feel the ice  
in the upper sky, suspended, crystallized.

They say, We live in two places at once,  
Hwaann! Hwaann! You too. You too.

— Mary Buchinger

To have your work considered for the *Lyrical* send it to:  
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