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The Somerville Times

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VOL. 8 NO. 25

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



Is there a doctor in the house?

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Shared Street in West Somerville

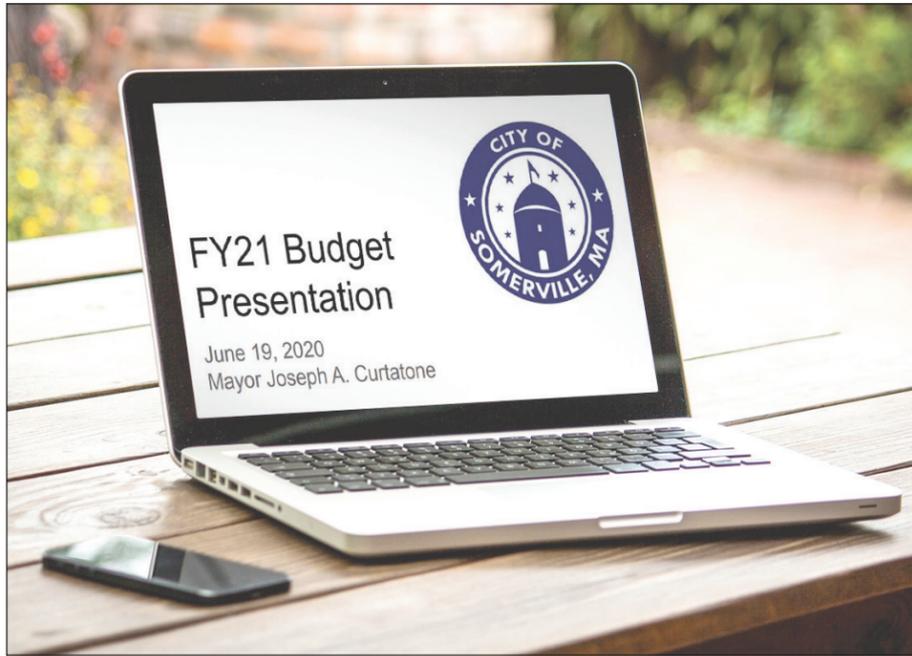
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A backyard prom night

page 11

Mayor Curtatone presents key points of proposed FY21 budget to City Council



Mayor Joseph Curtatone offered a presentation to the Somerville City Council outlining his recommendations for the FY21 city budget.

By Alberto Gilman

Somerville City Council President Matthew McLaughlin called a Special Meeting of the Council for consideration of the Fiscal Year 2021 municipal budget and all related financial matters on Friday, June 19.

All eleven councilors were present. The first item on the agenda was a request for the appropriation of \$246,471,192. This would go to fund the FY21 General Fund Operating Budget.

Mayor Joseph Curtatone gave a presentation on the FY21 Budget to the Council. Before he began, he first recognized Juneteenth and then asked for a moment of silence for the thirty residents who were confirmed to have died due to COVID-19.

Next, the mayor addressed key points of the FY21 proposed budget: *Continued on page 4*

Somerville summer fun on the way

Pools, playgrounds, and splash pads will be opening in Somerville soon with new safety protocols in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The city is also putting summer face covering guidelines into effect. Effective immediately, face coverings are still required for people ages 2 and up at all times when in public both indoors and outdoors, with the exception that during the hot weather season masks may be removed temporarily when outdoors if a distance of at least six feet from others can be maintained. Medical and disability exceptions continue to apply. Finally, as part of the city's Beat the Heat efforts, all are encouraged to review our heat safety tips and ideas for keeping cool.

Pools open between June 26 and July 1:

The city operates two pools: the indoor Kennedy School pool at 5 Cherry St. and the outdoor Dilboy Pool at 324 Alewife Brook Parkway. Both are scheduled to open Wednesday, July 1. The state operates the Latta Pool at Foss Park at Broadway and McGrath, which will open Friday, June 26. *Continued on page 4*



Recreational facilities will be opening up soon all across the city, inviting residents and visitors alike to enjoy long awaited summer fun.

ATTN: LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

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NEWSTALK

The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

Welcome to **summer**, Somerville! We've been cooped up for several months now, so we're raring to get out there and enjoy some fresh air and warm sunshine. Just remember to keep practicing safe distancing and face mask usage. Protect yourself and others now, just as you have been throughout the pre-summer months.

The city is reminding us all that we can help our neighbors stay safe and cool at home this summer by **donating a new, packaged air conditioner or box fan** that the **Somerville Council on Aging** will deliver to Somerville seniors in need. Drop off new air conditioners and box fans on **Saturday, June 27, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, at the **Department of Public Works, 1 Franey Rd.** For safety reasons, all donated equipment must be new and in original packaging. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we'll all be spending more time at home, and that's the safest place to stay cool. A new, efficient air conditioner or fan can help our senior friends and neighbors stay safe and comfortable at home. The Council on Aging will distribute the donated cooling equipment on the basis of medical and financial need. Questions about the program can be directed to ose@somervillema.go.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to a good guy, **Jonathan Buck**, who celebrates this week. He currently lives in Winter Hill and is well known there. We wish a very happy birthday to a great person and longtime resident of Somerville, **Paula LeBlanc**. She is very committed to her work as a paralegal at attorney **Sean O'Donovan's** law office. She is great! Go on Facebook and wish her a very happy birthday. We wish her the very best and that all her wishes come true, and soon. Happy birthday to a former writer here at *The Times* who has moved on, **Beecher Tuttle**. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Hugo A Volpe, John O'Rourke, Rick Sylvester, Cory Mashburn, Mike Bonanno, Diane Dee-Dee Smith, Mark Anthony Anderson**, and *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 24 – June 30 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday June 24	Thunderstorms	85°/67°	39%	39%	SSW 9 mph
 Thursday June 25	Partly Cloudy	87°/66°	11%	17%	WSW 10 mph
 Friday June 26	Thunderstorms	85°/65°	40%	38%	WSW 10 mph
 Saturday June 27	Cloudy	89°/71°	19%	21%	SW 13 mph
 Sunday June 28	Partly Cloudy	84°/66°	20%	22%	W 11 mph
 Monday June 29	Rain	83°/66°	31%	27%	N 9 mph
 Tuesday June 30	Partly Cloudy	83°/67°	20%	21%	ENE 8 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: **Somerville's second Shared Streets route to open in West Somerville**

Arthur Moore says:

Complete waste of time and money. The ones on Jacques disappear several times a day as people move them out of the way to get by. They get run over. Some residents try to keep up with putting them back with no success. The system is not enforced anyway so no one really pays attention to them anyway. So we waste time and money on these stupid things for what? And traffic is getting bad again the the city now that more people are driving. Broadway Winter Hill is now backed up a lot. Maybe if we had someone knowledgeable in the traffic department we could get this on track. This is going to get really bad quickly as people are using their cars more each day and less public transportation. It is what is expected to happen. But as usual Somerville is too far behind on things to handle it. We need to get the economy back on track assap.

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

There certainly are a lot of scofflaws and generally selfish people messing things up for normal people these days. Best thing we can do is clean up after them. Upright those cones and try to shame the louts into compliance. Defund the narcissists.

Villinous says:

I've been biking up Winter Hill a lot recently just to get in some hill work. It is nothing close to backed up. And, as a Union area resident, I'm waiting for some of these shared streets to come my way. I'll be using them for sure.

Response to: **Our Somerville dads**

Paula LeBlanc says:

Jimmy:
Your dad was the BEST....I remember him always poking me at church with the basket during collections....I have such fond memories of him...He was a very kind and generous man...

Cheryl Benoit says:

Great and thoughtful article, thank you for posting these comments, fathers Day is a special day for a lot of families. Even for those who lost their Dads, you helped pull out the special memories.

Philip ODonnell says:

Thanks for including the picture of my dad. The last one in your article.

Elizabeth Mac says:

thank you jimmy great memories. missing my dad today

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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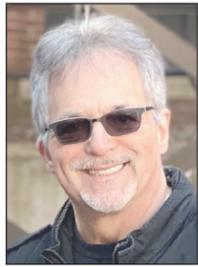
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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

House calls



When I was a kid our family Doctor made house calls. Just in that sentence alone there are two things that are now obsolete, "family Doctor" and "house

calls." I did an entire story on our former family doctor, Harry Goldenberg. He would show up at our house at all hours of the day or night. He used to give my parents free samples of medicines and vitamins. I recall vividly seeing Dr. Goldenberg walk up our stairs carrying his black bag. I also used to show up at his office near Powder House Park when I felt too sick to go to school.

There used to be a chiropractor in Winthrop who would crack your neck for 50 cents. People would line up in front of his house waiting to see him. Times have changed. The doctors at



our health providers have hundreds of patients. Gone are the days of the family doctor going to visit a patient in their home. You pretty much have to call in an emergency to get personal medical attention or make an appointment and go to an office. And now we can have virtual doctor visits.

Sometimes in the old days, the family doctor arrived in his pajamas at all hours of the day or night.

Some of my friends had the same family doctor that we had. I sparked up a conversation among Somerville people discussing our old family doctors. I've compiled a list. I hope I have the spelling correct. First some recollections.

— Dr. Letty used to chase you around the table. So he could give you a shot

— Dr. Rosenthal; he was a wonderful doctor and became a close family friend, especially him and my father. He delivered our twin siblings and my parents named our brother Charles after him.

— When I was a kid I got thrown into a swimming pool, there was a sharp piece of metal on the bottom from a toy motor boat, it sliced my back open he stitched my back up. I still have the scar!

— Dr. Wilson, on College Ave. Louds Candy Store was always a treat after, especially if I had to get a shot.

— Dr. Mucci, delivered me and also gave



me my blood test for my marriage license.

— Dr. Backer he was the best. He also sat one night in the hospital with my baby, while I was home 9 months pregnant with my third child.

— Dr. Priestley. He made house calls. When I was about four years old I caught the Polio virus and was VERY sick. He came to our house to treat me. Here is a list of some of the Doctors that treated us Somerville folks back in the day.

Dr. Goldenburg, Dr. Mucci, Dr. Leavitts, Dr. Covino, Dr. Grillone, Dr. Szwarc, Dr. Russo, Dr. Dewire, Dr. Rob-

inson, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Adler, Dr. Patslano, Dr. Hodos, Dr. Titelbaum, Dr. Covino, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Carr, Dr. Fraser, Dr. Picariello, Dr. Baldassari, Dr. Peters, Dr. Dente, Dr. Sweeney, Dr. McGovern, Dr. Fagan, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Wilson, Dr. LaBella, Dr. Bombacci, Dr. Russman, Dr. Arthur, Dr. MCarthy, Dr. Osler, Dr. Rosenthal, Dr. Cromer, Dr. Ciampa, Dr. Sheely, Dr. Fred, Dr. Connors, Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Amia, Dr. Gonella, Dr. Backer, Dr. Carr, Dr. Torreysap, Dr. Bloom, Dr. Sewall, Dr. Marks, Dr. Ready, Dr. Saunders, Dr. Leebo, *Continued on page 5*

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Per the order of government restrictions in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19, we are only open for **take out and delivery** until further notice.

Please note that we are offering in addition to our full menu platters and trays of food to go as well.

For delivery, please visit [doordash.com](https://www.doordash.com)

Our menus and specials are posted on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Vernon-Restaurants-103209019028/>

We ask you to bear with us while we implement these guidelines. The safety of our patrons and employees remain our number one priority as we continue to operate and maintain our small business during this difficult time.

Our hours of operation moving forward will be **12:00 to 8:00 p.m. until further notice.**

Be safe and stay healthy – The Mount Vernon Restaurant

Somerville summer fun on the way CONT. FROM PG 1

All have new COVID safety guidelines and protocols, including:

- Outdoor pools are open to all.

- The indoor pool at the Kennedy School will be available to youth leagues and camps, and family swim will be available with restrictions. Only one parent/guardian allowed per household to adhere to the indoor limitations.

- Pool attendees must socially distance (remain at least 6 feet apart from persons who are not members of your household) on the pool deck, when in the water, and in restrooms. Locker rooms and changing areas will be closed.

- Except when in the pool itself, face coverings must be worn at all times by persons age 2 and older. Persons unable to wear a mask for medical or disability reasons are exempt. Face coverings cannot be worn in the pool itself for safety reasons, and swimmers should maintain social distancing in the water.

- Pools will have decreased occupancy.

- Pool hours will be staggered to allow for cleaning. New pool hours will be posted on www.somerville.com and, once they are set, will be available by calling 311.

- Swimming lessons will not be offered.

Summer face covering guidelines in effect

The short of it: Effective immediately, during the summer months, when you are outside

and able to social distance at least six feet from others, you may temporarily remove your face covering but must put it back on when others are nearby. The city will review face covering guidelines again in September.

The specifics: The city's summer face coverings order still requires face coverings in all public indoor spaces (including stores, restaurants when not eating, and common areas in multi-unit buildings) and all outdoor public spaces (including during physical activities), but face coverings may be temporarily removed when outside if you are able to be at least six feet away from others. If you are planning to take your mask off outside, make sure to still carry it with you, and immediately put it on if other people are approaching. When others are approaching at about 30-foot distance, which is about the length of a bus, start putting your mask back on to ensure everyone has time to get their faces covered before crossing paths. Also remember to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth when putting on or removing a mask.

Please continue to put the safety of others first. In busy areas such as business districts or crowded parks, you may find it's easiest and safest to keep your face covering on rather than pull it on and off repeatedly or be caught by surprise by a close passerby. Likewise, you may find the greatest opportunity to take advantage of the summer

guidelines when on quieter side streets and in parks that are not crowded.

Please remember, children under the age of two should not wear a face covering, and persons who are not able to wear a face covering for medical or disability reasons are exempt from the requirement.

Playgrounds, splash pads, basketball hoops, and rinks:

Playgrounds will open and basketball hoops will be unblocked on Monday, June 29. Spray decks/splash pads will open Wednesday, July 1. No games or scrimmages are allowed on the basketball courts. We strongly recommend that you do not share balls, gear, or any other materials with anyone outside your household.

The Department of Public Works will adhere to CDC recommendations for cleaning the city's 60 playgrounds, tot lots, athletic equipment facilities, and 20 water play features on a weekly rotation weather-permitting. This includes the cleaning of high touch plastic and metal surfaces with a "green" detergent or cleaner and water.

Water play areas will be opened with social distancing rules. In parks where the water play area attracts crowds that fail to observe social distancing measures, the feature may have to be turned off. To avoid the loss of these important and popular cooling and recreation features, we strongly advise all residents to learn the rules and adhere to them.



Basketball hoops will be unblocked. However, to prevent close contact that could spread the virus, no games or scrimmages are allowed. Similar to water play areas, if social distancing can't be practiced, hoops may be reblocked. Again, the city urges all users to follow the guidelines so that the actions of some don't cost access to these important recreational courts for all.

Ice Rinks are now open with additional safety protocols, but have limited capacity and are only open for organized youth leagues and youth programs.

Additional tips on staying cool during COVID-19:

Because of COVID-19, the city may not be able to open cooling centers this summer in the event of extreme heat. Many of the places people may go to cool off -- like libraries, movie theaters, and malls -- may remain closed as well. Here are some tips on staying safe in the heat:

- Drink plenty of water. Bring a water bottle with you when heading outside. Public water fountains are currently turned

off to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

- Wear a wide-brimmed hat and lightweight, light-colored clothing.

- Never leave children or pets in a car unattended. This includes when running out for curbside pickup or other quick errands. Even a few minutes unattended in a hot car can be dangerous or deadly.

- Avoid strenuous activities, especially in the middle of the day when temperatures are the highest.

- Watch for symptoms of heat exhaustion (feeling dizzy, excessive sweating, cool and clammy skin, muscle cramps) and heat stroke (throbbing headache, not sweating, hot and dry skin, nausea or vomiting).

- If you are concerned about the cost of running a fan or air conditioner, check to see if you are eligible to receive a discounted electricity rate from EverSource to help lower your electricity bills.

For more tips on staying cool this summer visit www.somervillema.gov/keepcool.

Mayor Curtatone presents key initiatives of proposed FY21 budget to City Council CONT. FROM PG 1

Facing unprecedented challenges, targeting new operational investments and racial and social justice investments.

The continued battle against the virus, the concern of healthcare, the economic backlash, and the outcry for social justice across America is a difficult series of crises that Curtatone hopes the city can overcome together.

"This time is truly difficult for all of us," the mayor said. "What we can provide in the face of all these changes is stability and dependability. Our residents deserve the peace of mind."

Curtatone acknowledged his staff and other members who contributed and worked on creating the budget for the city. The budget would cover the next 12 months and if debate on it continued, a provisional appropriation would be put into effect.

The mayor discussed several economic highlights: \$6.7 million lost in State Revenue, \$3 million lost in Fines and Forfeits, \$700 thousand lost in Licenses and Permits, \$1 million lost in Parking Meter Receipts and \$2.3 million lost in Excise Taxes. While federal aid is not currently optimal, the city itself is maintaining and managing this crisis on its own.

Curtatone thanked all the government and city departments that have gone above and beyond their usual duties during the pandemic. With that said, there will be no furloughs or layoffs during this crisis.

In order to help bring back revenue and stability going forward, the mayor discussed additional money going into the budget through previous savings and plans, and the implemen-

tation of a construction safety fee that will bring in a projected \$590,000 in additional revenue.

Even with the idea of the budget and getting back on track, Curtatone emphasized the need to remain alert. "We have to certainly keep in mind and remember that COVID-19 pandemic is still with us, people are going to continue to get sick, we're going to be faced with a resurgence and undoubtedly people will die," the mayor said.

New operational investments highlighted by Curtatone are the Somerville High School Green Building Manager, new cyber security services, Stormwater Program Manager, and \$20,000 in supervised consumption site planning.

The Racial and Social Justice Project concluded the presentation by Curtatone, highlight-

ing the works and efforts taken during this time of civil unrest. Implementing 10 new commitments for police reform, drawn up by community leaders and other city officials, that will soon be put into effect.

The mayor described the project's five different areas: civilian oversight, reimaging policing, a new public safety model, a racial and social justice fund, the appointment of a Director of Racial and Social Justice and investments into this project.

The proposed investment amount for this project is \$1 million for FY21. As of right now, according to Curtatone, the Somerville Police Department already has one of the smallest forces out of the 25 most populous cities in Massachusetts. Most of the resources and additional focus will be devoted

to the Racial and Social Justice Project Fund.

Other initiatives proposed will target the future of the children and youth of Somerville. The school system will be increasing family and community liaisons: The Becoming a Man mentoring program, replacing security guards with Deans of Students, a second bilingual adjustment counselor at SHS, increase in funding for external student counseling, stipends for Equity Champions and increasing funding for Enroots services for new immigrants at SHS.

The mayor concluded with a thank you to all in attendance and the hard work they are doing. The meeting continued with a variety of questions from the remaining councilors about the budget and other items on the agenda.

Somerville Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee meets

By Rachel Berets

On Thursday, June 18, the Somerville Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee (PTAC) met virtually to discuss the Somerville Shared Streets initiative and ongoing construction, including the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority's Green Line Extension Project.

The Shared Streets project, which started in late May, aims to equip pedestrians and bikers with adequate space to social distance from one another. For example, residents will be able to step off of a narrow sidewalk into the open, but cordoned off, road to social distance from other pedestrians. According to the City of Somerville's website, "The Shared Streets initiative opens up low-volume or residential side-streets to pedestrians, cyclists, and other users while still allowing vehicle access for residents of the street, first re-

sponders, delivery drivers, sanitation trucks, and street sweepers."

The first phase of the initiative, "connected Winter Hill and East Somerville and passed by several food resources and schools," while the second phase of the initiative, set to open on Tuesday, June 23, "will provide access to the Stop & Shop on Alewife Brook Parkway, North Street Housing (which hosts the Somerville Mobile Farmers' Market on Saturdays starting July 11), the West Somerville Neighborhood School, David Square, and the Community Path," according to the City of Somerville's website. There are several more streets and curbs under consideration for future phases.

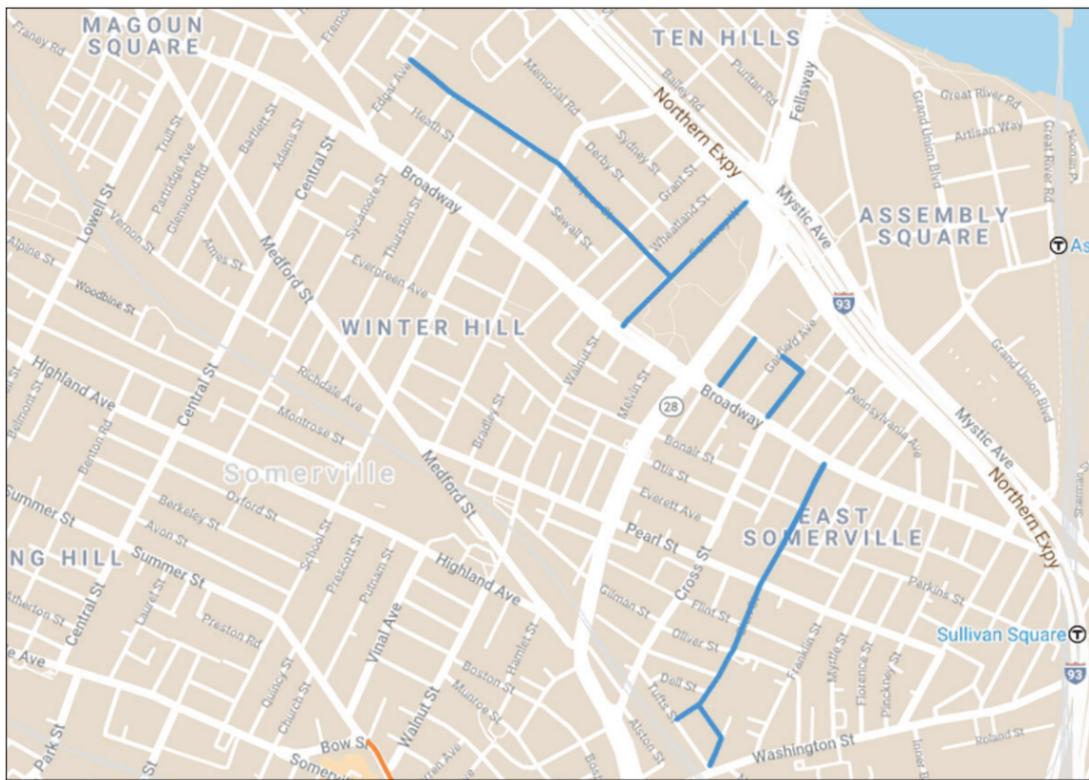
During the PTAC meeting, there was some concern about the availability of traffic cones, given the increase in shared streets and curb initiatives in several surrounding towns. There was also discussion of ad-

ditional signage and a possible advisory speed limit, given the increased pedestrian traffic.

Additionally, Somerville PTAC discussed a monitoring system run by volunteers to track the effectiveness of the Shared Streets initiative. Questions and comments about the initiative submitted by non-volunteers can be sent to transportation@somervillema.gov.

The Somerville PTAC also addressed the MBTA construction on the Green Line extension project, noting that Broadway and Washington Street are now open, but the School Street Bridge remains closed as does Medford Street.

More information about the Somerville PTAC and their projects can be found at <https://www.somervilleptac.org/> or <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/somerville-pedestrian-and-transit-advisory-committee>.



Map showing current Somerville Shared Streets locations.

House calls CONT. FROM PG 3

Dr. Tavares, Dr. Laird, Dr. Saibe, Dr. Hodos, Dr. MacKillop, Dr. Recepto, Dr. Pat Scelso, Df McDonald, Dr. Arbenne, Dr. Capone, Dr. Rosemovich, Dr. Kushner, Dr. Mullen, Dr. Yood, Dr. Priestley, Dr. Martin, Dr. Blesoff, Dr. Gonella, Dr. Avalon, Dr. Cozza, Dr. Arbeene, Dr. Giobbe, One Benton Road, Somerville Dr. Louis Giorgio, Dr. Letty, Dr. Vinny Boombatz,

Dr. Kildare, Dr. Howard, Dr. Fine, Dr. Howard.

I will let a friend sum it up; — Dr. Schwartz, Powder House Boulevard, Somerville. When my dad died at young age of 31 at home from fatal heart attack, Dr. Schwartz showed up at our house and stayed many hours comforting our family. What doctors do that these days? Make house

calls? Show up in the middle of the night and stay hours to comfort family? We will always remember those special doctors from decades ago.



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The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #207

The Summer Solstice

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

In the Northern hemisphere, June is the month that contains the longest day of the year. It has the most hours of daylight and the least of darkness. This year, June's summer solstice day fell coincidentally on 20, 2020. The 21st was Father's Day and the traditional beginning of summer. It's a popular time for weddings, deriving its name from Juno, the Roman goddess of love marriage.



June is the sixth month of the year, and its end represents the halfway mark in this unimaginable year of 2020. June is also a popular time for many historic dates:

- June 4, 1944 - Rome was liberated by the United States Fifth Army.
- June 6, 1944 - Was D-Day and World War II allies invaded France in the largest sea-born invasion in history.



• June 10, 1974 - The Arrow Paper Company fire occurred in Somerville. The Somerville Fire Department's headquarters at the Reilly Brickley Station on Winter Hill draws its name from those two firefighters who lost their lives at that horrific fire, Joseph Reilly and Robert Brickley.



• June 13, 1917 - General John Pershing, followed by the million-man American Expeditionary Force's soldiers, began arriving in France to fight in World War I. Somerville's Medal of Honor hero, George Dilbooy, was one of them.

• June 14, 1777 - Was the First American Flag Day and birth of the American Army.

• June 17, 1972 - A tragic fire at the Hotel Vendome in Boston took the lives of nine firefighters.

Over half of them were from Charlestown and Somerville.

• June 19, 1885 - The Statue of *Continued on page 10*

COMMENTARY

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

Updates on the city's response during the COVID-19 crisis

Normally there is an editorial from Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone in this space, but this week the city is instead sharing important information and updates about COVID-19.

Relaxed Summer Face Covering Rules

This summer the city's face covering order is being relaxed to allow for the removal of face coverings in outdoor public space when social distancing can be maintained. The city's summer face coverings order still requires face coverings in all public indoor spaces (including stores, restaurants when not eating, and common areas in multi-unit buildings) and all outdoor public spaces (including during physical activities). If you are planning to take your mask off outside, make sure to still carry it with you, and

immediately put it on if other people are approaching. When others are approaching at about 30 foot distance, which is about the length of a bus, start putting your mask back on to ensure everyone has time to get their faces covered before crossing paths. Also remember to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth when putting on or removing a mask.

Please continue to put the safety of others first. In busy areas it may be easiest and safest to keep your face covering on rather than pull it on and off repeatedly or be caught by surprise by a close passerby. And also remember that children under the age of two should not wear a face covering, and persons who are not able to wear a face covering for medical or disability reasons are exempt from the requirement.

Pools, Playgrounds, and Splash Pads Reopening

Next week the city's pools, playgrounds, and splash pads will reopen with new policies and safety protocols in place.

• Somerville's playgrounds will open and basketball hoops will be uncovered on Monday, June 29. No games or scrimmages are allowed on the basketball courts and you should not share balls, gear, or any other athletic equipment or toys with anyone outside your household. The Department of Public Works will adhere to CDC recommendations for cleaning the city's 60 playgrounds, tot lots, athletic equipment facilities, and 20 water play features on a weekly rotation weather-permitting. This includes the cleaning of high touch plastic and metal surfaces with a "green" detergent or cleaner and water.

• The city's two pools – the indoor Kennedy School pool at 5 Cherry St. and the outdoor Dilboy Pool at 324 Alewife Brook Parkway – will open on Wednesday, July 1. A few key changes include staggered hours to allow for extra cleaning, decreased occupancy, changing rooms and locker rooms will be closed, and pool patrons must socially distance and wear a face covering when in bathrooms or on the pool deck. For a full list of new policies, visit www.somervillema.gov/summer2020.

• Splash pads in playgrounds will be turned on starting Wednesday, July 1. During warm weather splash pads are a popular feature, but it's vital that everyone using them stays at least six feet away from anyone not in their household. In parks where the water play

area attracts crowds that fail to observe social distancing measures, the feature may have to be turned off.

Staying Informed During COVID-19

The city's COVID-19 website, www.somervillema.gov/covid19, is updated frequently with public health information as well as resources and supports.

Here are some additional ways you can stay informed:

• Sign up for city alerts at www.somervillema.gov/alerts or by calling 311. You can choose to get phone, text, and/or email alerts.

• Tune in to City Cable (RCN channel 13, Comcast channel 22) for information and updates.

• 311 is available 24/7 to answer questions and provide information.

Mayor Curtatone submits FY2021 budget

On Friday, June 19, Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone submitted a proposed \$262.7 million fiscal year 2021 budget to Somerville's City Council that avoids the austerity measures being seen in cities and towns throughout the region. The FY21 budget preserves all city services and contains no layoffs or furloughs to city or school employees, while also making new racial and social justice investments.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the city is projecting a sharp drop in certain revenue streams – notably a \$6.7 million reduction in state aid and a \$2.3 million drop in excise taxes – but a strong, diversified local tax base and years of careful fiscal planning allow Somerville to put forward a 12-month budget that maintains city and school services. Spending cuts were, however, necessary.

Non-personnel-related spending in nearly every department has been reduced, new hiring for vacant positions has been frozen except in rare cases, and salary increases for non-union employees were eliminated. The resulting \$8.5 million budget increase over the previous fiscal year is driven primarily by rising fixed costs and contractual obligations including salary increas-

es for union employees, as well as a few new targeted investments including for racial and social justice initiatives, storm-water management, and cybersecurity protection.

The new fiscal year begins Wednesday, July 1. If a new budget or continuing appropriation for the month of July is not approved by the City Council by that time, the city will not be able to pay staff or vendors, which would cause significant disruption to current services. The city and Council are working together to avoid this outcome.

The pandemic has delayed this year's budget process, with neither the federal nor state governments offering non-COVID monetary support for municipalities, leaving local officials to fend for themselves. On June 18, the Somerville School Committee finalized its \$77.9 million budget for the upcoming year, marking a \$1.7 million increase over its FY20 budget.

"We have been through this sort of massive economic slowdown before during the Great Recession of 2008-9, and what we learned then is austerity is a fool's game that will ultimately hurt our community," said Mayor Curtatone. "It takes years to build up good schools and de-

pendable services for our residents, and once you start slashing those services it can render them inadequate. During the Great Recession, we avoided drastic cuts and emerged more quickly and in stronger shape from that economic downturn. It positioned us for a decade of steady progress in our schools and a stronger business community in our city squares. So many in our city have experienced hardship in recent months; it is imperative that city government be a rock they can depend on and turn to if they are in need."

\$1.6 Million for New Racial and Social Justice Initiatives

In response to calls for an increased focus on racial and social justice in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks, Tony McDade, and many others, we recognized the need to increase investments. The Schools are proposing roughly \$600,000 in new equity-focused investments, and the city is proposing a new \$1 million investment, funded in part by reducing its Police Department budget by \$750,000 dollars, a 4.3% overall decrease compared to the budget originally proposed by the Department to the mayor.

The \$600,000 in proposed

School funding would support increasing Family and Community Liaisons to full-time benefited positions, replacing security guards at Somerville High School with Deans of Students focused on student wellbeing, increasing funding for external counseling for students, adding stipends for Equity Liaisons at each school, implementing the Becoming a Man mentoring program at SHS and the Healey School, adding a second Bilingual Adjustment Counselor at SHS, increasing funding for Enroot services for new immigrant students at SHS, and investment in staff professional development related to cultural proficiency, trauma-sensitive practices, and identity and anti-bias training.

The proposed \$1M in city funding would support the city's new Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) Project, which will work with the community to establish civilian oversight of police, fundamentally reimagine policing in the city, and work to dismantle and address systemic racism. A total of \$750,000 is proposed to be dedicated to a Racial and Social Justice Fund that will be designated via community process for investments that will advance this work.

The city's intention is that work will commence and move forward swiftly. To that end, the Mayor's budget proposes a new Director of Racial and Social Justice to coordinate these processes as well as develop a plan to expand the effort to a full city Office of Racial and Social Justice. This would follow the successful model of how the city built the Office of Housing Stability by first hiring a director to gather community input to establish the mission and structure of the office and then bring in needed staff.

"We've seen that other communities are proposing new investments around policing and anti-racism that are pre-determined. Based on community input, we've proposed some specific investments in our schools. But our intent with the RSJ Project and Fund is for our efforts and investments to be driven by the people who are closest to the pain, and to then have the work owned by all of us. As Councilor Will Mbah recently said, 'Racism isn't an event, it's a structure,' and we have a lot of work before us to dismantle it. These strategic investments are designed to move that work forward with the urgency it deserves," said *Continued on page 10*

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Enjoy your summer, Somerville – but safely, please.

Our View Of The Times



Despite some of the most oppressive heat and humidity that the season can bring, most of us love the good times that summer can bring.

Vacations, picnics, cookouts, swimming, sunbathing – or just plain old lazing around on a sunny, balmy day – there is so much revitalizing activity that can be enjoyed at this time.

Of course, while we still take precau-

tions in our efforts to beat back the spread of COVID-19, many things are just not being done the same way as before this time around.

Social distancing is still important, even as certain businesses and services are guardedly taking their first faltering steps towards some degree of a return to normalcy. It is important to recognize and comply with established guidance to help

protect ourselves and others.

The wearing of face masks both indoors and outdoors sets an example that we care about behaving responsibly as we make our way through the current crisis.

The City of Somerville has issued a number of guidelines aimed at helping us understand what we must do to keep everyone as safe as possible as we enjoy our public pools, playgrounds, and splash

pads. Go to www.somervillema.gov/keepcool to learn more about keeping cool through the hot summer months.

There's no reason why we have to deprive ourselves of the best that the season can offer. We just need to approach and practice safe practices as we indulge ourselves in the joys of summer. It may not be like a Beach Party movie, but it can be just as much fun if we want it to be.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Dave Bertocchi, a great guy, we wish him a very special happy birthday. We hope he takes the day off and enjoys his day. We also wish Peter Tsairidie, Leslie Phelan and Kristina Ann a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

All interested community members are invited to attend and speak at the **Budget Public Hearing** before the **City Council's Committee on Finance** tonight, **June 24**, at 6:00 p.m., for public input on the proposed **FY 2021 municipal budget**. Written testimony will also be accepted. You have two ways to be heard at this meeting. Join online: To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser at any time before the meeting. You will then be asked to register for the meeting. After registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar when it starts. Link: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/4460010996014138895>. Write or email: If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by U.S. mail to the City

Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, 02143, or by email to cityclerk@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

GLX officials will host a **virtual public meeting, Wednesday, June 24**, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Register and attend this meeting using GoToWebinar: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4131561583760589835>. GLX presentation topics will include: Project Overview and Benefits, Construction Update and Look-Ahead, Work Forecast, Locations, and Hours of Operation.

The Somerville Mobile COVID-19 Testing Unit free service will augment the existing test site at **Somerville Hospital**. The **City of Somerville, Cataldo Ambulance, and Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA)** formally launched their mobile COVID-19 testing unit in Somerville this week. The mobile unit, designed to lower barriers to testing and offer equitable access, is the next phase of the city's COVID Action Plan to control the spread of the virus via testing, contact tracing, and safe isolation. The

mobile testing unit will accept patients by appointment at roaming locations, as well as hold designated testing days for residents of senior housing buildings. This testing is in addition to the Crown St. testing location at Somerville Hospital, where the City and Cambridge Health Alliance have offered free testing to Somerville residents since April. Individuals seeking tests at either the Somerville Hospital site or the mobile testing site do not need to be symptomatic and do not need insurance or a doctor's referral. Immigration status will not be checked. The only requirement is that individuals must be Somerville residents and must call ahead to set up an appointment. Residents can call 617-665-2928 to set up an appointment at Somerville Hospital, or 617-398-7770 for mobile testing appointments. **City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department staff** will call residents of senior housing ahead of time to schedule on-site appointments. The schedule for the coming weeks is as follows: **Wednesday, June 24**, noon to 2:00 p.m., **Prospect Hill Academy**, 17 Franklin St.; **Friday, June 26**, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., **Prospect Hill Academy**; **Monday, June 29**, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00

p.m., **East Somerville Community School**, 50 Cross St., at the Glen St. entrance; **Wednesday, July 1**, 10:30 a.m. to noon, **East Somerville Community School**. As additional testing dates are scheduled they will be posted on www.somervillema.gov/covid19. Residents can also call 311 for more information.

If you received a **P-EBT card**, but you don't need it for your own family, help support a family that does by donating the value of the card to the **Somerville Cares Fund** (somerville-ma.gov/somervillecares). The fund provides emergency financial assistance to families that are experiencing hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Healthy, local food is important. **The Farmers Markets** are open again in **Davis Square** (www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis) and **Union Square** (www.unionsquaremain.org/2020-season). But this year they will be different. Both markets will encourage only one person per household to do the shopping, incorporate social distancing guidelines and allow a limited amount of shoppers in the space. Please sign up for a shopping spot in advance at the *Continued on page 10*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#736

1. What is the oldest public beach in America?
2. In what year was the first beach ball invented?
3. What kind of nuts are used in Wet Nuts Ice Cream Topping?
4. What writer said "I do not fear computers. I fear the lack of them"?
5. What is the name of the President in the TV series *The West Wing*?
6. The song *Danger Zone* is in what movie?
7. Who had the biggest signature on the Declaration of Independence?
8. Who was the first identifiable non-royal to appear on a British stamp?
9. What Tim Burton film did Prince release a soundtrack for?
10. How many angles does a nonagon have?
11. How many U.S. states are singly landlocked?
12. How many U.S. states are triply landlocked?

Answers on page 15

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Ancient Egyptians shaved off their eyebrows to mourn the deaths of their cats.
2. Neurons multiply at a rate 250,000 neurons per minute during early pregnancy.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

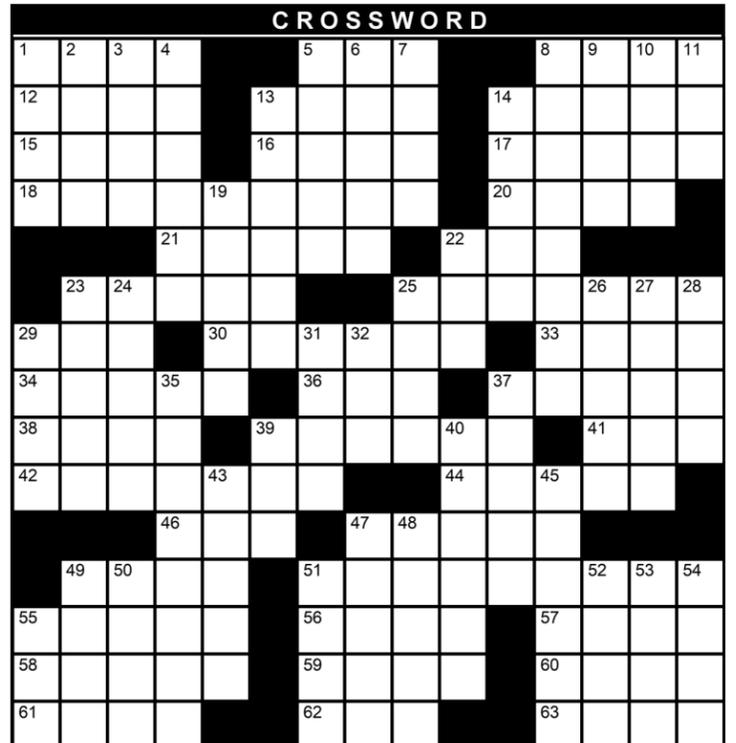
THE 4TH OF JULY

ACROSS

1. Begone!
5. Blue
8. Instinctive motive
12. Barbershop supply
13. Cover with asphalt
14. Twist and distort
15. Dismounted
16. Tiny particle
17. Like smell of burning rubber
18. King of Great Britain when America won independence
20. Same as pleaded
21. "Well-___ machine"
22. Abigail Adams ___ Smith
23. Preferred cooking device on the 4th
25. They play dead
29. Tiller's tiller
30. Santa's reindeer
33. Dwarf buffalo
34. Smart ones?
36. "___ the hills and far away"
37. Penicillin holder, e.g.
38. Part of both levorotary and levorotary
39. Like 4th of July
41. Cholera
42. Egg dishes
44. Actress Close
46. Jefferson was three and Washington was ___
47. Medal of Honor word
49. Castle material
51. Roman Candles and Fountains, e.g.
55. Manuscript sheet
56. Dirty money
57. Dire fate
58. Type of wrench
59. Charitable contribution
60. Genesis twin
61. Dad's lads
62. General Services Administration
63. Job for a body shop

DOWN

1. Without a date
2. American Revolutionary War spy, Nathan



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- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet

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*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Standard S&H applies. ©2020 Omaha Steaks, Inc. Exp. 10/31/20

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3. Miscellany
4. Type of local tax
5. French composer of "Gymnopédies"
6. Steer clear
7. Prefix for half
8. U. S. personified
9. Steak choice
10. Power system
11. Former times
13. Saffron-flavored rice dish
14. Stares
19. Decorates with gold leaf
22. Negative conjunction
23. Jewish folklore creature
24. "Superman" star
25. Machu Picchu country
26. Remove from Pinterest board
27. Grieve
28. Many retailers hold one for the 4th of July
29. Sign of a saint
31. ___ of Liberty
32. Rooster's girlfriend
35. 13 of these at the start
37. Give a green light
39. What contestants did at Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest
40. Ends of shoe laces
43. "___ a high note"
45. What river did to bank
47. Viola da Gamba, pl.
48. Wafting pleasantness
49. Aria, e.g.
50. Comrade in arms
51. It should never touch ground
52. Official flower of the Kentucky Derby
53. Riddle without solution
54. Obscurity
55. Like The Beatles

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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

© StatePoint Media

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

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Solution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Solution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

COMMENTARY

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

Bridging the chasm between law enforcement and justice

Part 2: It's systemic



By William C. Shelton

Racist policing is a symptom, but it's not the disease, not in Milwaukee, not in Nashville, not in Somerville. Racist systems are the disease, and without curing the disease, we are doomed to play whack a mole with the symptoms.

Somerville School Committee Representative Andre Green said that at a vigil this month, and I want to tell you why I think he's right. The development of U.S. policing over the last two and a half centuries is inextricably linked to the management of economic and racial inequality. This has become increasingly so over the last forty years as government has largely abandoned its role in reducing inequality.

Blaming police for pernicious behaviors and proposing specific reforms to correct them will come to little without understanding that those behaviors are the outcomes of the systemic role that society's most powerful have mandated for policing.

The "system" is, first, the interlocking set of institutions that make up law enforcement. And then it is the larger economic, political, and social institutions in which law enforcement is fully integrated and preserves, which will be dealt with in subsequent columns.

Police Academies

The problem with the "few bad apples" theory of police misconduct is that police departments rarely hire bad apples. A team of psychologists found that before entering police academy, recruits tested higher on integrity than did the college students who had participated in the integrity scale's development.

This finding built on an earlier study. It found that police academe-

my recruits' most common motivations were helping others and obtaining job benefits.

At the academies, a majority of which are modeled on military boot camps, recruits begin their socialization to police culture. At most academies emphasis is on discipline, appearance, rote learning of rules, and especially "officer safety." Much less common is effective guidance about how to make real-time decisions in a complex environment.

Police Departments

Academy graduates enter one of the country's 17,000 independent police departments that as a group are historically defensive, secretive, and insular. New officers enter a culture in which civilians are viewed cynically, creating an us-versus-them mentality.

The Pew Research Center finds that 84% of officers worry about their safety at least some of the time, 86% say that they don't think the public understands their risks and challenges, and 67% report that they have been verbally abused by a member of their community sometime during the previous month. Only about 4% of police time is spent on violent crime, and only 27% of officers report having discharged their firearm while on duty at some point over their entire career.

Guidelines for when and how to use force vary enormously across departments, although it is possible to provide specific guidance for such varied situations as traffic stops, arrests, and dealing with people who are mentally ill.

It is difficult to understate how decisive peer pressure is in either curtailing misconduct, or in perpetuating it by protecting malefactors. Experts and progressive police leaders increasingly advocate a cultural shift to officers as guardians vs. as warriors, emphasizing "communication over control, cooperation over compliance, and legitimacy over authority."

The warrior culture and poor use-of-force guidance are at least two reasons why police in the U.S. kill 1,000 people annually,

while in contrast, for example, Great Britain's police have killed fewer than 60 since 1900.

Police unions and politicians

Police unions have been remarkably effective in protecting members accused of misconduct and reinforcing the blue wall of silence. They have mobilized political clout and collective-bargaining agreements to prevent investigation, discipline, and termination of offending officers. When disciplinary sanctions are imposed, grievance and arbitration procedures often reduce or eliminate them.

Recognizing police unions as a potent political constituency, politicians maintain laws that protect such procedures while sharply limiting public access to disciplinary files or use-of-force investigations.

State politicians bear another responsibility. States could create statues that more specifically define legal uses of force, giving officers latitude to protect themselves and others while prohibiting them from acting purely on fear and speculation. They have not.

District Attorneys

The close working relationship between prosecutors and police is normally an asset. It becomes a conflict of interest when the crime is police misconduct, disincentivizing prosecutors from aggressively pursuing cases. Moreover, elected district attorneys are reluctant to be seen by the electorate as unsupportive of the police.

Overly broad laws have enabled prosecutors working with police to criminalize ever more behaviors and populations, supported by disproved ideologies like the broken window hypothesis. Making matters worse, district attorneys routinely overcharge, prosecuting minor non-violent offenses as felonies.

Progressive prosecutors who are elected on reform platforms encounter persecution and undermining by police unions and politicians.

Courts

In the absence of statutes clearly defining legal police use of force, state and federal governments reg-

ulate it through court decisions, and judges often share membership in the same implicit fraternity as police and prosecutors.

The Supreme Court's *Graham v. Connor* (1989) ruling means that police can use force in response to anything that might be interpreted as resistance to arrest. Since then courts have expanded the doctrine of qualified immunity, which helps to protect officers who violate someone's constitutional rights from civil-rights lawsuits. This month the Supreme Court refused to reconsider this doctrine.

Analyzing court records, Reuters found that since 2005, appellate courts have shown an increasing tendency to grant immunity in excessive force police cases. All courts below them must follow these rulings.

Prisons

To discuss the role that prisons play in the system – and their human toll – would require multiple columns. They are much more about retribution than public safety, about the consequences of oppression rather than the pursuit justice.

The prisoner population got a huge boost with Bill Clinton's crime bills, which came with \$8 billion for new prisons. A profitable growth industry, state and federal prisons increased from 1,277 in 1990 to 1,821 in 2005, or one every ten days. It's the only economic development tactic in many rural areas.

Meanwhile, violent crime rates plummeted by 70% between 1993 and 2018, and police are safer than they have been at any point during the last fifty years. Nevertheless, the prison business thrives due to overcharging, continued prosecution of the failed war on drugs, warehousing of the mentally ill, and criminalization of ever more behaviors, including illegal entry into the U.S.

There are ten times as many mentally ill people in prisons and jails as in state hospitals. And criminal prosecutions for illegal entry have exploded from 13,249 in 2002 to 99,479 in 2018.

There are now 2.3 million peo-

ple imprisoned in the U.S., more than any other country by far, including the worst authoritarian regimes. The lives of prisoners who reemerge will be damaged in terms of mental wellbeing, employability, family ties, and probable future criminality.

The foregoing institutions synergize to comprise the "criminal justice system." Movements are now surging to "defund the police," or "abolish the police." Specific objectives vary when one examines differing initiatives, and of course it is not possible to simply decree the abolition of this system and replace it with a better world.

What I understand the intent to be instead is a transformative process. Responsibilities that politicians have thrust upon the criminal justice system for dealing with homelessness, mental illness, drug addiction, school discipline, immigration, and other societal challenges can be humanely dealt with instead by caring professionals with skills best suited to each challenge.

But I would encourage the following thought experiment. Imagine that, as much as possible, prosecutors, judges, and police, correctional, and probation officers were replaced with care givers. Could the care givers provide decent housing, or living-wage jobs, or good healthcare, or fair labor practices, or equal treatment across our institutions to all those who need them?

Doing so would require the transformation of our economic and political institutions, which is the larger system to which I believe that Andre Green's opening remarks referred. The net effect would be a vast redistribution of wealth and power.

It is the prevention of such a transformation for which policing in the U.S. was historically created and deployed, with the consequences that are now apparent to increasingly more citizens, despite the best intentions of so many police officers. That history is the subject of the next column in this series.

LEGAL NOTICE

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



ADVERTISEMENT

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for the conversion of five (5) auxiliary corridor spaces to second bedrooms for existing apartment dwelling units at Weston Manor Apartments at 15 Weston Avenue in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **PR Design**.

The Project consists of: **Conversion of five (6) auxiliary corridor spaces to second bedrooms for existing apartment dwelling units in Somerville, MA.**

The work is estimated to cost **ninety thousand (\$90,000.00) dollars.**

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

This project is being Electronically Bid. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority.

Bids must be submitted electronically at www.Projectdog.com. Obtain all documents online via the job specific project number. Tutorials, instructions and videos on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online as well as in the instructions to bidders. Call Projectdog, Inc at 978-499-9014 for assistance (M - F 9AM - 5PM).

General Bids will be received until **2:00PM Wednesday July 15, 2020 and publicly opened online forthwith.**

All Bids shall be submitted electronically online at www.Projectdog.com no later than the date and time specified above. Bid forms and contract documents will be available at www.Projectdog.com or reviewed at Projectdog, Inc. 18 Graf Road, Suite 8, Newburyport, MA (978-499-9014).

There is a plan deposit of \$50 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to Projectdog, Inc.

Refundable deposits must be a certified or cashier's check. This deposit will be refunded upon return of all documentation in good condition within ten (10) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of Projectdog.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$35 for next day delivery, payable to the Projectdog, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

There will be pre-bid conference at the site at 9:00 AM on Wednesday July 8th. There will be no site visits by appointment other than the pre-bid conference.

The Contract Documents may be seen in person or electronically at www.Projectdog.com:

Projectdog, Inc
18 Graf Road, Suite 8
Newburyport, MA 01950
(978) 499-9014

6/17/20, 6/24/20 The Somerville Times

The Fletcher School awarded 100k grant

Thanks to a Cummings Foundation \$100,000 grant, The Fletcher School at Tufts University will launch a Global One Health Diplomacy Initiative dedicated to identifying holistic, interdisciplinary solutions to complex global health problems. The Initiative seeks to meet the need for effective global health diplomacy by combining The Fletcher School's distinctive strengths in international law and diplomacy, social justice, and international peace and security, with the expertise in health and nutrition science, and human and veterinary medicine at Tufts' health sciences schools.

This funding – disbursed over two years – will advance The Fletcher School as an expert resource within the global health ecosystem. The initiative will host an international conference to apply health diplomacy tools to analyze complex and timely global health problems. Health experts, stakeholders from governmental agencies, and practitioners from non-governmental organizations will convene at Tufts to explore responses to outbreaks such as Ebola and COVID-19 and the implications for other global health challenges.

“At a time when global health challenges have never been so complex or so central to international relations, this generous grant is a catalyst for generating cutting edge research and action plans,” said Ian Johnstone, professor of international law at The Fletcher School, Tufts' graduate school for international affairs.

Somerville's second Shared Streets route opens in West Somerville

Somerville's second Shared Streets route, which connects West Somerville and Davis Square, opened on Tuesday, June 23. The Shared Streets initiative opens up low-volume or residential side-streets to pedestrians, cyclists, and other users while still allowing vehicle access for residents who live on the street or who need to use the street to get to their homes, first responders, delivery drivers, sanitation trucks, and street sweepers.

The city's first Shared Streets route opened in early June and connected Winter Hill and East Somerville and passed by several food resources and schools. The second route will provide access to the Stop and Shop on Alewife Brook Parkway, North Street Housing (which hosts the Somerville Mobile Farmers' Market on Saturdays starting July 11), the West Somerville Neighborhood School, David Square, and the Community Path.

Additional routes will be rolled out throughout the summer, and you can find a full route map and schedule at <https://somerveice.somervillema.gov/covid19mobility>. As routes are implemented, feedback on them can also be submitted on SomerVoice.

Safety measures along each route include signage and flexible barriers to alert all users to the shared use of these streets. Somerville's program will use temporary materials that can be modified based on our experience and feedback from residents with the pilot.

Motorists allowed to use a shared street, such as abutters, should drive slowly and expect to see people in the street on these routes. People walking, rolling, and biking should remain alert and aware and make room for these allowed vehicles.



Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
On Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 5

Liberty arrived in New York City. She was a patriotic gift to America from France.

• June 20, 2020 - The Summer Solstice, the longest day in the northern Hemisphere, occurred.

• June 21, 2020 – The National observance of Father's Day and the first day of summer.

Locally, the most historic date by far in June is the 17th. On that day, the Battle of Bunker Hill occurred. It is formally celebrated only in Suffolk County and Somerville. The next time you travel over the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial



Bridge, glance over at the Charles-town monument and remember the over 1,500 casualties of that hot June day.

Mayor Curtatone submits FY2021 budget

CONT. FROM PG 5

Mayor Curtatone. **Learn More, Attend Public Hearing:**

The proposed FY21 budget can be viewed at www.somervillema.gov/FY21Budget.

The Mayor's budget presentation can be viewed at www.somervillema.gov/FY21BudgetPresentation.

The City Council's budget Public Hearing will take place on Wednesday, June 24, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Full information can be viewed here: somervillema.gov/FY21BudgetHearing.

For more on the city's efforts around Policing, visit www.somervillema.gov/policereform.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

market websites. SNAP and HIP benefits are accessible for shoppers in both markets. No gathering or socializing is allowed in the markets. See you there and remember that we are in this to-

gether ... from a responsible 6 ft. distance, of course.

East Somerville Safe Pick-up Market takes place **Sunday, June 28**. Pre-order from the

list of participating businesses and pick up your order safely on Sunday between 10:00 a.m. and noon. For more information, visit <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/market>.

Backyard Prom 2020

Because of concerns over the coronavirus and the need for everyone to social distance, there were no proms allowed this year for the Class of 2020. So, Peter Lancaster's family held a prom that would have taken place for the Full Circle students in his own backyard last Saturday night. The dinner served was pizza, chicken, broccoli and ziti and pastry. The girls were all given wrist corsages and the boys were given boutonnières. Peter and his girlfriend, Ashley, were crowned Prom King and Queen after the last dance.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



Rep. Barber files bill to close corporate loopholes, raise progressive revenue, fill budget gaps

Representative Christine P. Barber (D-34th Middlesex) of Somerville and Medford recently filed HD5132, An Act to close corporate loopholes and create progressive revenue to fill gaps in the state budget and fund needed programs such as education and public services.

The COVID-19 public health crisis has caused significant economic challenges, which have directly affected the Massachusetts state budget. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is predicting a drop in state tax revenue of \$4-7 billion in the coming fiscal year, and this decline could drastically impact needed services.

Because the state is required to balance its budget each year, dollars for local aid, education funding, health care, and housing assistance are at risk. New revenue is needed to continue funding these necessary programs in our communities, but while families and small businesses are hurting,

it is critical that any new revenue collections fall on large and profitable corporations.

Rep. Barber's HD5132 would raise revenue by closing a significant corporate tax loophole. Some corporations use accounting mechanisms to shift income generated in the United States to offshore subsidiary companies to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. The 2017 federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act identified this shifted income and taxed a portion of it. Called Global Intangible Low-Taxed Income (GILTI), this provision allows the federal government and states to recoup tax dollars on income that has been shifted offshore. However, Massachusetts still allows businesses to exclude 95% of GILTI income from taxes – allowing these businesses to continue taking advantage of this costly loophole.

HD5132 would close this loophole by “recoupling” the state tax code to the federal

GILTI provision, bringing in as much as \$400 million in tax revenue for the state from corporations. GILTI only applies to large, multinational, and highly profitable corporations who have offshore holdings – not local businesses.

“Raising new revenue responsibly is a critical tool to support and sustain our recovery,” said Rep. Barber. “Revenue the state would receive from recoupling to the GILTI provision could be used to fund our COVID-19 response, as well as our critical needs including equitable education funding, transportation and local services, making our Commonwealth stronger financially in the long-run.”

“Our future hangs in the balance as we see billions of dollars potentially drained from schools, mass transit, and the public good” said Marie-Frances Rivera, President of the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center. “Corporations who are



profitable during this time have a moral obligation to pay their fair share and invest in our collective future.”

For further information about

this bill or to provide input, please visit <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/HD5132>.

— Office of Rep. Christine Barber

The 2020 farmers' market coupon season is here

Somerville Cambridge Elder Services is providing farmers' market coupons for eligible participants starting mid-July, 2020. Coordinated through the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, the program provides income eligible older adults with \$25 in coupon vouchers to purchase locally grown produce at participating farmers' markets. Coupons can be used to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, and honey. For more information on how to receive the coupons, please call the Nutrition Department at Somerville Cambridge Elder Services at 617-628-2601. Coupons are limited and available while supplies last. If coupons run out, applicants may request to be put on a waiting list.



Coupon Information

- Coupons are accepted by participating farmers' market stands. Look for a green and white sign that says "Farmers Market Coupons Accepted." Many farmers' markets also accept SNAP benefits (Food Stamps) and may even double the value.
- The total coupon book is worth \$25, each coupon voucher is worth \$2.50, no change can be given for voucher purchases.
- Coupons expire Oct. 31, 2020.
- One coupon book per eligible person each year.

Eligibility Guidelines

- Applicants must be 60 years or older, or under 60 disabled living in elderly housing with a Congregate meal program.
- Low income (at or below 185% poverty level, food stamps)
- Residents of Somerville and Cambridge only

Somerville Small Business COVID-19 Relief Fund loan recipients announced

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone announced last week that \$1 million in Somerville Small Business COVID-19 Relief funds will be awarded to 123 local, small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funded by federal Community Development Block Grant monies, the Fund will issue forgivable loans to businesses in the city that collectively employ about 600 people.

Announced in April, a total of 331 businesses applied for the loans made available up to a maximum of \$10,000. The typical loan amount issued is \$7,500, which allowed funding to be spread among more businesses. Minority-owned businesses make up 46% of awardees, and 56% of awardees are women-owned businesses. A full list of recipients will be posted to the city website at

www.somervillema.gov/bizre-

lief. Businesses that did not receive funding have been put on a waitlist that will be activated in the event that more funding, which is being sought, is secured.

"This fund will not be enough to address the extraordinary need right now, but our hope is that it will help our small businesses facing the greatest cash flow challenges carry forward as we work toward recovery, especially typically underserved businesses left out of other relief efforts," said Mayor Curtatone.

Rather than a first-come, first-served system, funds were allocated via a thorough review process focused on delivering the greatest small business impacts both for owners and workers as well as for the community. Funds are intended to help local businesses remain viable and to retain or create jobs despite disruptions related to COVID-19.

Applications and program

guidelines were made available online and in multiple languages on April 24 and applications were accepted until May 11th. Substantial multilingual outreach took place and included coordination with the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs (SOIA) and the Communications Team, outreach through the Economic Development e-newsletter, networking through our economic development partners, systematic direct, one-to-one outreach using business license contact info, and targeted outreach to our small businesses utilizing other business assistance programs. Assistance in filing applications was also provided to business-owners with technology or language needs by bilingual SOIA and Office of Economic Development staff.

The eight-person Review Committee included Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott and

four community representatives appointed by Somerville business and nonprofit organizations: East Somerville Main Streets, Union Square Main Streets, Somerville Chamber of Commerce, and The Welcome Project, as well as three Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development staff.

"We know our businesses are working as hard and as creatively as they can to survive during this crisis. With this fund, our goal was to inject some needed financial support into the reopening and recovery of the small businesses that form the backbone of our local economy," said Economic Development Director Tom Galligani.

In addition to the new fund, the city's Economic Development team mobilized at the start of the crisis to offer intensive, multi-lingual support to local businesses. Services they have

offered include multiple virtual town halls and topic-specific webinars, support to help local businesses access federal crisis funding, one-on-one business coaching, setting up www.somervilledelivers.com to promote restaurants that offered pickup and delivery during the shutdown, and working with the Job Creation and Retention Trust to establish the COVID-19 Assistance Fund to help nonprofits serve residents facing financial impacts from COVID-19. For more information or assistance for overall business needs during the pandemic, please visit www.somervillema.gov/CovidBizHelp or call 311.

The funding source for the Somerville Small Business COVID-19 Relief Fund is from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant program.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

June 24

0217 – Carthaginian forces led by Hannibal destroy a Roman army under consul Gaius Flaminius in a battle at Lake Trasimene in central Italy.

1314 – Scottish forces, led by Robert the Bruce, win an overwhelming victory against English King Edward II at the Battle of Bannockburn.

1497 – Explorer John Cabot lands in North America in present-day Canada.

1896 – Booker T. Washington becomes the first African American to receive an honorary MA degree from Harvard University.

1940 – France signs an armistice with Italy.

1941 – President Franklin Roosevelt pledges all possible support to the Soviet Union.

1948 – The Soviet Union begins the Berlin Blockade, America responds with the Berlin Airlift.

1953 – John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Bouvier announce their engagement.

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Outstanding students win Somerville Math Fund scholarships

The Somerville Mathematics Fund is pleased to announce the winners of their renewable mathematics scholarships for 2020. The Math Fund was founded to celebrate and encourage math achievement and these students deserve to be celebrated for their work in math and science while in high school. Thanks to the generosity of many individuals and a few organizations, this year we were able to award a record 8 scholarships, totaling \$48,000 over four years.

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

The winners are attending a variety of schools next fall. Christina Brand, Ziyu OuYang, and Owen Sheehy will attend UMass Amherst; Luca Duclos-Orsell, Brown; Harmanpreet Kaur, MIT; Timothy Labounko, University of Southern California; Harmeet Singh, UMass Boston; and Jaskaran Singh, UMass Lowell.

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

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

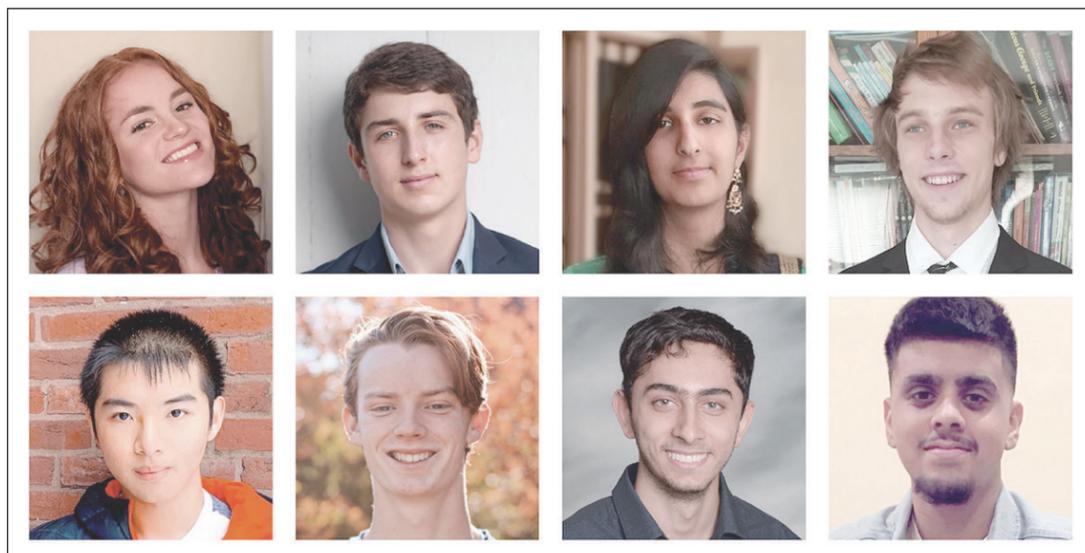
One of the scholarships was given in the memory of an out-

standing woman mathematician, Dr. Alice T Schafer. Harmanpreet Kaur was awarded the Alice T Schafer Memorial Scholarship. Harmanpreet is planning on majoring computer engineering at MIT, the school where Dr. Schafer's husband taught mathematics for many years when she was teaching mathematics at Wellesley College.

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

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

The Lt. Catherine M. Landers Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jaskaran Singh. Jaskaran has an interest in statistics and is planning on majoring in business. When Lt. Landers (1920 - 2012) wanted to go to nursing school (graduating in 1942), her grandmother opened



The Somerville Math Fund was pleased to be able to award four year renewable scholarships to these outstanding math and science students. They are Back: Christiana Brand, Luca Duclos-Orsello, Harmanpreet Kaur, and Timothy Labounko. Front: Ziyu OuYang, Owen Sheehy, Harmeet Singh and Jaskaran Singh.

a cedar chest were she had been saving dollar bills to help pay for her granddaughter's education. Lt Landers won a Bronze Star for her service during WW2, where she ran a field hospital outside Paris; she was about to be shipped to the far East when WW2 ended and so she boarded a transport ship for the USA instead. Jay Landers and Jasper Lawson donated a scholarship in her memory, honoring her commitment to education. Jaskaran's interest business is a wonderful way to honor Lt. Landers' commitment to education.

Our newest named scholarship is in the memory of Michael Voolich. This year it was awarded to Timothy Labounko who is planning on majoring in civil engineering at University of Southern California. Michael Voolich (1943 - 2019) was a person who was interested in how everything worked, if Renaissance man was a job offering, Michael would have applied. He learned by asking questions and then he loved telling everyone what he had learned and how seemingly disparate things were related. He had a career that included teaching many different subjects in local schools, none of which was math. But, he married a math teacher. So, when the Somerville Math Fund was being discussed and organized in his living room, of course he joined the founding board.

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

Michael loved to be able to give and help others in the local community along with his extended family here and abroad. This scholarship was funded by the many people who donated in his memory to the Somerville Math

Fund. Timothy's fascination with transportation engineering and planning would clearly lead to many interesting discussions if Michael were still alive – another student who wants to know how it works!



The Lt. Catherine M. Landers Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jaskaran Singh by the Somerville Math Fund for his outstanding working in math and science.



The Michael Voolich Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Timothy Labounko by the Somerville Math Fund for his outstanding work in math and science.



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



OFF THE SHELF

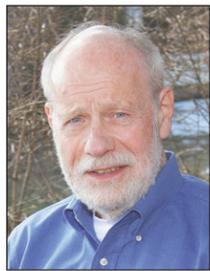
by Doug Holder

Photographers capture people on their porches in East Somerville

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Tom Miller is a well-published poet and a member of Somerville's Bagel Bards.



A BEAUTIFUL DAY

It was a beautiful day today
The sky was blue
A balmy breeze was blowing

It was a beautiful day
except
for the yellow green tree pollen
that painted my car and wafted in the air

...and except for the pandemic
...and the silliness of the political extremes
...and the frightening childishness of he who would be king
...and the racial injustice too long ignored

But a pretty young lady smiled at me
And waved to me
And the sky was blue
And the breeze was balmy

The day, at least, was beautiful.

— Tom Miller

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

If you look closely at even the most banal of pictures, you will find a plethora of clues about the people in them. You should look at the body language, the appointment of the subjects, look into their eyes, note the topography of their faces. In these troubled times, East Somerville Main Streets has an innovative project that catches people on their porches – giving us a big picture of our neighbors and friends – in some ways a break from the isolation we are experiencing.

I had the chance to catch up with this band of photographers via the internet:

What was the germ of the idea for the project?

The idea came from East Somerville Main Street Board President Devon Moos: "I started doing them as a way to help families, roommates, or individuals document the moment in time during the start of the COVID crisis, and initially, I started taking photos of friends first. I really feel like documentation is important, and if you don't have someone taking the photo, you just have the memory to look back on. Doing something creative also was a good distraction for me while everything felt overwhelming, and it was a nice break from working full time and gave me a chance to go on walks. I realized we could use the funds raised to give back to the local businesses, and that seemed like a win all around. The goal is to use the funds raised to purchase PPE – gloves, masks, and sanitizer – to give to the businesses, which we are working on sourcing."

Why were porches chosen as the setting?

I think people wanted to document this weird time in their lives where people were stuck at home for three months. I like that we've been including photos that have folks wearing their masks. It's capturing a moment of history while also bringing some much needed joy to the neighborhood. When we post the pictures online, it's nice to see the faces of our friends and neighbors that we haven't been able to interact with for so long. According to Devon, "Other photographers have been taking photos on porches, but it doesn't seem like a lot in Somerville. I liked that most people aren't wearing shoes, and are generally comfortable, while I am able to maintain my social distance. I have primarily been using a wide angle lens, so I can stand further back from families to ensure safety. It's a nice extension of home, and people are on their porches more that the weather is warmer, which is nice."

Tell me a bit about the photographers involved?

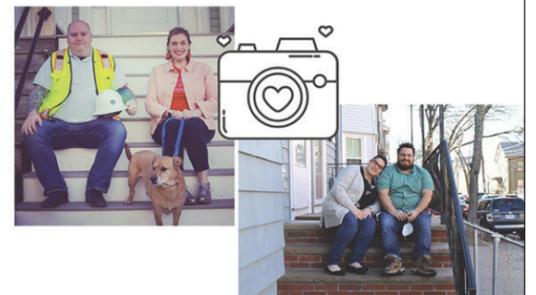
Devon Moos is the Board President of East Somerville Main Streets, and primarily takes photos of family and friends for fun. She also is usually our photographer for the Halloween Block Party family photos, which are always adorable.

The project was Devon's idea initially, but Devon and Jen (director of ESMS) asked Scott Istvan to

East Somerville Porch Portraits

by Devon Moos & Scott Istvan

DONATE TO EAST SOMERVILLE MAIN STREETS AND RECEIVE A SET OF PORCH PORTRAITS



help out with requests outside of walking distance of East Somerville because he likes to bike. Scott is an East Somerville resident, and has been an amateur photographer since 2010 when he got his first DSLR camera. Scott is a web developer by trade, and is also currently working with the Economic Development Division to help local businesses update their websites.

Jen Atwood, director of ESMS, has only done a couple of the portraits, so I guess I am a back-up photographer. I am also an amateur and usually focus on nature photography so it's been fun to try my hand at doing portraits. Like Devon, I find that doing something creative helps me process that feeling of being overwhelmed and instead focus on the moment. I think the portraits have a positive impact on their own, but it's also been a successful fundraiser to help get needed supplies into the community, so even more of a win-win.

What have been the reactions from participants?

I was a bit surprised when so many people not only participated, but also ended up donating as a result. It's really highlighted how amazingly supportive the residents of Somerville are of their community.

From Devon: "I think that people are excited to have a visitor who is stopping by safely, and that they know is capturing images that they'll be able to keep. I also think it's been nice to make connections with community members who we don't know and help connect people and build bonds during a time when we otherwise wouldn't get that opportunity."

To schedule with Devon and Scott, go to: <https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/porch-portraits> and submit the "Online Request Form" at the top of the page.

Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olivo

Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Revere Beach, MA | 7. John Hancock |
| 2. 1938, by Jonathon De-Longe | 8. William Shakespeare |
| 3. Walnuts | 9. Batman |
| 4. Isaac Asimov | 10. Nine |
| 5. Josiah Edward "Jed" Bartlet | 11. Sixteen states and the federal capital, Washington, D.C. |
| 6. Top Gun | 12. One state, Nebraska |

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