

VOL. 5 NO. 26

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



Kennedy Schoolers Moving On page 5



'The Mummy' steps out

page 8



City approves operating budget Spearheads resolutions to several issues



Comprehensive support for the Green Line Extension project is but one of many significant portions of the FY18 Operating Budget approved by the city.

By Jordan Deschenes

The Board of Aldermen approved budget appropriations totaling \$216,811,873 last week following two weeks of budget-related Finance Committee meetings. The total differs from the mayor's proposed budget as a result of minor cuts. Outside of the budget, three major items were also approved to address issues related to city efficiency, housing stock, and future climate commitments.

Free Cash and the FY18 Operating Budget The largest municipal operating budget appropriations related to the funding of both the Sewer and Water Enterprise Budgets. Aldermen also approved the creation of the Green Line Extension (GLX) Stabilization Fund.

Twelve different allocations from the Unreserved Fund Balance Account were approved, totaling over eight million *Continued on page 4*

The Sadies coming to ONCE Ballroom

By Blake Maddux

The Sadies formed in Toronto in 1994 and have the same line-up today as they did more than 20 years ago: brothers Dallas and Travis Good, bassist Sean Dean, and Boston-born drummer Mike Belitsky.

Since releasing its debut in 1998, the quartet has gone on to record whole albums and one-off songs with musicians as diverse in the genres in which they specialize as they are in their levels of fame and popularity. These collaborators have included Andre Williams, Neko Case, Neil Young, Robyn Hitchcock, John Doe, Buffy Saint-Marie, and Kurt Vile, who sings *It's Easy (Like Walking)* on the band's latest release, *Northern Passages*.



East Somerville reunites pages 12–13

These collaborations are no accident. They are indicative of the myriad styles that figure into the music of the band itself: R&B, folk, country, Americana, rock, punk, etc.

The Sadies performed on this side of the Charles River as recently as May 13, when they opened and served as the Continued on page 17

Continued on page 17 The Sadies perform at ONCE Ballroom on July 7.





We hear that the candidate for Ward 3 alderman Ben Ewen-Campen is having a poll taken over the past few days into last week. We heard this from a couple of those who received calls. We guess the poll is a low cost local poll with a Cambridge number that comes up on the phone. The person making the call might want to pronounce our mayor's name correctly, not to mention she can't even pronounce the name of the candidate she's taking the poll for. Rule number one when doing a poll, make sure the names are pronounced correctly, including the person paying for it. Just saying! And before we forget, yes, Mr. Anonymous (you know who you are). We received your email and last week's item on the Ward 3 race, and what we wrote was from a real Ward 3 resident. We don't make stories up. We might embellish just a little sometimes but hey, that is what a "rumor column" is about. We didn't have to with that item. We copied and printed it as the person wrote it. He actually signed his name, but we kept it out since we knew who he was. We won't print what you wrote because we don't know who you are.

Last Friday, after careful consideration and many people in Ward 1 asking Elio LoRusso to run for alderman, he pulled out papers late that morning. Now, we heard that it was a mere few hours later that the incumbent, Matt McLaughlin, visited Elio at his office and threats and screams were made. Guess what? It didn't stop there. Apparently, later on Saturday night we heard that Alderman McLaughlin was out banging on doors demanding to talk to people who are not going to be with him now that he has an opponent. This seems to be a pattern with Matt McLaughlin. He lashes out at people if they disagree with him or say something about him. He even lashed out against one of us last year, which was reported in the paper. We're very concerned for anyone who disagrees with him. He must have anger issues or needs a vacation or maybe a change of job? Since this is reportedly his one and only job maybe he shouldn't be in the political limelight. You know what they say, if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. Especially nowadays with all the stuff that's going on. People should be able to disagree Continued on page 11



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TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Proposed near-level service budget prepares us for the future

yetanotherposter says:

A bit of irony here: while lauding the 465 percent spike in building permit revenue (driven in some part by the fact that our permit fees are among the very highest in the state), it doesn't appear that any resources are being committed to addressing the fact that our Inspectional Services Department is a dysfunctional, sinking ship. While some of this can be attributed to structural problems within the department & getting rid of some deadwood so the better people can shine, a larger issue is that the city simply won't pay to hire / retain the better skilled people.

And this problem runs through city government as a whole. While the mayor's priorities above are good ones & I support them, we have a tendency to throw money into cool new programs / ideas without taking care of some of our basics. Are we paying our teachers competitively with other districts? Are we rewarding them for making our schools better? We're doing cool / hip things with zoning regulations, but are we paying enough to keep skilled people who actually work with these zoning regulations in the planning department? Is the attrition of good workers the city government is experiencing the result of a failure to pay them as well as other towns or just the headache of dealing with our politics / bureaucracy? We know how to throw a great street fair, but we lack the talent to plan for the changes in traffic patterns they cause. And so it goes.

Also (to be more of a wet towel) I think we shouldn't fall all over ourselves lauding our investments in self-reliance and good fiscal planning without acknowledging the dark secret that good ol' urban gentrification (a regional phenomenon) has been the sugar daddy that lets us think we're being fiscally responsible while funding all this cool stuff. I'm with you, mayor - I just wish you'd give us a more candid synopsis.

UnLuckyLouis says:

"While some of this can be attributed to structural problems within the department & getting rid of some deadwood so the better people can shine, a larger issue is that the city simply won't pay to hire / retain the better skilled people."

I think there are a lot of skilled people working for the city.

Write your Alderman that they need a raise, as it seems to be the Aldermen who do not care about retain skilled workers or even treating them like human beings if you have ever seen some of the interactions with city hall staff.

We have some of the hardest working and lowest paid city employees in the region.

Courtney O'Keefe says:

Thankfully, the City knows that it is a great stepping stone for talent to use to go on to bigger / better paychecks. Slowly but surely they are rectifying this issue by implementing pay grades and ranges. The study began many years ago and is still being reflected in the City's budget including the currently proposed one.

Datgruntled says:

"Slowly but surely they are rectifying this issue by implementing pay grades and ranges." Starting with their own substantial raises.

Response to: 'Minimally acceptable zoning'

Villenous says:



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I haven't seen zoning done like this either, largely because the Alderman aren't doing the citywide zoning they should. It's way past time we got comprehensive zoning reform in this city. Seems like Board members like the political theater of fighting over every proposal rather than putting in a set of rules that actually make sense.

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The Somerville Times **Massachusetts Senate passes** omnibus marijuana legislation

By Office of Sen. Patricia D. Jehlen

Last week the Massachusetts Senate passed S.2090, sponsored by Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Policy, which would ensure the public health and safety of patient and consumer access to medical and adult use of marijuana in the Commonwealth.

Instead of repealing and replacing the language passed by voters in November 2016 and November 2012, the Senate maintained core principals from the ballot initiatives and amended the current law. The Senate left the voter-approved 10% tax and 2% local option tax intact, as well as the requirement of a local referendum to ban retail marijuana establishments in a city or town. Additionally, it retained the 2012 ballot initiative to allow medical marijuana.

"The Senate bill preserves the will of voters who passed the ballot question in November 2016. This legislation sets up an improved governance structure for the oversight of the industry, ensures access to the market for communities who have been disproportionally affected by the War on Drugs, and keeps the tax rate at a level that we hope will eliminate the black market," said Senate President Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst). "I have every confidence that we will have a bill to the

Governor's desk by July 1."

"Since receiving this committee assignment, I've talked to my Senate colleagues and heard their ideas and concerns. Together we found ways to move forward on this issue and build a comprehensive piece of legislation," said Senator Jehlen. "We took steps to increase economic opportunities for local business owners and farmers; we set aside funds for research, communities affected by the War on Drugs, and those whose marijuana convictions can be sealed; and we established that the CCC will create public awareness campaigns to reduce youth use, reduce impaired driving, and educate about responsible usage. These are only a few of the measures included in the Senate bill, but I'm incredibly proud of members for remaining dedicated to passing a bill that maintains the voters' will and implements a safe, regulated, and legal marijuana market."

"This legislation takes important steps to shrink the black market, promote a diverse and responsible industry, and establish strong public health and safety protections, especially for our youth, while respecting the will and intent of the voters," said Senator Jason Lewis (D-Winchester), Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Marijuana Policy. "Further, by mandating rigorous research and data collection to inform public policy, as





well as a commission on drugged driving, the legislation also lays the groundwork for sound lawmaking around marijuana policy in the future. I commend Senate President Stan Rosenberg for his vision of responsibly and deliberately addressing the myriad issues surrounding adult-use marijuana legalization, and I commend Senator Jehlen for her collaborative and thoughtful leadership on the Marijuana Policy Committee."

The Senate bill would strengthen oversight:

• Expands the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) to five members: one appointment each from the Treasurer, Governor, and Attorney General, with two additional consensus appointments.

+ Establishes a commission on the effects of impaired driving and how to detect impaired drivers.

+ Mandates clear advertising, packaging, and labeling standards while preserving flexibility for the CCC to adjust to changing industry practices.

+ Implements a strong research agenda that tracks marijuana use trends, economic trends and impacts, monitors the elimination of the illicit market, tracks employment trends in the marijuana industry, and compiles data on any continued enforcement of Chapter 94C crimes related to marijuana.

• Creates public awareness campaigns to reduce youth usage, reduce impaired driving, and education about responsi- tween the Senate bill and the House ble usage.

+ Removes the head start for businesses already licensed for medical marijuana so that all individuals and businesses have a fair shot at entering this industry.

 Allows for the production and sale of industrial hemp under the Department of Agriculture.

+ Requires the CCC to encourage participation by farmers and small businesses, including providing lower priced licenses and the ability to form cooperatives to small cultivators.

The bill would promote justice:

+ Ensures that possession of marijuana by those under 21 is treated the same as underage alcohol possession.

+ Promotes opportunities in communities impacted by the war on drugs.

The bill would protect and preserve the medical marijuana program:

· Protects the ability of the medical marijuana program to serve patients and reduces bureaucracy by carefully transferring the oversight of the medical marijuana program to the CCC over the next 18 months.

+ Institutes significant privacy protections for patients participating in the medical marijuana program.

+ Helps current medical marijuana facilities to compete by allowing them to convert into for-profit entities.

A Conference Committee comprised of both House and Senate members will now work out the differences bill passed earlier this week. Their compromise bill will then head to the Governor's desk for his signature.

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The bill would expand economic opportunities for all:

Somerville's Annual Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration

City will host its annual Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration at Trum Field on Thursday, June 29 (rain date July 6), beginning with live entertainment at 6:30 p.m. Performances by the United States Air Force Heritage of American Band, local Disco-Funk band Booty Vortex, and the Somerville Sunsetters leading up to a 30-minute fireworks display at approximately 9:15 p.m.





She butted out, but that wasn't the end of it

A police officer was flagged down in his cruiser last Saturday by two women in Davis Square.

As the officer parked his cruiser at Statue Park, across the street from the Davis Square MBTA station, one of the two women walked up to the cruiser in a hurry. The officer asked her to back away from the door as he exited the cruiser.

The officer spoke with the woman in front of the cruiser so that we were out of the way of traffic, as Holland Street is a busy street. The woman was very angry and yelling that the other woman, Kiah Bostick, of Everett, just burned her with a cigarette. The officer looked at Bostick, and she reportedly said, "I don't lie. Yes I burned her with my cigarette."

At this point a lot of bystanders began to gather so the officer called for an additional unit to respond, and additional officers shortly responded. The officer was able to get a story from victim, who stated that she was talking with Bostick, and they were both drinking and speaking loudly to each other. Bostick reportedly didn't like the way that the victim was speaking to her so she lit a cigarette and put it out on her right knee.

According to reports, the officer observed this burn mark and took a photo of it. He then went over to speak with Bostick, who was on the phone with another friend and he reportedly could hear her saying that she had burned the victim with her cigarette.

The officer then placed Bostick under arrest on a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (cigarette).

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210 Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

<u>Arrests</u>:

Frank Chan, of 109 Glen St., June 19, 7:47 a.m., arrested at home on a charge of misdemeanor breaking and entering.

Nicole Monico, of 2 Hannah St., Haverhill, June 20, 10:37 a.m., arrested at Skilton Ave. on a warrant charge of operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Noberto Bairos, of 259B Broadway, June 21, 3:08 p.m., arrested at home on charges of drug possession to distribute and possession of ammunition without FID card.

Wendy Breen, of 3 Dartmouth St., June 22, 9:00 p.m., arrested at home on charges of resisting arrest and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Robert Breen, of 3 Revenna Ave., Salem, June 22, 9:00 p.m., arrested at Dartmouth St. on charges of resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, assault and battery on a public employee, and assault and battery on a police officer.

Cameron Linehan, of 289 Highland Ave., June 22, 9:30 p.m., arrested at School St. on charges of trafficking in methamphetamine and drug possession to distribute.

Ivan Vasin, of 171 Walnut St., June 23, 2:29 a.m., arrested at home on multiple charges of drug possession to distribute. William Brown, of 171 Walnut St., June 23, 2:29 a.m., arrested at home on charges of possession of a class E drug, drug possession to distribute, possession of a class B drug, and possession of a class C drug.

Paolo Settipane, of 36 Shannon, Brighton, June 23, 1:24 p.m., arrested at Elm St. on charges of shoplifting by concealing merchandise, assault and battery on a police officer, and resisting arrest.

Steven Liberge, June 23, 3:34 p.m., arrested at Mystic Ave. on a charge of larceny over \$250.

Kiah Bostick, of 12 Park Terr., Everett, June 24, 7:34 p.m., arrested at Holland St. on a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Ian Tosti, of 303 Lowell St., June 25, 10:35 p.m., arrested at Broadway on a charge of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

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City approves operating budget CONT. FROM PG 1

dollars. Also known as "free cash," unreserved funds are handled diligently each year by the city to ensure that they are not lost during the change to a subsequent financial year calendar.

The board fulfilled the two requests to mitigate interest payments on \$50 million in city bonds taken out for initial GLX funding by decreasing the principal amount. The items called for the appropriation of over \$2.9 million for GLX funding from both unreserved funds and reserved revenue as a result of building sales. Free cash was further budgeted to add to the Facility Construction and Renovation Stabilization fund to aid renovation and construction costs for the new Somerville high school.

approved three items that would ensure the city's commitments to sustainable development and greater fiscal and operational efficiency.

Ten aldermen signed on to an item that that re-affirmed the board's commitment to the principles of the Paris Climate Agreement, with particular regard to carbon pollution. The city is currently in talks to aim for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. Alderman Katjana Ballantyne explained that this commitment was necessary because city hall would be establishing a long-term climate change plan in the upcoming fiscal year. ing Somerville carbon-neutral...and in support of the Paris Climate Agreement."

"I feel privileged to be living in Somerville where we have such an (environmentally) active community and a city governproblem in which expired and vacant city positions have not been filled in a timely manner due to inefficiency.

According to Alderman Robert McWatters, the issue has been handled poorly for nearly two decades and remains to be addressed with legislation or state law. The city has previously handled expired terms by keeping incumbent officials employed without official re-appointment. McWatters served as a city clerk for eighteen years before serving on the BOA. ished the city's available housing stock for potential buyers, particularly families.

Although the request calls for a temporary solution to identify illegal property owners, city officials are expected to create a long-term plan in the near future. The current method for addressing the issue involves penalizing owners with fines and an eventual court order in the event that he or she does not cease and desist. The city does not have an active program to research and identify illegal Airbnb practices.

Items related to city officers, carbon pollution, and Airbnb monitoring

Among dozens of other regular items that were addressed throughout the night, the board "The world and local communities cannot deny that climate change is a real issue, regardless of what the President of United States says," said Ballantyne. "I feel privileged to be living in Somerville where we have such an (environmentally) active community and a city government focused on makment focused on making Somerville carbon-neutral"

Alderman William White presented a draft ordinance that would establish holdover terms during the timeframe for the re-appointment of city officers. White's ordinance was written in response to a long-standing "This is not unique to this administration," said McWatters. "In eighteen years, this was a constant problem with all mayors."

A final item on the agenda set a conversation in motion to properly address the illegal use of whole house rentals for shortterm Airbnb renting (under 30 days). Purchasing units for the sole purpose of transient Airbnb renting has consequently diminAlderman Mark Niedergang claimed that there are hundreds of such units throughout the city and encouraged neighborhoods to report any findings.

"It is illegal and if someone complains, then it will be investigated. So, I encourage everyone to complain if you see a whole unit somewhere in your neighborhood being rented out and you have objections."



Kennedy School 8th Grade Moving On Ceremony



The Kennedy School 8th Grade Moving On Ceremony was held on Wednesday, June 21. The students received their awards and diplomas and were treated to a breakfast at the school afterwards. Most of the students will be attending Somerville High School in the fall for another four years. — Photos by Bobbie Toner Go to www.thesomervilletimes.com for more photos

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The City of Somerville will be launching the Somerville Community Choice Electricity program for residents and businesses this summer. The program uses a bulk purchasing process designed to provide savings and rate stability for consumers on their electricity bills. The program also offers consumers exciting renewable energy options. This program was approved by the Board of Aldermen and the MA Department of Public Utilities.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call

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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



Rep. Mike Connolly

of Middlesex.

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.

Our Legislators in the House and Senate for new regulations on how the state will regulate the retail sale and cultivation of marijuana. A House-Senate conference committee will soon hammer out a compromise version and present it to the House and Senate.

> Representatives proposed 121 amendments to the bill yet there were only five roll calls during the ten hours it considered the bill.

> Senators proposed 110 amendments with only five roll calls during its ten hours.

> Many of the amendments were not debated but simply approved or defeated on a predetermined unrecorded voice vote. Here's the way it works:

> The fate of each of these amendments were determined earlier by the leadership.

> The presiding officer in the House or Senate disposes of these amendments by saying, "All those in favor of the amendment say 'aye,' those opposed say 'no.' The no's have it and the amendments are not adopted."

> Or if the fate is approval, it sounds like this: "All those in favor of the amendment say 'aye,' those opposed say 'no.' The ayes have it and the amendments are adopted."

> Senators and representatives don't actually vote yes or no and in fact, don't say a word. They do not even shout "aye" or "no" as one might expect.

MARIJUANA REGULATIONS (H 3768, S 2090)

House 126-28, Senate 30-5, approved different versions of a bill changing some provisions and adding other provisions to the law, approved by voters on the 2016 ballot, legalizing the possession, growing and sale of marijuana. A House-Senate conference committee has been appointed to hammer out a compromise version.

The Senate version keeps the same tax rate that was approved by voters - a 3.75 percent marijuana excise tax and a local option to impose an additional tax of up to 2 percent. Combined with the existing 6.25 percent sales tax, the total tax on marijuana would range from 10 percent to 12 percent, depending on the community. The House version more than doubles the tax rate to 28 percent.

question in which voters would decide whether their community wants to opt out of the law or modify it. The House version allows cities and towns to opt out without a town-wide ballot question. Under the House version, some cities can opt out by a majority vote of the city council and approval of the city manager; other cities by a majority vote of the city council and approval by the mayor; and in a town, by a majority vote of the board of selectmen and a majority vote of a town meeting.

Joint Committee on Marijuana that drafted the bill said her first priority is to protect the will of the voters."We want to reduce the black market and we want to give opportunities to small entrepreneurs and farmers and people in communities that have been harmed," she said.

"I could not vote for the final bill, which I still find problematic in too many ways," said Rep. Denise Provost (D -Somerville). "This bill, after all, is not the Legislature's legalization initiative. This bill makes major changes to a referendum passed by the voters - and the voters did not approve of warrantless searches or the creation of new law enforcement agencies with other broad and poorly-defined powers."

"This bill reflects a commitment to legalizing adult-use marijuana while upholding our duty to ensure safety and effective management," said House Speaker Bob DeLeo (D-Winthrop). "The House placed a premium on health and safety."

Referring to the 28 percent tax approved by the House, Rep. Brad Hill (R-Ipswich) said, "The tax is way too high - with New Hampshire considering legalizing marijuana, all we would be doing is pushing our business to New Hampshire as usual. Additionally, the black market will continue to flourish."

Rep. Marc Cusack (D- Braintree), House chair of the Joint Committee on Marijuana, defended the 28 percent tax and said it is in the middle of the pack among the states that have legalized marijuana. "When you are starting off regulating a new industry, you don't want to be short on revenue and implement this new industry on a shoestring budget," said Cusack.

"I have many concerns with this bill which not only prevents local residents from having a say on whether or not to allow marijuana dispensaries in their community but also creates a costly new government entity and a bureaucracy whose price tag no one has yet determined," said Rep. Kate Campanale (R- Leicester).

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Denise Provost	No
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Yes

DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT FUNDS (H 3768)

The Senate version requires a city or town-wide ballot House 22-131, rejected an amendment that would give money from a \$30 million fund for substance abuse prevention and treatment programs only to cities and towns that allow retail marijuana stores and cultivation of marijuana in their community and do not opt out of the law.



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: This week's roll calls are from the week of June 19-23. The report shows how local senators and representatives voted on House and Senate versions of a bill making changes and imposing

Jim Borghesani, Director of Communications for "Yes on 4," the group that led the campaign to legalize marijuana, prefers the Senate version."The House ... repealed and replaced the historic measure enacted by Massachusetts residents last November," he said. "They did it with virtually no public discussion or debate. Their bill is wrong on taxes, wrong on local control, weak on social justice and irresponsible on regulatory efficiency - and is a far cry from what voters overwhelmingly approved last year."

Sen. Pat Jehlen (D- Somerville), Senate chair of the

Amendment supporters said it reasonable to ban any of these funds from going to communities that opt out. They said when the city or town votes to opt out, it should be aware that their city or town will lose out on this money.

Amendment opponents said individuals who are battling substance abuse should not be denied help and treatment just because they happen to live in a city or town that has decided to opt out.

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

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Denise Provost	Yes

Beacon Hill Roll Call

CONTINUE SESSION BEYOND 9 P.M. UNTIL MIDNIGHT

House 126-26, suspended rules to allow the House to meet beyond 9 p.m. and continue until midnight if necessary.

Supporters of rule suspension said it is important to remain in session to finish action on the very important marijuana law. Opponents of rule suspension said it is irresponsible for the House to act on important bills late at night when taxpayers are asleep.

The House session continued until 9:45 p.m.

(A "Yes" vote is for allowing the session to continue beyond 9 p.m. A "No" vote is against allowing it.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Denise Provost	Yes

NUMBER OF PLANT'S ALLOWED (S 2090)

Senate 4-34, rejected an amendment that would reduce from 12 to six the number of flowering marijuana plants a home grower is allowed to grow at the same time.

Amendment supporters said that if allowed 12 growing plants, a person could harvest 192 ounces of marijuana per year which could be made into more than 17,000 joints. This would allow a person to smoke 46 joints per day, obviously more than any person can consume. They said allowing 12 would lead to professional marijuana

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continued

growers coming to Massachusetts to grow marijuana and sell it on the black market at a price lower than the retail stores and to people younger than 21.

Amendment opponents said the statistics cited by proponents of the reduction to six are based on commercial cultivation which yields much more marijuana than home growing. They argued that the ballot question approved by the voters allowed 12 plants and should not be changed.

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

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

ORGAN DONORS (H 3434) - A bill before the Transportation Committee would automatically enroll anyone who applies for or renews a driver's license in the state's organ donor program. The person could opt out of the program by signing a written notice. Current law only enrolls people who voluntarily sign up for the program when applying for or renewing their driver's license.

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 19-23, the House met for a total of 14 hours and 33 minutes and the Senate met for a total of 12 hours and 29 minutes.

Mon. June 19	House 11:04 a.m. to 2:59 p.m. Senate 11:11 a.m. to 12:37 p.m.
Tues. June 20	No House session No Senate session
Wed. June 21	House 11:48 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. No Senate session
Thurs. June 22	No House session Senate 11:09 a.m. to 9:15 p.m.
Fri. June 23	House 11:06 a.m. to 11:47 a.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 12:06 p.m.

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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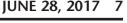
THE NORTON GROUP

Recent Single Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:

Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
11 Cedar Ave	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Colonial	8	\$739,000	\$767,500
48 Glenwood Road	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Victorian	16	\$799,000	\$860,000
226 Highland Ave	9 room, 6 bed, 3f 0h bath Colonial	49	\$799,900	\$850,000
7 Fremont Street	9 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath Other	224	\$850,000	\$800,000

Recent Condominiums Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:

Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price				
28 Forest St U:2	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath 2/3 Family	10	\$849,000	\$875,000				
53 Kent Street U:1	5 room, 2 bed, 2f 0h bath Mid-Rise	103	\$849,900	\$849,900				
7 Gould Avenue U:2	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath 2/3 Family	6	\$888,000	\$956,000				
7 Gould Avenue U:1	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath 2/3 Family	6	\$898,000	\$920,000				
73 Central Street U:2	6 room, 3 bed, 3f 0h bath 2/3 Family	20	\$948,000	\$975,000				
89 Josephine Ave U:1	7 room, 2 bed, 3f 1h bath 2/3 Family	11	\$949,000	\$995,000				
15 Ivaloo St U:15	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Townhouse	48	\$964,999	\$935,000				
89 Josephine Ave U:2	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath 2/3 Family	11	\$1,049,000	\$1,150,000				
56 Line Street U:1	7 room, 3 bed, 3f 0h bath 2/3 Family	123	\$1,049,900	\$1,049,000				
10 Powder House Terrace U:2	7 room, 4 bed, 3f 1h bath 2/3 Family	28	\$1,199,000	\$1,250,000				
62 Lowden Avenue U:2	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath 2/3 Family	43	\$1,199,900	\$1,130,000				
12 Newbury Street U:2	5 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Low-Rise	17	\$1,495,000	\$1,420,000				
Recent Multi-Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:								
Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price				
40-42 Pennsylvania Avenue	2 unit, 13 total room, 5 total bedroom 2 Family	16	\$899,000	\$899,000				
10-12 Boston Ave	2 unit, 11 total room, 4 total bedroom 2 Family	27	\$925,000	\$1,000,000				
21 Lake Street	2 unit, 11 total room, 6 total bedroom 2 Family	32	\$929,000	\$880,000				
36 Ware St	2 unit, 11 total room, 5 total bedroom 2 Family	19	\$975,000	\$1,001,000				
17-19 Wallace Street	2 unit, 11 total room, 5 total bedroom 2 Family	9	\$1,200,000	\$1,390,000				
34 Gilman St	2 unit, 10 total room, 4 total bedroom 2 Family	15	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000				
57 College Ave	2 unit, 14 total room, 9 total bedroom 2 Family	7	\$1,450,000	\$1,550,000				
9 Chapel St	2 unit, 14 total room, 4 total bedroom 2 Family	8	\$1,699,000	\$1,705,000				





'The Mummy' comes to life

By Dre Joseph

If, by some chance, you find yourself at AMC Assembly Row or Somerville Theatre this weekend or next, ask yourself this question: Are you looking for meaningful thought-provoking storytelling or a profusion of action with photosensitive epileptic-inducing special effects?

Box office ticket revenue concludes that moviegoers are looking for the latter. Action and scifi movies have been the reigning champion of the box office for quite some time now. But should summer movies be exempt of plot and storylines and feature special effects and action in excess in attempt to gain its bigger piece of the pie? If this is what the audience is craving, then why not? Why not give fans of the genre more of what has proven to be a winning formula? So, as you enter the theater, sliding into the rickety reclining movie seat, while eating stale popcorn with overpriced sugar water in hand to watch the latest rendition of The Mummy, keep this in mind: action and special effects first, plot and substance last. Even still, it makes for one hell of a ride; for the summer, anyway.

Blockbuster veteran (and running enthusiast) Tom Cruise plays Nick Morton, a member of the U.S. military, who tries to get rich along with his best friend, Chris Vail (Jake Johnson), by selling stolen artifacts on the black market. When they stumble upon a map that Morton steals from Jenny Halsey (Anabelle Wallis), with whom



The Mummy has risen and can be viewed at either the Somerville Theatre or AMC Assembly Row.

Morton has a quick but torrid affair, they accidentally unearth the tomb of the ancient princess Ahmanet (Sofia Boutella). And, of course, shockingly unearth the tomb that awakens the pact that the ancient princess made with evil and horrors that defy all manner of comprehension.

Overall, The Mummy is very entertaining. Its action scenes are akin to a theme park ride on steroids; and there are a lot of rides in this park, perhaps even too many. The special effects are both imaginative and jaw dropping, consisting of chasing mummies resembling zombies from The Walking Dead, but much faster (i.e., World War Z). However, they don't eat their victims; instead they suck the life out of them. The friendship of Morton and Vail is full of laughs and affable buffoonery. The pair get into situations that Morton promises to be simple and easy, only to realize that they are in way over their heads. Some of their indescribable circumstances range from discovering the ancient tomb of Ahmanet crawling with spiders to Morton trying to help his friend out of a seemingly hopeless spot in which there is no coming back. It is reminiscent of the relationship between David Naughton and Griffin Dune in John Landis' 1983 phenomenon, *A Werewolf in London*.

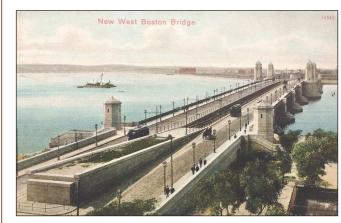
Unfortunately, the drawback of the film is also its greatest detriment. The plot is exorbitantly convoluted as if the script hopped back and forth between five different screenwriters like a hot potato. In any case, if you are familiar with the storylines of its predecessors, be it 1932's The Mummy or the 1999 Brendan Fraser-led film of the same name, open-mindedness is beneficial here, because massive liberties have been taken in the 2017 revival. The main reason for this is due to Universal Studios' attempt to create a franchise of interconnected monster films within a shared universe. But here's the thing folks, Universal did this already, back in the mid-to-late 1940's. Obviously, this is a desperate ploy to compete with the gargantuan Marvel Cinematic Universe and the rising DC Extended Universe for Continued on page 17 colossal

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

Eagle feathers #132

Bridging Somerville By Bob (Monty) Doherty

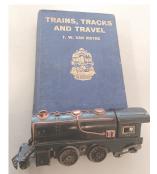
Until 1842, Somerville was called "Charlestown beyond the Neck." This was a narrow tract of land that bridged the two districts together at low tide. The site was at today's Sullivan Square, named after James Sullivan, Governor of Massachusetts and President of the Middlesex Canal Corporation.



References to early pre-Somerville farmlands, with the exception of Winthrop's Ten Hills, are obsolete today. Some of these pastures were known as Cow Commons, the Stinted Pasture, High Field, Gibbons Field and Line Field. Although two of them have been leveled, Somerville's Seven Hills have retained their names.

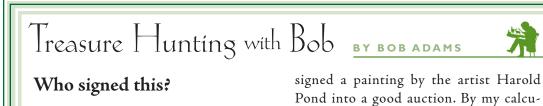
From these hills, a network of brooks, creeks, and streams fed pools and ponds. They then flowed into the surrounding rivers. To navigate this area, the placement of large stones served as early bridges, followed by rustic, corduroy log crossings. After the first bridge was constructed across the Charles River, the walk from Union Square to downtown Boston was three miles. Prior to their con-

struction, it was ten miles through Cambridge, Brighton and Roxbury. If you think today's Somerville traffic is bad, imagine her landscape without bridges, underpasses, or Interstate Route 93, which is the longest viaduct in the city. Without this labyrinth of bridges, it would be nearly



impossible to cross Somerville in any direction.

Through the years, the local naming and renaming of bridges has been an interesting art, beginning with the largest in New England, the Tobin Bridge. It was named after Maurice J. Tobin, Boston Mayor and Massachusetts Governor who supported legislation to create the Massachusetts Port Authority. It was originally called the Mystic River Bridge. The Boston University Bridge was first



Have an old painting and can't decipher the lations, I thought it would sell for \$400.

signature? Take a photo of the signature and save it onto your computer. Open the signature photo with any program and manipulate the color or contrast. Sometimes the signature will just pop out and you can easily read it.

When I'm out "hunting" I come across scores of pictures every day. I run my finger across the picture to see if there's any texture. On a real painting, I'll be able to feel the paper or paint of the real ones where a print will be smooth. If I need to see it closer, I'll use my 10X (ten power magnification) loupe to see if there are any printing dots. Printing dots look like your phone screen when it has a drop of water on it.

I like putting pictures in good auctions. I've made the mistake of putting them in bad auctions before. Recently I conWell, two people bid against each other dozens of times and it sold for \$1275. There were 67 bids on it before it sold. That's almost a quarterly tax payment for my house here in Somerville. Thank you very much. I bought it at a second hand store for under \$15.

On auctions: If someone really, really wants it, it'll sell for \$1. If two people really want it, the sky's the limit.

Bob Adams has been in Somerville 27 years but was a frequent visitor prior to moving here. He worked as a jeweler in a few shops in his younger years, owned his own shop for a bit, sold real estate for 10 years and is always hunting for his next treasure. He has been an antique and collectibles dealer for 30 years. He can be reached at 27winter@gmail.com.



named the Cottage Farm Bridge. The Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge was almost called the Freedom or Patriot Bridge. The Longfellow Bridge was first named the West

Boston Bridge. The Massachusetts Avenue Bridge, spanning the Charles River, is often called the M.I.T. Bridge, but is actually named after Reverend John Harvard, one of the founders of Harvard College.

Somerville has more than her share of bridges, most of them supporting or crossing railroads. The Boston and Fitchburg Rail Line once boasted thirteen bridges across Somerville. This was before the Millers River was filled in. It now has eight. The Boston and Continued on page 15

Somerville – Townhouse 39 Oxford St

A must see designed 2-townhouses/singles Brand new construction 6 Rooms - 3 Bedrooms - 2.5 Baths 2 Car Parking Left Unit \$1,150,000 Approximately 1900 sf of space, additional space in finished basement. Right Unit \$1,250,000 Approximately 1950 sf of space, additional space in finished basement,



Listing Agent: Donald Norton, The Norton Group Real Estate 699 Broadway, Somerville • 617-623-6600 ext. 11

Election 2017 update

Below are citizens who have pulled nomination papers for elected office in Somerville as of June 28, 2017. Black indicates candidate has pulled nomination papers From The Somerville Election Department. Gray indicates Somerville Election Department has completed signature certification.

Office	Last Name	First Name	Middle	Street Address & Zip
Mayor- 250 Signatures Required				
Mayor	Curtatone	Joseph A	Joe	130 Ten Hills Rd 02145
	Van Buskirk III	Kenneth C	_	114 Highland Ave # 302 02143
	Corbett	Payton		28 Mount Pleasant St #1 02145
Alderman At Large- 150 Signatur	es Required City Wi	de		
Alderman At Large	Sullivan	Dennis	Michael	138 Ten Hills Rd 02145
	Mbah	Will		65 Woods Ave 02144
	Tarpley	Kevin	Allen	15 Hamlet St 02143
	Rossetti	Mary Jo		80 Electric Ave 02144
	Fitzgerald	Sean	J	46 Garrison Ave 02144
	White	William	A Bill Jr	125 Ten Hills Rd 02145
	Connolly	John M	Jack	17 Winslow Ave 02144
	Hirsch	Stephanie	A	17 Fremont Ave 02143
Withdraw	n* Kaufman	Jeff		69 Morrison Ave 2 02144
Ward Alderman 100 Signatures R		fic		
Alderman Ward 1	Mclaughlin	Matthew	С	50 Flint St #3 02145
	Lorusso	Elio		11 George St #2 02145
Alderman Ward 2	Scott	JT		269 Washington St 02143
	Heuston	Mary Ann		115 Beacon St 02145
Alderman Ward 3	McWatters	Robert		218 A Summer St 02143
	Ewen-Campen	Ben		28 Warren Ave #5 02143
Alderman Ward 4	Clingan	Jesse		33 Puritan Rd 02145
	Boukili	Omar		91 Putnam Rd 02145
Alderman Ward 5	Niedergang	Mark		29 Conwell St 02143
Alderman Ward 6	Davis	Lance		356 Highland Ave 02144
Alderman Ward 7	Ballantyne	Katjana		49 Russell Rd 02144
School Committee 100 Signature	s Required Ward Sp	ecific		
School Committee Ward 1	Hamlin	Guillermo	Samuel	69 Myrtle St 02145
	Salvato	Kenneth	M	28 Brook St 02145
	Pratt	Tracey	Leah	19A Bonair St 02145
	Ackman	Emily		23 Autumn St 02145
School Committee Ward 2	Futrell	Dan	J	20 Concord Ave #1 02143
	Camara	Ann	E	53 Hanson St
	McDonald Nionakis	Susan		28 Mansfield St 02143
School Committee Ward 3	Palmer	Lee	Erica	17 Pitman St 02143
School Committee Ward 4	Green	Andre	L	88 Governor Winthrop Rd 0214
School Committee Ward 5	Pitone	Laura	J	46 Rogers Ave 02144
				and a second sec
School Committee Ward 6	OSullivan	Paula	G	10 Morrison PI 02144
Ochocal Oceana Manual 7	Managed	0	O a serie	
School Committee Ward 7	Normand	Caroline	Carrie	25 Kingston St 02144

The final date to submit nomination papers with the required signatures is Wednesday, June 28. The certification of nomination papers to be completed, filed by the Board of Election Commissioners by July 17. — Donald Norton

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ thesomervilletimes

Last day for pulling papers for city elections this week

By Donald Norton

Candidate for Ward 1 Alderman, Elio LoRusso, who pulled nomination papers this past Friday, is pictured here turning in 140 signatures this past Monday, and just a few hours later the Election Department certified them.

He mentioned to us that many were out getting signatures for him, and he was able to submit 200 plus by the deadline of Wednesday, June 28.

He told The Times that he was asked by many in the ward to run, to bring back how the ward was previously represented, working for everyone on constituency service level.

Many residents urged him on because they either did not know who the alderman was or that the current one never returned phone calls or other pleas from various residents.

It will be difficult, but he feels confident that in the end the residents will choose him because of his previous dedication and service to the ward and to East Somerville as a whole.

LoRusso is quickly forming a committee of dedicated volunteers and residents of Ward 1. He mentioned that he will knock on every door in the ward



Candidate for Ward 1 Alderman, Elio LoRusso. — Photo by Donald Norton

more than once.

In other races, so far seven Alderman At-Large candidates have submitted their signatures and are certified. One more has his signatures out and is said to be submitting his final papers before the deadline on Wednesday June 28 at 5:00 p.m.

Two candidates so far are vying for mayor, including current Mayor Joe Curtatone and Kenneth Van Buskirk III, who are certified, while Payton Corbett has submitted some signatures but has not certified as of press time.

In the Ward 1 School Committee race, three have been certified: Guillermo Hamlin, Kenneth Salvato and Emily Ackman, while Tracey Pratt has papers outstanding.

In Ward 2 it looks like none of the three who took out papers are certified yet.

Last minute on Friday and Monday, Ann Camara and Susan Nionakis took out papers but have not returned them yet. The incumbent, Dan Futrell, also has not yet certified as well.

There could be primaries in Wards 1 and 2 for local School Committee, while a possible primary in mayor might be in the cards with two certified and one more yet to submit his papers.



Somerville MA A tradition of fine foods since 1935

Somerville Retirement Board begins fossil fuel divestment

By Tom Bannister

In a historic move, Somerville has become the first municipality in the state to divest its retirement system from the fossil fuel industry.

The Somerville Retirement Board has enacted a comprehensive fossil fuel divestment plan by moving \$9.2 million in assets into a fossil fuel free index fund as of June 21. The board voted 4-0 at its May 25 meeting to adopt a subcommittee recommendation of a four-step plan to move its assets out of funds that include the top 200 fossil fuel companies, with today's divestment representing the first of those four steps. This vote is a critical victory in the fight against climate change and demonstrates not only a prudent abandonment of an industry about to be made obsolete by the parallel stresses of stranded assets and the booming renewable energy sector, but also the power of municipalities to challenge the institutional underpinnings of the fossil fuel economy.

"We're so thankful to the SRB for taking this momentous action," said Colby Cunningham of Fossil Free Somerville. "After a thorough and prudent investigation of the issue over the last 18 months, the board has realized that it is in the best interests of the pension system to phase out investment in an industry that is experiencing a historic period of volatility and subscribes to a business model that is incompatible with the long-term survival of the human race."

The board's vote transfers all assets held with fund manager Rhumbline Institutional Index Management into a fossil fuel security free S&P 500 index fund. This transfer of \$9.2 million represents 4 percent of the pension system's nearly \$250 million portfolio. The SRB's new plan calls for three additional initiatives, including discussions with its largest equity fund manager, Congress Assets, about future possible equity divestment, an RFP process for a fossil fuel

free bond fund solution, and an exploration of energy efficiency and climate vulnerability in its real-estate holdings. The move is believed to be the first of its kind taken by any municipality in Massachusetts, and only the third in the country. "This is a huge success for the people of Somerville, and it provides a blueprint to divestment for the other 105 cities and towns across Massachusetts that manage their own pension systems," Fossil Free Somerville member Shoshana Blank said. "Somerville has shown the way on this issue, and we look forward to working with people throughout Massachusetts as they move their own Continued on page 17

Events From 30 - 1000 guests

Mt. Vernon Catering

Weddings, Clambakes, Backyard BBQ's, Christenings, Graduations, Bereavements, Anniversaries, Bridal & Baby Showers, Pig Roasts, Retirement Parties, Birthday Parties, Holiday Parties and more!

One call and we can help plan it all! Mention this ad and get 10% off your next event!

Also offering full party rental needs from tables, tents, chairs, linens and more!

We can create a menu to satisfy every taste and budget!

Call 617-800-3089 Email: mtvernonrestaurants@yahoo.com

COMMENTARY

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

Be Somerville



By Joseph A. Curtatone

I usually use this space to dig into City policies and projects or interesting data and figures with you each week. It's important that I'm able to share with you directly the important issues and challenges the City faces, and the programs, services, and initiatives we offer. I will continue doing that. However, recently we've heard from residents that additional reminders of upcoming meetings and other ways to engage with the City would be welcome and appreciated, so once each month I'd like to take the opportunity to share a list of upcoming ways to get involved. Somerville ultimately is the sum of its people and the actions we take every day. Here are a few direct actions you can take in the coming weeks to help shape who we are.

—Mayor Joe Curtatone

Upcoming Meetings and Civic prioriti Opportunities: the cor

Community Preservation Committee General Public Member Application Info Session, 6/28

The Community Preservation Committee, which allocates Community Preservation Act funding for affordable housing projects, recreation and open space, as well as historic preservation, is recruiting a new general public member to start January 1, 2018. If you're interested in learning more, head to the meeting to speak with current committee members about their experiences. Can't make the meeting? Contact Community Preservation Act Manager Kristen Stelljes at KStelljes@ somervillema.gov.

When/where: Wednesday, June 28, at 6 p.m. at the Visiting Nurse Association, 259 Lowell St.

Community Preservation Plan Hearing, 6/28

Share your thoughts about how the Community Preservation Committee should allocate \$2 million in CPA

Somerville races it's difficult for

me to understand what such a

reason might be. And that's not

For this column, I will focus

on my own Ward 3 – Prospect,

Spring, and Central Hills and

Union Square. Here, both candi-

dates are progressive Democrats

whose biographical differences

evoke reflection on the demo-

from lack of trying.

funds, and discuss long-term priorities and projects with the committee. When/where: Wednesday, June 28, at 7 p.m. at the Visiting Nurse Association, 259 Lowell St.

Prospect Hill Community Walk, 7/6

Join City staff and Ward 3 Alderman Robert McWatters for a community walk to discuss the rehabilitation of Prospect Hill Park.

When/where: Thursday, July 6, at 6 p.m. at Prospect Hill Park

Zoning Overhaul Open Houses, 7/6 and 7/19 (and more)

Do you have questions about the proposed Zoning Overhaul? Drop by sometime between 2 and 8 p.m. to ask questions and give feedback on the overhaul to City planning and zoning staff. To learn more about the proposed zoningplease visit www.somervillezoning.com and click the infographics tab for some introductory information.

When/where: The next two Open Houses are Thursday, July 6, any time between 2 and 8 p.m. at the Winter Hill Community School Library, 115 Sycamore St. and Wednesday, July 19, any time between 2 and 8 p.m. at the Senior Center, 165 Broadway. For more dates, visit www. somervillezoning.com.

Youth-Police Walking Dialogs (All ages invited!) 7/6 and 7/13 (and more)

Join members of the Somerville Police Department and the Center for Teen Empowerment for neighborhood walks. This annual program aims to enhance communication between Somerville community members and their local police while also strengthening relationships among police, youth, community residents, and business owners.

When/where: The next two walks open to all are Thursday, July 6, from 4 to 6 p.m., meet at Perkins Park, and Thursday, July 27, from 4 to 6 p.m., meet at Dickerman Playground. A walk for residents of the North Street Development only will be held Thursday, July 13, 3-5p.m. For details on walks being held 7/22, 8/10, 8/15, and 8/24, visit www.somervillema.gov and see the City calendar.

School Committee Meetings, Ongoing

Board of Aldermen meetings (whole and committees) as well as School Committee Meetings are open to the public. Some are public hearings where all are invited to speak. Others are deliberations that the public is invited to listen to but not to speak at during formal proceedings. Either way, you can always reach out to Board members to share your thoughts and concerns. Visit www.somervillecityma.iqm2. com for the meeting schedule and agendas as well as past meeting minutes and access to the live streaming portal.

The meetings and events listed above represent just a snapshot of ways to get involved with your City. Sign up for the weekly City Newsletter where you can find important City news updates as well as information and reminders about upcoming meetings and events. To subscribe, visit www.somervillema.gov/newsletter. Check the events calendar at www.somervillema. gov for a full list of upcoming meetings and events.

Every candidacy needs a reason

By William C. Shelton

In April, journalists Amie

tion, as opposed to 21% for the nation.

Ward 3 Alderman Bob McWatters' roots are in Old Somerville. His father worked at Somerville's swimming pool and skating rink. His family of six shared a two-bedroom Spring Hill apartment, where he experienced episodic violence growing up, and where he still lives. His grandmother was a source of emotional stability and encouraged him to attend U Mass Boston. He subsequently earned a MPA degree at Northeastern and now works as a probation officer. Ewen-Campen, Bob's Ben challenger, grew up in Cambridge, where he was raised by caring and well-educated parents - his father, an economist, and his mother, a sculptor. He graduated from Swarthmore College in 2006 and earned a biology PhD from Harvard in 2014. He currently works at Harvard Medical School, where

his research interests include

molecular, evolutionary and cell

biology. His work has been ex-

While they both advocate progressive policies, they took different routes to their progressivism. For Ben, it was the worldview of the home in which he grew up. From an early age he was exposed to articulate people who could talk persuasively about the need for systemic change. I'm not suggesting that I like Ben. Like Bob, he is both a nice man and a good man. But I haven't heard a persuasive case as to why Ben should replace Bob, who is considered by many to be the most responsive and effective alderman in delivering constituent services.

In his campaign literature, Ben states that he has been active in the politics of Union Square development. Yet I don't recall seeing him at any of the scores of Union Square planning meetings held over the last three years. And I never heard him propose a specific planning guideline or development policy. I did see Bob at those meetings - listening intently. And when it came time to make policy, he advocated for a requirement that 20% of units in major housing developments be affordable. He's been a leader in instituting a development linkage fee to support local job training. He was one of only three aldermen - along with Matt McLaughlin and Katjana Ballantyne – who voted to

Continued on page 21

require that

nore **Board of Aldermen and**

tensively published.

Parnes and Jonathan Allen published Shattered: Inside Hillary Clinton's Doomed Campaign. One of their revelations has gotten me thinking about this year's Somerville election.

They report that month-after-month neither Clinton nor her top aides could articulate a vision for her candidacy. They could not put together a cogent explanation for why Americans should vote for her in particular. All candidacies need this, and it becomes all the more important when a candidate is challenging an incumbent. The challenger must offer a compelling reason for why voters should remove someone whom they previously put in office. Yet in several graphic changes that are taking place in their political party and in our city.

For over forty years the Democratic Party has increasingly abandoned working people in favor of well-educated and relatively affluent creative-class and knowledge workers. Seizing this opportunity, Republicans mobilized culture-war tactics to woo millions of White working people who voted for Trump in November, while many working people of color stayed home. Meanwhile in Somerville, younger and educated professionals are increasingly displacing older working people and their children. Millennials now account for 44% of our populahe uncritically imbibed these ideas. He is too smart for that. But these modes of thought were immediately available for his consideration.

They were not for Bob. He became active at a time in which Somerville's political culture was often dominated by personal relationships and favor trading, and he worked within the world in which he found himself. But his efforts to make a difference for constituents of all stripes began to reveal how the accepted ways of doing things were not providing the best outcomes for those constituents. And he sought out and listened carefully to those with new ideas and the evidence to back them up.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Our View Of The Times



The Fourth of July holds a special significance in the hearts of truly patriotic Americans. Not only is it a time to celebrate the birth of our nation, but it also happens to fall at the best time of year to make good times happen, summer.

Who among us doesn't enjoy the occasion? Who can resist the warm glow of good fellowship between friends, neighbors and families as the "birthday" of our nation comes around?

Great memories for the future are made each year as we attend a patriotic gathering, watch some fireworks, or just take a quiet look around and realize that America is still the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave. There's nothing corny about these ideas. They are concepts that live and breath as vitally today as they ever have.

We must never take these freedoms for granted, nor minimize their importance

in assuring that we Americans enjoy one of the finest standards of living among all nations of the world.

Yes, we have our challenges and burdens to bear, and a number of political and philosophical differences between us. But we also seem to push through successfully as we strive to solve our many difficult issues, and to soothe the afflicted among us. For whatever exists momentarily that may divide us, there are important times

like these when we can unite together in the spirit of true patriotism and national pride to celebrate the great gift of being Americans, and commemorate the sacrifices of our forebears in bringing this nation to life. We owe it to their memories to take the time to pause and reflect on what their efforts mean to us today.

Enjoy the day and remember what it stands for. That's the most important thing of all.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

without fear of threats from someone who might have anger issues. Just saying! *****

Check out www.ocpf.us and plug in a name to find out who and how local politicians stand in fundraising. We're looking it over and seeing who contributes to whom. Remember, it's not illegal to accept money from special interests, including developers, lawyers or unions

Interesting race in Ward 1 with the incumbent facing a serious challenge for alderman and four candidates running in the School Committee race, so watch for a lot of activity in the ward this year. In Ward 2, the incumbent Maryann Heuston is also facing a serious challenge in the race and late last week someone took out papers for School Committee running against the incumbent there. In Ward 3 there will be a heated race between Alderman McWatters and challenger Ben-Campen, who is well funded by out of state money. Ward 4 also appears to be heating up with both candidates Omar Boukili and Jesse Clingan going head to head with different support. FYI, we heard that Omar left his job or is on his last week on the job in Revere at the Mayor's Office to campaign full time. His candidacy has since been certified by the city. In Ward 5 there is no opposition this year for incumbent Mark Niedergang or for the School Committee's Laura Pitone, both going unopposed. In Ward 6, first time up for re-election Alderman Lance Davis has no opposition and School Committee member (who won in a special election)

Paula O'Sullivan is not being opposed. Meanwhile, up in Ward 7 Alderman Katjana Ballantyne is also unopposed, as well as Caroline Normand on the School Committee. In the mayoral race, Mayor Joe Curtatone is being opposed by two opponents. Kenneth Van Buskirk III has been certified to run, and late Monday afternoon Payton Corbett is certified, making it a primary here in

Night with all those running for office, they announced that since Elio LoRusso got in the race for alderman just this week that they would recognize both him and Alderman Matt McLaughlin and not endorse in Ward 1. Immediately after hearing that, Alderman McLaughlin stormed out of the hall, apparently upset. We're not sure. We covered the debate and it was also carried on Facebook live. The debate took place in Wards 2, 3 and 4 plus Alderman At-Large. In the other wards the incumbents had no opposition this year. The battles will take place in the first 4 Wards of the city. *****

of any kind.

We congratulate the Somerville City Club and the leadership of Steve Harvey and Don Johnson, along with the Board of Directors, on a successful 50year anniversary. We hear that club will be making some moves over the next few years, which will ensure that they will remain a part of the city for a long time. In the meantime, if you are looking for a function room look no further than the Somerville City Club. A nice hall, with lots of parking and it's easy to get to. *****

Happy anniversary to Ricky and Jamie Hart, celebrating in their new home in Florida. 18 years of marriage, it's hard to believe 18 years passes quickly. We wish them both many happy more.

the city in the mayor's race first time in almost 14 years. In the School Committee race in Ward 1, where three are certified as of the deadline for this paper and in Ward 2. It might be a primary as well for School Committee member Dan Futrell. He has yet to submit his signatures, but Ann Camara and Susan Nionakis pulled their papers. So far, none have certified but today, Wednesday, is the deadline. In the Alderman At-Large race it looks like the four incumbents were certified: Bill White, Dennis Sullivan, Jack Connolly and Mary Jo Rossetti, as well as three others so far, Kevin Tarpley, Stephanie Hirsh, and Will Mbah. Sean Fitzgerald pulled papers but hasn't been certified by paper's deadline.

***** On Tuesday at the Labor Candidate

Happy birthday this week here in the Ville: Happy birthday to our Mayor Joe Curtatone, the longest serving mayor in our city's history. He will go down as one of - if not the - best mayors in the city's history. Also, happy birthday to Maria LoRusso Cutler, who grew up in East Somerville. We hope she has a great birthday. Happy birthday this week as well to Maria LoRusso the mother of Elio and Maria, celebrating this week a great family who are a big part of East Somerville. Happy birthday to Rod Continued on page 16 Laurenz this

East Somerville Reunion 2017

By Donald Norton

Over 100 former and current East Somerville residents who grew up here attended the reunion at the City Club this past Saturday night. The reunion was the idea of Dan Rogovich who grew up in East Somerville and organized the first one three years ago, and this is the second so called reunion. Dan worked hard along with his small committee of family and friends to pull off this event.

Several generations of East Somerville residents showed up from the 60's right straight up to the 90's and still some that continue to live here in East Somerville. Great music by a local band, lots of food and great reminisces by the many that showed up. There was lots of talk about the old days and funny details of events that each enjoyed and have great memories of.

It was obvious to many there that some hadn't seen each other in decades, some several decades. What a nice event and when you think about growing up in East Somerville, it was set apart from the rest of the city. It was known by many in Somerville as the poorest end that ran the Charlestown border.

It might have been that, but to the many people who attended and didn't attend that grew up in East Somerville, it was an experience for many reasons. Many of the various parts of East Somerville were bonded together closer than other sections, some would say.

East Somerville runs from McGrath Highway east to the Charlestown line. Growing up, everyone in East Somerville knew all the land marks and lots of people Saturday reminisced and talked about many of those spots, like St. Benedicts, Broadway Theatre, Seven Sons Diner, Tin Roof, Daily's Café (Bucket of Blood), Broadway Café, Khoury's Café, Patsy's Pastry shop, Apollo's Cake Company, Tucks, Royal Furniture, Tufts Street Drug, Tip Top Market, Steve's, Prescott School, Edgerly, Vocational School, J&S Subs on Cross Street, Millers Market, Reds, Florence Street park, Dunkin Donuts on Middlesex when they served lunches, First National Store warehouse and Gas Station, Glen Park and who didn't go to Joe Izzy's across from Glen, Mt. Vernon Restaurant, Grover's on Cross & B'Way, Tar Pits and who got caught, and many other spots in East Somerville depending on the decade you grew up in.

No matter where you grew up in East Somerville everyone from there visited all the places mentioned and we're sure we missed some others. Hopefully, this tradition continues, for the many that showed up and those that couldn't attend last week but wanted to and will if there is a next time. Thank you, Dan Rogovich, for a great ride down memory lane. It was really enjoyable for everyone who attended.

Many thanks to Neil Gillis and Russell "Rusty" Smith for the many other pictures sent into the paper from the event. Go online to view the others.







Dave and Vi



Dennis McDonald.

Rita Ortolarni French, Theresa Miscavage Manning, Lynda Amorella Silva, Valerie MacQuarrie, and Debbie Leonard.



One Moe Time.





John Bastardi and Guy Silves

Pati and Judy Rodgers.



Gary Rodgers and Ricky Spinosa.



Donal

JUNE 28, 2017 13

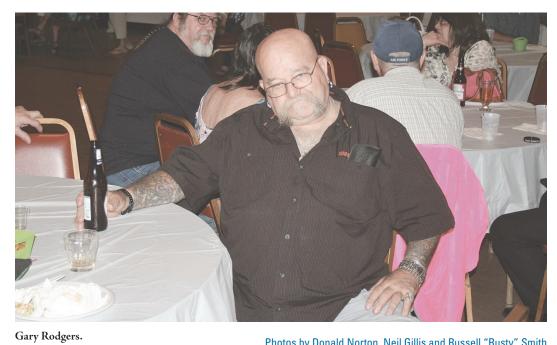
The Somerville Times -



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Go to www.thesomervilletimes.com for more photos



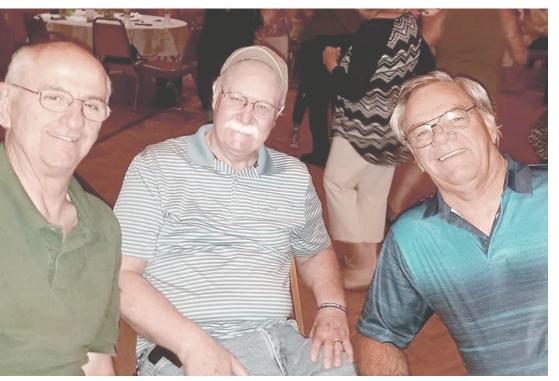
Photos by Donald Norton, Neil Gillis and Russell "Rusty" Smith







Susan Mangherini, Neil Gillis and Rita Ortolani French.



d Norton, Ricky Clark and Arty Mason.



Ann T. Ragucci, Marie Mitrano, Sissy Reid O'Sea and Lynda Amorella Silva.

SPORTS

Somerville Girls U10 soccer honored by city

By Louise Carpenter

A special Citation was awarded by the City of Somerville Board of Aldermen at their regular meeting last Thursday commending the Otters, Somerville Youth Soccer League's Girls Under-10 Travel Team, who were undefeated in the 2017 Commissioner's Cup Tournament.

The citation, sponsored by Ward Seven Alderman Katjana Ballantyne, the entire Board and the Mayor, read as follows:

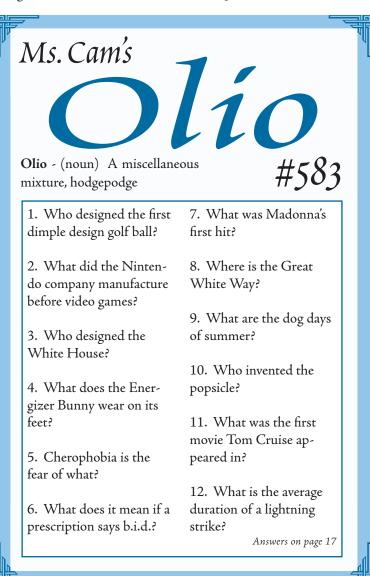
"Be it hereby known to all that the Somerville Board of Aldermen and Mayor offer their sincerest commendations to the Somerville Youth Soccer League's Otters PLAYERS: Em-

ily Bermudez, Beatrix Calvert, Audrey Cunningham, Sophia Nilsson, Sophia Oliveira, Jourdin Ortiz, Sara Ortiz, Jyzelle Rose, Olive Ward Grabowski, Eleanor Williams, COACHES: Head Coach Richard Nilsson, Assistant Coach Laurie Calvert who were undefeated in the Middlesex Youth Soccer League 2017 Commissioner's Cup Tournament, Girls Travel U10 Division. The Aldermen and the Mayor congratulate these athletes, and extend their best wishes for continued success in all endeavors. Offered this 22nd day of June, 2017."

The team played and won all three games of the tournament. No other girls U10 team won three games.



The Otters, Somerville Youth Soccer League's Girls Under-10 Travel Team were honored by the city for their victory in the Commissioner's Cup Tournament.





Somerville YMCA CIT/LIT Job Readiness Program

By Rebecca Danvers

Plenty of spaces are still open for the second session of the Somerville CIT/LIT Job Readiness program. The program serves approximately twenty-four, 13-15 year olds in a four weeklong session. With partnership from the Somerville YMCA, Somerville Community Youth Program, Healey Community School and the Teen Empowerment Program, this motivational program provides youth leadership, team building, and job readiness training activities. The purpose of the program is to train youth for future employment in a summer camp program or other job opportunities when they are age appropriate. The program runs 30 hours a week, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The facility is the Healey Community School, whose address is 5 Meacham St,



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Somerville, MA 02145. In addition, the program will cover many aspects such as leadership, diversity, and teamwork; the youth will also learn how to fill out job applications, create resumes, go on mock job interviews, as well as learn to set up bank accounts.

During the program, teens spend time as a counselor in training for a few hours at the YMCA and other local summer day camp programs. At the end of the four-week session the participating youth will receive a certificate of achievement and stipend for completing the program.

The second session runs from July 20 to August 11. They are still accepting applications for this session. Applications are available at the Somerville YMCA, 101 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143 as well as online at www. somervilleymca.org.

For more information please contact Matt O'Donnell / Joe Pinto at the YMCA (617) 625-5050 or jpinto@somervilleymca. org, citlit@somervilleymca.org.

The Somerville Times -**Kingdom Rock Children's** Village opens its doors

By Rebecca Danvers

After founding, launching, and directing a successful Christian preschool in Arlington, MA for eight years Medford resident, Stacie J. Clayton, has begun a new chapter, starting her own non-profit Early Childhood program, Kingdom Rock Children's Village, Inc. (KRCV).

She will now add to the list of quality group-care facilities in Somerville and surrounding areas. KRCV has now opened its first classroom for preschool aged children from 2 years 9 months to 5 years old. She hopes to open an infant room and Toddler room shortly.

The location, 10 Winslow Avenue, is conveniently located one block from the Davis Square T Station, and is about 7,000 square feet of attractive, sun-lit, spacious and well-resourced classrooms. In addition, the space has a fully equipped indoor playground and a vast range of over 100 musical instruments for musical exploration.

The classrooms are attractive and spacious with appropriate learning centers for play and learning in all domains. The infant and toddler rooms are thoughtfully arranged with crawling spaces, mirrored grab bars, rest areas, cozy reading nooks, and child-accessible learning toys and centers.

KRCV is a faith-based option with love and community as their priority. They welcome the international community, second language learners, and children of varied interests and needs. KRCV will also offer a summer program, starting with the Down to Earth Gardening sessions from June 26-July 14, and the sports session from July 17-28. Thereafter, you can sign up for the Around the World Magic Carpet session from July 31 to August 11, and Kingdom Rock Vacation Bible School from August 14-25.

To learn more about their flexible parttime, full time, and extended day options visit www.kingdomrockcv.org or call 617-433-1743.



Somerville Alderman, Jack Connolly, visit to Kingdom Rock in his favorite sun-lit spacious classroom, the Pre-K Room.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 8

Lowell train, now the Boston and Maine, was the first major rail line in the state. It now has twelve bridges in Somerville.

Many bridges are named after local notables or landmarks. Union Square's Washington Street Bridge honors youth leader and coach, Elmer W. Bumpus. McGrath Highway's Squires Bridge is named after the John P. Squire Company, the former meatpacking business in that area. Medford Street's William J. Joyce Memorial Bridge acknowledges the former Alderman. The Wellington Bridge at McGrath Highway connects Somerville to Medford across the Mystic River. It has a new wooden walk bridge and bike path beneath it. This connects Ten Hills to Sylvester Baxter Riverfront Park

at Assembly Row. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge located on Prospect Street in Union Square preserves the memory of these soldiers.

The city itself provides a natural bridge under Elm Street. It arches the MBTA's Red Line from Porter Square to Davis Square. Coincidently, for the greater part of the last century, Somerville's most popular hotel and inn was the former, historic Woodbridge Hotel in Davis Square. Cambridge, Massachusetts is named after its sister city in England. The word Cambridge means "the bridge over the River Cam." Somerville's most famous and longest bridge by far is our city's fourmile southern border ... Cam-bridge!

What's on Somerville **Neighborhood News**

In this segment of Somerville Neighborhood News...



Following two public meetings, the proposed Union Square Neighborhood Council did not receive enough votes to proceed in its current formation. The Neighborhood Council is intended to act on behalf of the community during Union Square's ongoing redevelopment. Watch the full video online at somervilleneighborhoodnews.org.



Somerville Neighborhood News is a production of Somerville Community Access Television, made by professional journalists, volunteers and staff. The half-hour news show has as its mission to provide a lively, informative newscast focusing on the events, issues and information impacting Somerville residents.



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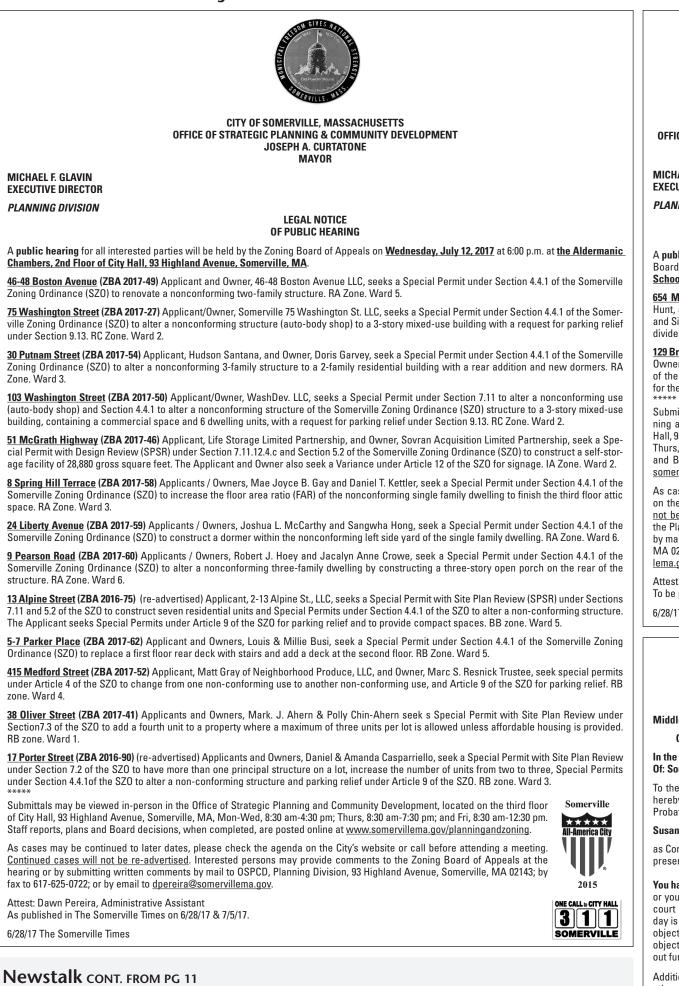
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CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT JOSEPH A. CURTATONE MAYOR

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** PLANNING DIVISION

> LEGAL NOTICE **OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the Planning Board on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Somerville High School Auditorium, 89 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

654 Mystic Avenue (PB 2017-14) Applicants, Anthony Fava & Rvan Hunt, along with Property Owner, Fieldcom Realty Trust, seek Design and Site Plan Review per Section 8.8 and 5.4 of the SZO for lot splits to divide one lot into three lots. BB zone. Ward 4.

129 Broadway (PB 2017-16) Applicant, Rei da Picanha and Events, and Owner, Luis Morales, seek a Special Permit under Section 6.1.22.D.6.a of the Somerville Zoning Ordinance (SZO) to locate outdoor seating for the existing restaurant. CCD-45 Zone. Ward 1.

Submittals may be viewed in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30 pm; and Fri, 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Staff reports, plans and Board decisions, when completed, are posted online at www. somervillema.gov/planningandzoning.

As cases may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to dpereira@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Kevin Prior, Chairman

To be published in the Somerville Times on 6/28/17 & 7/5/17.

6/28/17 The Somerville Times

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS The Trial Court **Middlesex Probate and Family Court 208 Cambridge Street**

Middlesex Division

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

In the matter of: Susan A. Stubeda Protected Person/Disabled Person/ Respondent Of: Somerville, MA

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the 2nd account (s) of



of Somerville, MA

as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 07/27/2017. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which, you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order) you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

week. Rod is a busy man who runs lute the Cambridge Fire Depart- http://12zine.com for updates.

his own financial business here in ment. A great bunch of guys do-

Cambridge, MA. 02141 Docket No. M14P1229PM

the city, as well being President of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce, not to mention member of many of the local services clubs here. Rod is very involved with the city, always having something positive to say. Happy birthday as well to local guy and a great cook who has worked in some of Boston's best restaurants, James B. Roche. Happy Birthday to Cheryl Taylor, a good friend who is CEO of ERA Key Realty Services with about 13 offices from Worcester to Billerica. A great lady. Happy birthday to Dean Glines, who grew up here in the city. A nice guy. We hope he has a great day.

***** This week we congratulate and sa-

ing a great job. Of course, we here in Somerville also think that the Somerville Fire Department is doing a great job. **** 2017 Middle School Summer Writers' Den offers writers age 9 to 14 a time and place to meet other writers, to write and discuss writing and publishing, and to participate in mini-workshops to nurture inspiration. Follow your interests and be introduced to new ones. Monday evening programs, open to all, free. July 10, 17, (July 24, TBA.) August 7, 14 and 21, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., at the Central Library 79 Highland Ave. Contact Alan Ball, kid@12zine.com. Visit

Book a Sunsetters performance in your neighborhood this summer. The Somerville Sunsetters, a traveling youth performance troupe that performs classic show tunes and modern musicals in Somerville neighborhoods throughout July and August, is now booking shows for the summer 2017 season. Residents interested in hosting a performance in your neighborhood should contact Jackie Rossetti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2614, or JRossetti@ somervillema.gov. Performances are Monday through Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., in July and August. Some blackout dates apply. Slots fill up quickly, so book yours today.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: June 20, 2017

Tara E. De Cristofaro Register of Probate

6/28/17 The Somerville Times



The Sadies heading to ONCE Ballroom CONT. FROM PG 1

backing band for Justin Townes Earle at The Sinclair in Cambridge. However, with a new album to promote and a sizable fan base of their own, it only makes sense The Sadies perform as headliners this year, which is what they will do on July 7 at ONCE Ballroom.

Sean Dean spoke to The Somerville Times by phone from his residence in downtown Toronto, where it was a balmy 26 degrees (Celsius, that is).

The Somerville Times: What do you remember about 'The Sadies' show at ONCE Somerville in 2015?

Sean Dean: It's an amazing venue. It's nice and big. The people were so friendly. It almost has like, kind of a co-op feel to it. I remember it as a very nice venue. Nice and spaced-out so that people can just wander around and enjoy themselves and dance. And the food was terrific.

TST: When did you start playing an instrument and prompted you to take up the bass?

SD: I got a guitar first. When I was in grade school, I guess it was grade five or six, I made a deal with my parents to maintain a B average. My teacher wrote my parents going, he worked really hard, so if you're going to reward him by buying a guitar, he loves rock 'n' roll, so by all means, you have my blessing.

So I got an electric guitar. I took a couple lessons, but I found that I could pretty much learn songs on my own, so I'm pretty much self-taught. I always found bass to be fun, and it's a pretty important instrument if you have a good sensibility of what it takes to have a bass in a band or a song. So I think I had that naturally and I eventually got access to a bass and then bought a bass and started playing in punk/new wave bands in the 80s. Me and

Dallas met each other in the hard rock/ punk scene in Queen Street in Toronto, so we started a band after a few of our bands split up.

The Sadies started out with me playing electric, and we were much harder rock, more like 90s type of hard rock, kind of alternative punk. But we also had a love for country music. Eventually I bought an upright bass, and we started discovering what it was like to play more traditional country or more folky sounds with an upright and acoustic guitar. And so we just started taking more seriously the folk/ country aspect of The Sadies. Then Travis, Dallas's brother, joined and brought the fiddle and second guitar. So we basically became a hybrid of all the music that we loved, like surf, country, punk, garage. We developed our own sound amalgamating everything that we love.

TST: What are some of the elements that you feel have contributed to The Sadies' longevity with the same line-up?

SD: After a while, you get to know what you want to, what you can't do, how you want to approach things, what you want to differ on. It's kind of like a marriage, in which you just find ways of getting along. It just develops over time. We love the band, we love music, and we really respect out career playing music. It's a privilege, so we try to just sustain it. And because we have two brothers in the band, we're kind of like a brotherhood family. We get a lot of support from our friends and our families.

TST: Do you ever witness any behind-the-scenes drama between the Good brothers?

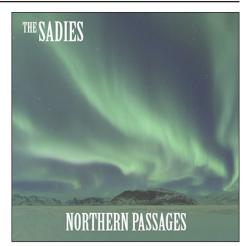
Oh no, those guys just love each other. They never fight. None of us ever fight. Yeah, I'm kind of joking! The brothers have pretty strong opinions about our band and the direction. So yeah, we're privy to some pretty heated sibling discussions, me and Mike. It is pretty passionate. We'll put it that way! (*laughs*)

TST: How do some of your collaborations end up being for only one song while others are for whole albums?

SD: If we're going to do a one-off with someone, we develop the friendship first. We'll have a couple drinks and say we should work together, kind of like a love fest with some of our fellow musician friends. And then we get around to suggesting one songs as an instrumental would be great if we got someone to sing on it for our own records. If we do a whole album, that's going to be brewing over many years, conversations, and friendships. Neko [Case] wanted it to happen, and we had some of the same record companies involved. The same goes for John Doe. We met him through our record company. We'll invite people to do one-offs for our record and people will invite us to make records thinking that we're going to be their band for that record. Usually the record companies are set in place and we can get funding and things like that. We're bouncing around the idea of doing a record with Justin Townes Earle, which would be lovely. Collaborations are great because they really help broaden our horizons, but also keep us busy and working during lag periods of our own. It's quite advantageous for us.

TST: Do The Sadies plan to release another live album, as the title of 2006's In Concert, Volume One seems to suggest?

SD: If we stay alive long enough, yeah. We've got a new batch of people that we collaborate with, so it would be a big un-



The Sadies' latest album is Northern Passages.

dertaking, but sure, we'd be interested in doing a live record. I guess the live recording comes from people telling us that they love our records but they really enjoy us live. It's a nice way to have a best-of collection and bring our friends together. So we might do another one in the future.

TST: Who might some of the guest stars on that be?

SD: Volume One was a mash-up of people we had been working with up until that time. After that, there's been a whole batch of new people, so we'll just go down the list. Maybe we'll get Neil Young. We recorded a song with Neil Young and went on tour with him. Maybe we can get him off of his yacht in Marina Del Rey or off of his ranch in Hawaii and get him to come and play with us.

Kurt Vile, John Doe, Robyn Hitchcock, Neil Young. We've got a lot of friends that we could pressure into coming and playing with us. (laughs)

The Sadies with Governor. ONCE Ballroom, 156 Highland Ave. Friday, July 7. Doors at 8:00 p.m., show at 9:00 p.m. \$15-\$18.

Somerville Retirement Board begins fossil fuel divestment CONT. FROM PG 9

communities toward divestment."

Fossil fuel companies are an increasingly bad bet for investors, with long-term global trends continuing to favor renewable energy over the dirty fuels of the

past. Despite moves by the current U.S. presidential administration to abandon the country's climate change commitments and shore up a coal industry in inevitable decline, the outlook is

clear -- the world is moving away from fossil fuels, and smart investors will get out before those securities crash completely.

Fossil Free Somerville is a citizens advocacy group that has been working to encourage the Somerville Retirement Board to divest the city's pension fund from the top 200 fossil fuel companies. It led a successful petition drive to convene a

hearing of the Board of Aldermen to vote on a divestment initiative in March 2014. The board approved a nonbinding resolution in support of divestment in June 2014.

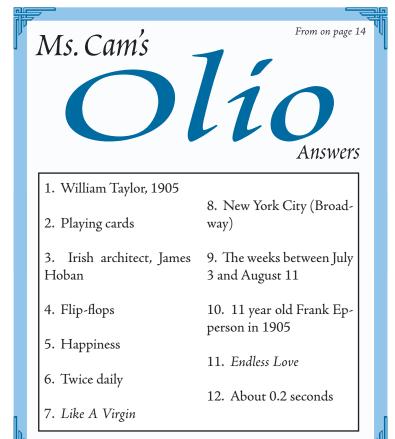
'The Mummy' comes to life

audiences and ticket sales. If you veloped by Jon Spaihts, Jenny ask me, though, it all sounds a lot like the corporate edition of Game of Thrones season 1. Marvel is House Lannister, the DCEU is House Stark, and Universal is House Targaryen. The so-called Dark Universe is a power grab by Universal, plain and simple. However, since this is the cinematic age of the superhero, this tactic looks like a disaster waiting to happen. But, of course, only time will tell. The Mummy was directed by Alex Kurtzman (2007's Transformers and 2014's The Amazing Spider-Man 2) and written by - this may take a while - screenwriters David Koepp, Christopher McQuarrie, and Dylan Kussman on a story de-

Lumet, and Kurtzman (you see what I mean? A hot potato). As the first installment in Universal's recently announced Dark Universe, The Mummy, which was filmed on a budget of \$125M, has amassed \$183M at the box office worldwide thus far. So, for those who are excited for the Dark Universe, now you know the studio made its money back (more or less), which means they may just move forward with their plans. Also, despite a 16% score from critics on Rotten Tomatoes, 44% of audiences seemed to like the film, so there is a bit of a silver lining to be found here ... kind of. Universal's 2017 makeover

of The Mummy is full of sur-

CONT. FROM PG 8



prises. Some are well received and others are a head nod in disbelief. However, this film is completely drenched in the spirit of summer blockbuster movies; so the special effects, the non-stop action, and the exaggerated CGI may be just enough to warrant both your time and your money. But don't take my word for it, because that's a big speculation. The Mummy is currently playing at the Somerville Theatre from 1:45 to 9:50 p.m. and at AMC Assembly Row from 1:15 to 9:15 p.m. (2:00 to 10:20 p.m. for 3D). Tell them Dre said you can have your money back if you end up disliking it. If they laugh in your face, I cannot be blamed.

•••• VILLENS ON THE TOWN ••••

CHILDREN AND YOUTH Wednesday|June 28

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

East Branch Library Reading Kick-off at East 2 p.m.- 3 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Thursday|June 29

Fourth of July Fireworks 6:30 p.m.|Trum Field

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

West Branch Library Lego Club 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.|40 College Ave

Friday|June 30

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

Central Library TELL (Teen Library Leaders) Meeting 2 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

East Branch Library A Year Under Water with Jerry Shine 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.|115 Broadway

Monday|July 3 Central Library Sing Along

11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|79 Highland Ave Central Library Creative Drama Workshop

4 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland Ave **Tuesday|July 4** Library Closed

Wednesday|July 5 East Branch Library Preschool Storvtime

11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

MUSIC|ARTS Wednesday|June 28

Sally O'Brien's Bar Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Front Room Americana Jam with: Grain Thief|9 p.m. Back Room Backroom Series: Comedy Night With Jordan Handren-Seavey|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge Grant Stinnett Whistle Jacket AM Matter of Perspec Noel Smyth 7:30 p.m.]345 Somerville Ave

On The Hill Tavern Sports and Entertainment Trivia 499 Broadway|617-629-5302

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

Bull McCabe's Pub The A-Beez – Funk & Soul Thursday|June 29

Sally O'Brien's Sugar & The Essential Spice 9 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Front Room Matt Borrello, Mike Verge & Company|9:30 pm Backroom Series: John Elliott and Kelly McFarling|7 p.m. Scattershots|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge My Tulpa The Olés The Screaming Hearts Arrot To 7:30 p.m.1345 Somerville Ave

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

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

Bull McCabe's 366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045 Joshua Tree

256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

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

Thunder Road 379 Somerville Ave ONCE Lounge & Ballroom

Bessarabian Breakdown 8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co. The Erlenmeyers 8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory Future-a-oke 7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Friday|June 30

Sally O'Brien's Tuna Rangers |6 p.m. HearNowLive presents Pineapple Jam, Zagnutt \$10 cover |9 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Front Room Irish Session|9:30 p.m. Backroom Series: Helen|7 p.m. Fightin Fridays|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge MaximumHackman SlothMachine Pompo TheImposers TheAppleYards 345 Somerville Ave

Orleans Restaurant and Bar DI

10 p.m.|65 Holland St On The Hill Tavern DJ Music 9:30 p.m.|499 Broadway|617-629-5302

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 10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617The Rockwell

Shit Faced Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet|7 p.m. 255 Elm Street

Arts at the Armory Noche de Música Colombiana: N&P Colombian Duo plus Naty Hernández 8 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Saturday|July 1

Sally O'Brien's Stan Martin & Wicked Heart |6 p.m. Box of Records|9 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Front Room: Bluegrass Session|2 p.m. The BagBoys|5 p.m. Irish Session|9:30 p.m. Back Room The Burren Backroom Saturday & Sunday Jazz Brunch with Tom Pendergast 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Scattershots|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge 345 Somerville Ave

Orleans Restaurant and Bar Karaoke 65 Holland St

On the Hill Tavern Karaoke and DJ 9:30 p.m.|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 Casev's

Entertainment every Saturday 173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Thunder Road Disco Saturdays @ Pop Icon Brunch Thunder Road|11 a.m. 379 Somerville Ave

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom 156 Highland Ave

The Rockwell Shit-Faced Shakespeare: Romeo & Juliet|7 p.m. 255 Elm Street

Aeronaut Brewing Co. DJ J Wall 8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory The Concept Artists 6 p.m.|Performance Hall Somerville Songwriter Sessions 7:30 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Sunday|July 2

Sally O'Brien's Bar The Natural Wonders|4:30 p.m. 335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896 PA'S Lounge 345 Somerville Ave Bull McCabe's Pub Ryan Alvanos 2 p.m|14 Tyler Street Arts at the Armory The Art of the Protest Song

7 p.m.|Performance Hall| Roast Battle 8 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Monday|July 3

Sally O'Brien's Bar Shawn Carter's Cheapshots Comedy|7 p.m. Marley Monday with The Duppy Conquerors reggae|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 Stump Trivia|8:30 p.m.

247 Elm Street|617-776-6896 **P.A.'s Lounge** Planet X Records & WEMF Radio present: Resist Showcase 8 p.m.|345 Somerville Ave

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

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

Thunder Road 379 Somerville Ave

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom Adult Mom Free Cake For Every Creature, Dump Him, Future Teens 7:30 p.m.|156 Highland Ave Aeronaut Brewing Co.

Board Game Bonanza 14 Tyler Street **The Rockwell**

Smoke & Shadows 8 p.m.|255 Elm St

Arts at the Armory Queer Tango 6:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Tuesday|**July 4** Sally O'Brien's Bar

Have a glorious Fourth! 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|10

p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

PA's Lounge 345 Somerville Ave

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

150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131 Samba Bar & Grille 608 Somerville Ave|617-718-9177

PJ Ryan's Pub Quiz dren-Seavey|10 p.m. 247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

P.A.'s Lounge The Patchwork Fools Paper Hearts Amni Musfirah Jonny Glenn 7:30 p.m.|345 Somerville Ave

On The Hill Tavern Sports and Entertainment Trivia 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

Thunder Road 379 Somerville Ave

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

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom 156 Highland Ave

Wiretap Wednesday Open Stage

CLASSES AND GROUPS

7 p.m.-8:15 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Friends of the Somerville Public

6 p.m.-8 p.m. 79 Highland Avey

6 p.m.-7 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

(Session 2)7:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m.

Drop in Knitting at the East Branch

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|115 Broadway

program for people with problems

with money and debt. 7 p.m.-8:30

For more info call: 781-762-6629

Union Square Farmer's Market

9 a.m.-1 p.m.|Union Square Plaza

Somerville Writers and Poets meet

9 a.m.-12 p.m Au Bon Pain| 18-48

Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon

weekly to discuss their work

p.m.|89 College Ave (Upstairs Parlor).

Debtors Anonymous- a 12 Step

Learn English at the Library!

(Session 1) 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Wednesday|June 28

7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.

Juan Carlos Ruiz

14 Tyler Street

Central Library

Central Library

Central Library

40 College Ave

East Branch Library

Saturday July 1

Bagel Bards

Holland St

First Church Somerville

Mystery Book Club

Thursday|June 29

Library - Annual Meeting

FREE Yoga at the Library

West Branch Library

Arts at the Armory

366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road

Bearly Dead – Wednesday Night Grateful Dead Residency 8 p.m.| 379 Somerville Ave

Highland Kitchen

150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Joshua Tree Bar & Grill Pub Trivia

8:30 p.m.|256 Elm Street|(617) 623-9910

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom

Mr. Kitty and The Rain Within 8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.

Amy & Toro Zion Rodman 14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory

Hearth Book Club - Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear 7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

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

Thunder Road

Playing Dead – Boston's Premier Grateful Dead Tribute 8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom Thou Cloud Rat, False, Moloch, Ascend/ Descend 8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.

Tickle Juice 14 Tyler Street 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

Thunder Road R&B's Legendary Divas Tribute Brunch R-E-S-P Eat With Me" 10 a.m.| 379 Somerville Ave

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom Cannibal Ox Crimson Godz (Kenyattah Black, Double AB, REALZ, Dj Lokash), M-Dot 7:30 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.

10 p.m.|239 Holland St.|617-625-8200

Thunder Road 379 Somerville Ave

ONCE Lounge & Ballroom 156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co Closed 14 Tyler Street

Wednesday|July 5

Sally O'Brien's Bar Free Poker, lots of prizes! 8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren Front Room Americana Jam with: Grain Thief|9 p.m. Back Room Backroom Series: The Jeremiahs with Andrew Finn McGill and Nathan Gourley Comedy Night With Jordan Han-

Family Groups 7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street Unity Church of God Enter upstairs, meeting is in basement

Monday|July 3

Sunday July 2

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

West Branch Library Drop in Knitting at West Branch 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|40 College Ave

Central Library Chess Night 7 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Tuesday|July 4

Libraries Closed

Wednesday|July 5

Central Library

Ibbetson Street Reading and Potluck 6 p.m.-8:15 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

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 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300

*Our Holland Street Center will be serving lunch on Monday, Thursday & Fridays only until further notice.

Cross Street Center: 165 Broadway Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Wednesday – 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. (Please note time change) (617) 625-6600 Ext. 2335.

Ralph and Jenny Center: 9 New Washington Street, Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. (Please note time change) (617) 666-5223.

The Council on Aging wants you! – The SCOA is supporting D.A. Marian Ryan's Project C.A.R.E. and Project Linus. Helping children of trauma have some comfort in their time of need by providing them with home-made blankets. Help us reach our goal of 200 blankets. Knitted, crochet or handmade fleece accepted. Please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Join the SCOA's email group – The email group is for Somerville Council on Aging Seniors and/or Caregivers who are interested in the latest information on resources, events, programming, etc., in and around the Somerville area. Use the link https://groups.google. com/group/somerville-council-on-aging - If you have any questions or need help joining please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email DHiggins@Somervillema.gov

Ageless Grace – Ageless Grace, the Council on Aging's new Fitness class for the body and mind. Held on Mondays at 4:00 p.m. at the Holland St. Center, the Ageless Grace program is an innovative wellness and fitness program done seated in a chair to upbeat music. Classes are playful, imaginative and different every time. All the movements are designed to focus on the healthy longevity of the body and the brain. Contact Chris at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 for more information and to sign up. Cost is \$20.00 for 5 classes.

Yoga - Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. 5-week Yoga series is a low-impact and easy-to-follow paced program that lets you stretch and relax to help start your day. Contact Chris at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 for more info and to sign up. Cost is \$20.00 for 5 classes!

Silver Alert Program - The Somerville Council on Aging with the Somerville Police Department have implemented a program to take a proactive approach towards protecting some of Somerville's most vulnerable citizens who suffer with serious cognitive impairments that put them at risk for wandering and getting lost. The Silver Alert Program is designed to collect specific information about a potential missing person, along with photo identification. This confidential information will be kept on file for immediate use in the event a loved one is reported missing. Please contact the SCOA at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 for additional information or to register. Free Groceries Every Month? – You may be eligible for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program! CSFP is a once a month food distribution for individuals 60 years of age or older. You may be eligible to receive two free bags of food once a month containing healthy shelf stable products. Proof of identity and age are all that is required to apply. For more information or to apply please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 – applications are available at the front desk of our Holland Street Center.

Back to the 50's – Monday, July 17, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Music, pizza, soda and dessert. Bring in your memories and lets stroll down memory lane. \$1 cost – For more information or to reserve your spot please call Kim or Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

BBQ at Ralph & Jenny – Thursday, July 20 – 11:00 a.m. - Keep summer going and join us for a wonderful BBQ of hot dogs and hamburgers and then play Bingo. To sign up call Kim or Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

The Edwards Twin Master Impersonators – Thursday, July 20 at the Stoneham Theater - \$40 per person for the play – check in at 1:15 p.m. at Ralph & Jenny with an approximate return time of 6:00 p.m. Dinner at WAXY O'Connor's after play is on your own. Call Kim or Connie for more info at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Twin River Casino – Monday, July 24 - \$20 includes transportation and a yet to be determined package. Check in 9:30 a.m. at Holland and 9:45 a.m. at Ralph & Jenny with an approximate return time of 7:00 p.m. To reserve your spot or for additional information please call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Beach Blanket Bingo – Wednesday, July 26 – Super Bingo at our Holland Street Center - \$10. For more information or to reserve your spot (RSVP a must) please call Kim or Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

37th Annual Mayor's Senior Picnic – Wednesday, August 2 – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Powerhouse Park – Tickets available starting July 5 at all centers and City Hall. If you live in a senior building you will pick your ticket up at the senior building. For more information please call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Foxwoods Casino – Wednesday, August 30 - \$25 includes transportation, \$10 bonus slot and \$10 buffet. Check in 7:00 a.m. at Holland and 7:15 a.m. at Ralph & Jenny with an approximate return time of 8:00 p.m. To reserve your spot or for additional information please contact Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Niagara/Toronto – Monday, September 4 to Thursday, September 7th - \$488 per person double - \$585 per person single includes motor coach transportation, lodging, 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners, a bottle of Niagara wine and so much more. For more information or to reserve your spot please contact Kim or Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Planning for Medicare/A Countdown to 65 – Thursday, September 14 – 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. A representative from Blue Cross Blue Shield will be speaking about various Medicare topics. For more information please contact Ashley or Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

One Night in Memphis – Thursday, September 21 -\$83 per person includes transportation, lunch and show at Venus De Milo. For questions, additional information or to reserve your spot contact Kim or Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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. Call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2300 to sign up for our "Friendly Caller" Program.

The day trip to the JFK Museum scheduled for Monday,

Advisory Group. Please call Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@Somervillema.gov if you have any questions or if you should need additional information.

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.

LGBTQ Monthly Lunch is Back – Please join us the second Wednesday of the month at the Senior Center at 167 Holland Street. Next date: July 12. A Hot Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321. A \$2.00 donation is suggested.

2017 Advisory Dates – 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Holland St. July 10, October 16.

STAY ACTIVE:

Weekly Exercise Class Schedule

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

Mondays:

9:00 Walking Club (H) 11:00 Tai Chi (H) 1:00 Fit-4-Life Group C (H)

Tuesdays:

9:15 Strengthening - \$3 per class (H) 11:15 Fit-4-Life (C)

Wednesdays:

8:45 Fit-4-Life Group A (H) – Exercise 9:00 Fit-4-Life Group B (H) - Nutrition 10:00 Fit-4-Life Group B (H) – Exercise 10:00 Fit-4-Life Group A (H) – Nutrition 11:00 Nutrition one-on-one (H) 12:00 Fit-4-Life Group C (H) - Nutrition 1:00 Fit-4-Life Group C (H) - Exercise 5:15 Zumba for All - \$3 per class (H)

Thursdays:

9:00 Yoga (H) 9:30 Strengthening - \$3 per class (RJ) 11:15 Fit-4-Life (C) 6:00 LBT Fit-4-Life*(H)

Fridays:

8:45 Fit-4-Life Group A (H) - Exercise 10:00 Fit-4-Life Group B (H) – Exercise *All Fit-4-Life classes are \$10 per month and require pre-registration

Every Monday

10:00 English Conversation (C) 11:30 Lunch (C)

Every Tuesday

10:00 English Conversation (C) 11:30 Lunch (C, RJ)

12:00 Computer tutorial with Norbert (H) 12:45 Bingo (RJ)

Every Wednesday

9:00 Bowling at Flatbreads

Reminiscing Group – July 28, August 25 and September 22. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Join the Reminiscing Group as we go back in time. To RSVP and join the fun please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321.

Singer/Guitarist Doug Schmolze – Wednesday, June 28 – 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center – Join us for "Songs of WW1" – Please RSVP by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

JFK Museum & Venezia Restaurant – Monday, July 10 - \$20 – includes transportation, museum and restaurant. Check in 9:00 a.m. at Holland and 9:15 a.m. at Ralph & Jenny with an approximate return time of 3:30 p.m. For more info call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300. July 10th is SOLD OUT.

The day trip to Castle Island scheduled for Friday, July 14th is SOLD OUT.

The day trip, Gloucester Harbor Cruise scheduled for Thursday, July 27th is SOLD OUT.

The day trip to the Lowell Spinners scheduled for Thursday, August 10th is SOLD OUT.

The Pine Grove Dude Ranch trip scheduled for September 24th – 20th is BOOK SOLID. Call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 to put your name on the waiting list should there be an opening.

The trip to Atlantic City scheduled for October 24th to October 31st is SOLD OUT.

The trip to NYC scheduled for December 8th, 9th and 10th is SOLD OUT. Call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 to put your name on the waiting list should there be an opening.

LGBTQ EVENTS:

LGBTQ Advisory Group – This group meets quarterly in the conference room of our Holland Street Center at 4:30 p.m. and run for one hour. We are always looking for new members who would like to serve on the 9:45 Coffee & Conversations (H) 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wacky Wednesdays (RJ)

Every Thursday

10:00 Current Events (H)
10:00 English Conversation (C)
11:00 Computer tutorial with Barbara (H)
11:30 Lunch (C, H, RJ)
1:00 Arts & Crafts (C)

Every Friday

9:45 Coffee & Conversations (H) 11:30 Lunch (H) 11:45 Bingo (H)

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a Facebook page. Check us out at www.facebook.com/somervilleCOA.

You can receive our monthly newsletter that is always filled with useful and important information. For a \$5.00 yearly fee you can receive it via the U.S. Postal service or a free version can be sent electronically. Please contact Connie at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 to sign up.

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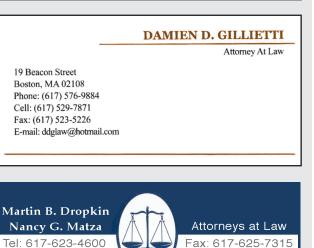


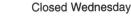
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Every candidacy needs a reason CONT. FROM PG 10

50% of new Union Square development be job- and tax-generating office and R&D uses.

Ben states that he is "Passionate about social justice, immigrant rights, and climate change...," and I believe him. But I know that Bob's leadership was critical in hiring an arborist to defend Somerville's green canopy and that he successfully advocated for a ban on styrofoam containers and plas-

tic bags. I know that Bob has supported strengthening the city's LGBTQ protections.

While I know Ben to be honest, I find that some subset of his supporters tend to substitute ideology for investigating what they are talking about. I've heard some say that Bob is taking campaign money from developers. He is not.

I've heard some say that Bob is a tool of the mayor. This

would come as a surprise to Joe Curtatone.

I emphasize that it is not Ben who is saying these things. But when his canvassers include people who live in Brighton and Cambridge, and when much of his campaign contributions are from people who live in Los Angeles, New York City, Seattle, Chicago, Berkeley, and New Orleans, it's not surprising that statements made by people who substitute ideology for direct knowledge get repeated.

Somerville is in a period of rapid and challenging change that will only accelerate. I am pleased that caring and talented people like Ben want to contribute to our wisely managing these changes. I would be even more pleased if those stepping up had paid the dues required to develop a deep understanding of the community that they

propose to represent.

In *Shattered*, Parnes and Allen report that as the Hillary Clinton campaign became increasingly stumped for a rationale, some top aides proposed, "Because it's her turn," as a rallying cry.

I am open to being persuaded that any incumbent alderman should be replaced. But to be persuaded, I need something more than, "Because it's his turn."

S	Somerville Community Access TV Ch.3 Programming Guide Celebrating 30 years of making grassroots community media for Somerville								
	Want to learn TV production? Final Cut Pro? Soundtrack Pro? Green-screen? Call us today for more info! 617-628-8826								
Wednesd	ay, June 28	7:00pm	(LIVE) Taking Back Your Health	3:00pm	Telemagazine	2:00pm	Esoteric Science		
6:00am	SCATV Community Bulletin Board	7:30pm	SCATV Throwback Thursday	4:00pm	Words on Film	2:30pm	Cyberspace Talk with Berkman Klein Center		
7:30am	Somerville Storytellers	8:00pm	(LIVE) Fouye No Nan Kalalou	5:00pm	Tele Kreyol	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)		
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:30pm	Henry Parker Presents	6:00pm	Effort Pour Christ	4:00pm	Meet the Renegades (Free Speech TV)		
9:00am	Science 360	10:00pm	The Beantown Beatdown	7:00pm	SCOUTV	4:30pm	The Laura Flanders Show (Free Speech TV)		
10:00am	Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer	11:00pm	Public Access Boyz	7:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	5:00pm	Tele Galaxie		
1	Cyberspace Talk with Berkman Klein Center	11:30pm	SCATV Throwback Thursday	8:00pm	Visual Radio	6:00pm	The Struggle		
11:00am	DW Global 3000	Friday, Ju	ne 30	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	6:30pm	Fallon's Daily Toast		
11:30am	Hello Neighbor!	6:00am	SCATV Community Bulletin Board	10:00pm	The Folklorist	7:00pm	Start Up TV Boston		
12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show	7:30am	What's Left	10:30pm	Act Out! (Free Speech TV)	7:30pm	(LIVE) The Yellow Jacket Lady		
1:00pm	Let's Talk Somerville Real Estate	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	Flotilla	8:00pm	(LIVE) Somerville Overcoming Addiction		
1:30pm	Fallon's Daily Toast	9:00am	Caring for Others: Caring for Ourselves	Sunday, J	uly 2	9:00pm	Dedilhando au Saudade		
2:00pm	StartUp TV Boston	10:00am	Greater Somerville	6:00am	Hello Neighbor!	10:00pm			
2:30pm	Road To Recovery	10:30am	NASA X	6:30am	Eckankar	10:30pm			
3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:00am	The Story of Stuff	7:00am	Nossa Gentes e Costumes	11:00pm			
4:00pm	Pirate Television (Free Speech TV)	11:30am	DW Tomorrow Today	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ	11:00pm	Rare Groove Revolution		
5:00pm	Art at SCATV	12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show	9:00am	Heritage Baptist Church	Tuesday			
5:30pm	Justicia Migrante	1:00pm	Aging Well	10:00am	Aging Well	6:00am	SCATV Community Bulletin Board		
6:00pm	Rising Up! with Sonali (Free Speech TV)	1:30pm	Health is Wealth	10:30am	International Church of God	7:30am	Art at SCAT		
7:00pm	The Beantown Beatdown	2:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	11:00am	Chef's Table Series	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)		
8:00pm	LIVE: Somerville Pundits	2:30pm	SCOUTV	12:00pm	Let's Talk Somerville Real Estate	9:00am	The Chef's Table Series		
8:30pm	LIVE: Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	12:30pm	Health is Wealth	10:00am	Estoy Sano!		
9:30pm	Beyond Boston	4:00pm	Gay USA	1:00pm	Tufts University Jumbo Sports	10:30am			
10:00pm	SCATV Presents: Duck Village Stage Series	5:00pm	Reeling Review	3:00pm	Somerville Overcoming Addiction	11:00am	What's Left		
11:00pm	Flotilla	5:30pm	What's New Massachusetts	4:00pm	Dedilhando a Saudade	11:30am	Legacies		
Thursday	lune 20	6:00pm	Real Estate Answers	5:00pm	Bate Papo com Shirley	12:00pm			
6:00am	SCATV Community Bulletin Board	6:30pm	The Language of Business	6:00pm	DW In Good Shape	1:00pm	(LIVE) Words on Film		
7:30am	Esoteric Science	7:00pm	StartUp TV Boston	6:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News Digest	2:00pm	Somerville Pundits		
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	7:30pm	(LIVE) Fallon's Daily Toast	7:00pm	African Television Network	2:30pm	Taking Back Your Health		
9:00am	SCATV Throwback Thursday	8:00pm	(LIVE) The Somerville Line	8:00pm	Telemagazine	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)		
9:30am	Somerville Pundits	10:00pm	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	9:00pm	Public Domain Film Festival	4:00pm	Aging Well		
10:00am	Dead Air Live	11:00pm	Simply Hanging with Pete and Nate	11:00pm	Simply Hanging with Pete and Nate	4:30pm	The Struggle		
11:00am	Greater Somerville	11:00pm	Ojo Rojo	11:30pm	Ojo Rojo	5:00pm	(LIVE) Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer		
11:30am	What's Left	Saturday	July 1	Monday,	Inly 3	5:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News		
12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show	6:00am	SCATV Community Bulletin Board	6:00am	SCATV Community Bulletin Board	6:00pm	What's New Massachusetts?		
1:00pm	The Somerville Line	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	7:30am	Health is Wealth	6:30pm	Beyond Boston		
3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	9:00am	Jeff Jam Sing Song Show	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	7:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News Digest		
4:00pm	Poet to Poet/Writer to Writer	9:30am	Henry Parker Presents		SCATV presents Duck Village Stage Sessions	7:30pm	(LIVE) Greater Somerville		
4:30pm	Off the Shelf	10:00am	TeleGalaxie	10:00am	Perils for Pedestrians	8:00pm	(LIVE) Dead Air Live		
5:00pm	DW Global 3000	11:00am	Haitian Poetry in 3 Languages	11:00am	Art at SCATV	9:00pm	Public Access Boyz		
5:30pm	Legacies	12:00pm	Tufts University Jumbo Sports	11:30am	Somerville Neighborhood News	9:30pm	The Yellow Jacket Lady		
6:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	2:00pm	SCATV Presents: Duck Village Stage Series	12:00pm	The Thom Hartmann Show	10:00pm			
6:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News Digest	2:30pm	Hello Neighbor!	1:00pm	Science 360	10:30pm 11:30pm			

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

Wednesday, June 28	2:51am		9:13pm	Honor & Remembrance Candle Light Vigil	12:00pm	School Committee Meeting - 6.19.17
5		m Honor & Remembrance Candle Light Vigil	9:40pm Sunday, J	Jane's Walk	2:00pm 2:30pm	SomerViva SomerViva
12:00pm Board of Alderr	nen Meeting - 6.22.17 12:00p		12:00am	Porchfest 2017	3:00pm	Congressional Update
	at Prospect Hill Tower 1:47pm	5 5	1:00am	FY18 Sewer & Water Rates Public Hearing	6:30pm	2017 Somerville Heroes Salute
6:30pm	SomerViva en Español 2:00pm		1:52am	Community Choice Electricity Info	8:00pm	SomerViva
	at Prospect Hill Tower 2:30pm		2:07am	SomerViva	8:30pm	SomerViva en Español
8:00pm	Porchfest 2017 6:00pm		2:36am	Pride Flag Raising 2017	9:00pm	Memorial on the Mystic
9:00pm	SomerViva 8:00pm	3	2:49am	FY18 Sewer & Water Rates Public Hearing	10:35pm	Talking Business "Quesadillas & Kimchi"
9:30pm	SomerViva 8:18pm		9:00am	Community Choice Electricity Info	11:00pm	Connecting Communities
10:00pm School Commi	tee Meeting - 6.12.17 8:31pm		9:15am	SomerViva en Español	Tuesday,	
Thursday, June 29	9:01pm	5	12:00pm	Senior Circuit	12:00am	An Economic History of Somerville
	9:30pm nen Meeting - 6.22.17	3 , 1	12:30pm	SomerStreets: Carnaval	1:09am	SomerViva en Español
	at Prospect Hill Tower	m Jane's Walk	1:20pm	Pride Flag Raising 2017	1:36am	SomerViva
12:00pm	Senior Circuit Saturd	ay, July 1	1:33pm	Aldermen at Work - Jack Connolly		Somerviva Congressional Update
•	nnecting Communities 12:00a	m Memorial on the Mystic	2:02pm	Flag Day at Prospect Hill Tower	2:00am	5 1
1:00pm	SomerViva 1:35am	Talking Business "Quesadillas & Kimchi"	6:30pm	SomerViva	8:30am	Sit & Be Fit Allamerican Workout
•	at Prospect Hill Tower 2:01am	Congressional Update	7:00pm	Senior Circuit	9:00am	Haitian Community Mtg.
2:30pm	SomerViva 2:31am	Flag Day at Prospect Hill Tower	7:30pm	2017 Somerville Heroes Salute	10:21am	Memorial on the Mystic
6:30pm	SomerViva 8:00am	Keep Moving: Exercises for Older Adults	8:50pm	Pride Flag Raising 2017	12:00pm	Senior Circuit
•	le Preservation Awards 9:00am	Jane's Walk	9:03pm	SomerStreets: Carnaval	12:30pm	Memorial on the Mystic
	nities - Summer Events 10:19a	m SomerStreets: Carnaval	9:53pm	School Committee Meeting - 6.19.17	2:05pm	An Economic History of Somerville
9:30pm	SomerViva 12:00p	m Week of the Young Child	Monday,	July 3	6:30pm	Talking Business "Quesadillas & Kimchi"
•	SomerViva en Español 12:35p	m FY18 Sewer & Water Rates Public Hearing	12:00am	Senior Circuit	7:00pm	Senior Circuit
10:30pm	Porchfest 2017 1:30pm	Porchfest 2017	12:30am	Aldermen at Work - Jack Connolly	7:30pm	Memorial on the Mystic
	2:30pm	Aldermen at Work - Jack Connolly	1:00am	Flag Day at Prospect Hill Tower	9:05pm l	ndependence Day & Fireworks Celebration
Friday, June 30	6:30pm	Talking Business "Quesadillas & Kimchi"	1:51am	Pride Flag Raising 2017	Wednesd	ay, July 5
12:00am	Jane's Walk 6:48pm	Pride Flag Raising 2017	2:04am	Porchfest 2017	12:00am	Senior Circuit
5	Quesadillas & Kimchi" 7:01pm	SomerStreets: Carnaval	9:00am	2017 Somerville Heroes Salute		ndependence Day & Fireworks Celebration
1:38am Mayor's E	usiness Town Meeting 7:51pm	Haitian Community Mtg Immigration Law	10:20am	Connecting Communities	2:30am	SomerViva

Educational TV 15 Schedule

Wednesday, Jun	e 28	12:00am	Our Schools, Our City - Top Grads	5:00pm	WSNS Moving On Ceremony 2017	3:00pm	WSNS Spring Concert
9:00am	SHS Prom Red Carpet	12:30am	Kennedy School Drama Club	6:00pm	96th Annual City-Wide Track Meet	4:05pm	WHCS Leadership Day
10:00am	El Sistema Spring Concert	2:00am	Public Domain Theater	7:00pm	SCALE Graduation 2017	5:00pm	96th Annual City-Wide Track Meet
11:00am	Kennedy School Drama Club	4:00am	Public Domain Theater	8:00pm	WSNS Science Fair	6:00pm	Healey School Spring Concert
1:00pm	Argenziano Spring Concert	9:00am	Argenziano School Memorial Day Concert	9:00pm	Kennedy School Drama Club	7:00pm	SHS Prom Red Carpet
2:00pm	SCALE Graduation 2017	10:00am	World Language Awards Night	11:00pm	Healey School Spring Concert	8:00pm	WSNS Moving On Ceremony 2017
3:00pm	Healey School Spring Concert	11:00am	WHCS Leadership Day	Sunday, July 2		9:00pm	Argenziano Spring Concert
4:00pm	WSNS Science Fair	12:00pm	96th Annual City-Wide Track Meet	12:00am	WSNS Science Fair	10:00pm	Healey School Spring Concert
5:00pm	SHS Prom Red Carpet	1:00pm	WSNS Moving On Ceremony 2017	1:00am	Girls' Middle School Basketball	11:00pm	WSNS Spring Concert
6:00pm	El Sistema Spring Concert	3:00pm	Girls' Middle School Basketball	2:08am	Boys' Middle School Basketball	Tuesday, July	4
7:00pm	Kennedy School Drama Club	4:30pm	Boys' Middle School Basketball	9:00am	Boys' Middle School Basketball	12:05am	WHCS Leadership Day
9:00pm	Argenziano Spring Concert	6:00pm	Argenziano School Memorial Day Concert	10:30am	Girls' Middle School Basketball	9:00am	WSNS Moving On Ceremony 2017
10:00pm	SCALE Graduation 2017	7:00pm	World Language Awards Night	12:00pm	2017 SHS Graduation	10:00am	96th Annual City-Wide Track Meet
11:00pm	Healey School Spring Concert	8:00pm	WHCS Leadership Day	2:00pm	2017 SHS Class Day	11:00am	SCALE Graduation 2017
Thursday, June 2		9:00pm	96th Annual City-Wide Track Meet	4:30pm	Our Schools, Our City - Top Grads	12:00pm	WSNS Science Fair
12:00am	WSNS Science Fair	10:00pm	WSNS Moving On Ceremony 2017	5:00pm	Boys' Middle School Basketball	1:00pm	Kennedy School Drama Club
1:00am	Girls' Middle School Basketball	Saturday	, July 1	6:05pm	Girls' Middle School Basketball	3:00pm	Healey School Spring Concert
2:08am	Boys' Middle School Basketball	12:00am	Girls' Middle School Basketball	7:30pm	2017 SHS Graduation	4:00pm	Argenziano Spring Concert
9:00am	Boys' Middle School Basketball	1:30am	Boys' Middle School Basketball	9:30pm	2017 SHS Class Day	5:00pm	WSNS Moving On Ceremony 2017
10:30am	Girls' Middle School Basketball	3:00am	SHS Prom Red Carpet	Monday, July 3	-	6:00pm	96th Annual City-Wide Track Meet
12:00pm	2017 SHS Graduation	4:00am	Public Domain Theater	12:00am	Girls' Middle School Basketball	7:00pm	SCALE Graduation 2017
2:00pm	2017 SHS Class Day	9:00am	WSNS Moving On Ceremony 2017	1:10am	Boys' Middle School Basketball	8:00pm	WSNS Science Fair
4:30pm	Our Schools, Our City - Top Grads	10:00am	96th Annual City-Wide Track Meet	9:00am	96th Annual City-Wide Track Meet	9:00pm	Kennedy School Drama Club
5:00pm	Boys' Middle School Basketball	11:00am	SCALE Graduation 2017	10:00am	Healey School Spring Concert	11:00pm	Healey School Spring Concert
6:05pm	Girls' Middle School Basketball	12:00pm	WSNS Science Fair	11:00am	SHS Prom Red Carpet	Wednesday, J	ulv 5
7:30pm	2017 SHS Graduation	1:00pm	Kennedy School Drama Club	12:00pm	WSNS Moving On Ceremony 2017	12:00am	WSNS Science Fair
9:30pm	2017 SHS Class Day	3:00pm	Healey School Spring Concert	1:00pm	Argenziano Spring Concert	12:45am	Kennedy School Drama Club
Friday, June 30		4:00pm	Argenziano Spring Concert	2:00pm	Healey School Spring Concert	2:30am	Healey School Spring Concert
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OFF THE SHELF by Doug Holder

From Doo-Wop to Hip-Hop: Interview with two generations of African-American Poets

Afaa Michael Weaver, 58 and Major Jackson, 40 are two major African American poets from two different generations, but they both continually feed from their shared heritage, and the continuum of the Black experience in America. Weaver, a professor of English at Simmons College in Boston, a recent Pushcart Prize winner, and the author the critically acclaimed poetry collection *Plum Flower Dance* (U/Pitt), and Major Jackson, the author of *Hoops*, an asst. professor at the University of Vermont and a core faculty member at the Bennington Writing Seminars, met for a filmed discussion at the Somerville Community Access TV studios. The show was moderated by Gloria Mindock (Cervena Barva Press) and produced by Doug Holder (Ibbetson St. Press).

Weaver started off the discussion by going back to his native Baltimore in 1970. This was a time when he dropped out of the university, got a job at a steel mill, and started to pen his seminal poems. Later he joined the military,married his first wife,but was destined to live a radically different life than his early years indicated.

Jackson was born in Philadelphia, and studied to be an accountant. He got an internship in which he was spending up to 80 hours a week with spreadsheets. After college he worked at an arts center in the city in the role of finance manager. He said, "I was happy when I was fired." He had taken some poetry courses in college, and he started to program poetry events at the center. He soon realized it was the arts that touched him spiritually, and he eventually made poetry a part of his everyday life.

Weaver talked of his early days in East Baltimore in the 50's and 60's. He sort of free-associated about mowing grass with push lawnmowers and the rituals of his youth, like using toothbrushes to clean his shoes before a night out on the town. Weaver said, "Baltimore was a very Southern city. We weren't allowed to shop in the stores in downtown Baltimore, the line between black and white was clearly drawn."

Weaver said his father's family was from Southern farming stock, and his dad had the philosophy that "children should she be seen not heard." Weaver learned to become an "isolated" learner, he recollected. In 1963 he was bused to a white school, which caused a great deal of anxiety for the young poet. It was hard to be in a place where he was not welcomed. He was always glad and relieved to be back on his own side of town. At the time his scope of experience was limited. He thought the whole world was black. Weaver laughed, "I watched 'Leave it to Beaver' and thought that family was just like mine, except they were white."

Jackson said even though Philadelphia was north of Baltimore, it still possessed a Southern sensibility. This was confirmed when he spent his summers in Nashville, Tennessee as a boy and he experienced the same "rhythms" as the South.

Jackson described himself as a hyper-aware kid. He was tuned in to the music and the culture of the time. Hip-hop started to appear in 1978-82, and drugs started appearing in the mix. There was a potent combination of rich culture and tragic lives. He sadly watched the erosion of his neighborhood over the years.

Jackson's work is informed by his observations of people trying to survive under extreme stress. "Anything that cuts humans down, be it in an urban or rural setting, will find room in my work," he said. All in all, Jackson is grateful to have grown up in Philadelphia. He had an appreciation of the speech, jargon, and music of the milieu.

Jackson reflected on his neighborhood: "People all knew each other. The guy at the corner drug store and the drug dealer on the corner." Jackson knew who to avoid and who could act as a role model.



Afaa Michael Weaver (left) with Major Jackson (right).

hit home as to how the times had changed.

Jackson said that music had a decided influence on him and his work. On one hand he celebrates the music of Elvis, but realizes the roots of rock 'n' roll is with the blues, which was African-American music. He was introduced to black history by an aunt who gave him a history book that traced the long list of accomplishments of the black race through the centuries. He learned about celebrated African Americans like Robert Hayden, poets Gwendolyn Brooks,Langston Hughes as well others. He also loved the music of the 60's like James Brown and his anthem of a song *I'm black and I'm proud*.

Weaver said the "big book" when he was growing up was the bible. He had a recent discussion with the poet James Tate, who also touted the influence of the "good book." Later his mother bought encyclopedias from the supermarket for 25 cents a piece. As for the blues, it came naturally. The cadence of his father's speech was very blues- like, Weaver said. Weaver loved the Temptations, The Supremes, The Impressions and other groups of the era. He wore highbrow collars, there was "a soundtrack to my life," he smiled. Hip-hop hit the scene when he was 30 or so, so he was able to appreciate it.

Weaver talked about the changes in the culture due to the turmoil in the cities. He said the parlance of the black man changed. The language used was of the type that would not be tolerated years before. The Civil Rights Movement opened up what was an essentially insular black society. From this instability came gangsta rap, and the idolization of the drug culture.

Jackson, through his elders, was exposed to the music of the 60's. He used to listen to a radio show hosted by "Butterball" that played that genre of music. Books were ubiquitous in his household. His grandmother built a sprawling library in the home from used books that she bought. Literature was important. His stepfather's sister worked at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and Jackson recollected, "I made it my playground." He had the images of Duchamp, Lichtenstein, and others seared into his nascent consciousness.

His grandfather had a deep appreciation for African-American music, and his grandmother loved gospel. He got to see the great vibraphonist Lionel Hampton with his grandfather. He had a piano in his house, and he too had a soundtrack to his life. Jackson said the avant-garde musician Sun Ra lived a few blocks away in Germantown. He said, "You could hear his group play, unlike anything I heard before. It was free jazz, a big band sound, way outside the norm." Jackson said he appreciated Sun Ra's journey, a man who created this mythology of the musician as an alien being. Both poets agreed that mythology that artists like Sun Ra draped around themselves was a reaction to a world that rejected them and made them suffer. Sun Ra, and others of his ilk didn't want to be part of a society such as this, and in effect divorced themselves from it. Finally, both men talked of mentors. And it was clear without mentors these men's lives would be quite different. Weaver defines a mentor as "a friend who reserves the right to tell you what to do." Jackson mentioned Amiri Baraka and Sonia Sanchez as well as Weaver, as major influences in his writing life. Weaver talked about the poet Lucille Clifton who advised him to read X.J. Kennedy's Introduction to Poetry and gently criticized and encouraged his fledgling attempts at poetry. Both men are now in positions to give something back, and they do it as teachers, and in other roles. And hopefully, new generations will flow back and forth and nurture each other, like they have with Afaa Michael Weaver and Major Jackson.

Michael Todd Steffen is the director of the Hastings Room Reading Series in Cambridge, MA. His latest book of poetry is *Partner, Orchard and Day Moon* that was published by Cervena Barva Press. His poems and articles have been published in many literary reviews in the United States and abroad. He has spent ten years living

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SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder



and teaching in France and England, an experience that has enriched his creativity. He was awarded the Somerville News Writers' Festival Poetry prize.

Familiarity

The lady in the square

breakfasting alone

with nobody around her

as we walked by

(or was she soliciting us obliquely?)

and me with just a look

not saying anything

to you who earlier that morning

had complained

I acted as though you were not there...

It is the same now

with the geese on the river walk

those big birds

that might be a wonder

around everyday sparrows

if the geese themselves

had not somehow become so everyday,

so every hour, so every few minutes

if you just stand there feeding them

from the palm of your hand.

— Michael Todd Steffen

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to: Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu Weaver brought the discussion back to the pivotal year 1968. This was the year Martin Luther King was assassinated. Weaver's younger siblings were born in 1969 and 1973. He said he was able to see the effect the legacy of those years had on them, and how it changed them. Weaver vividly remembers his mother crying like a proverbial baby when MLK was shot.

Weaver went further back to the 1965 riots in Baltimore. He remembered the intrusion of the National Guard in his neighborhood. He can recall whites roaming the streets looking for blacks to beat up. He remembers hearing gunfire from his two- story row house. Weaver said, "It was horrifying. The cities never recovered from the 60's, and later they became plagued by drugs. The post-industrial era brought the loss of blue-collar jobs. Crime flooded the community."

Weaver reminisced about the downfall of Milton Ave., where he grew up. Blockbusting tactics by real estate developers drove whites out. The patterns of parenting changed. There were more divorced parents. The old family structure fell. More men of color were incarcerated.

Weaver eventually left the steel mill and worked for Proctor & Gamble. Once, while driving to work, he took a route down Milton Ave. with a friend and saw a man shot down dead. This really





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