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newspaper

The Somerville Times

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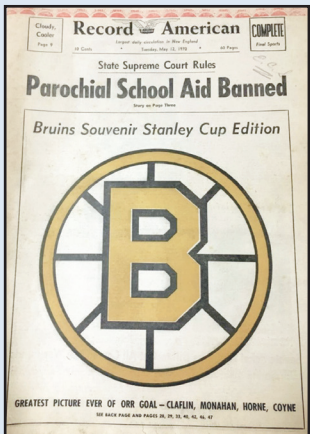


VOL. 9 NO. 22

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



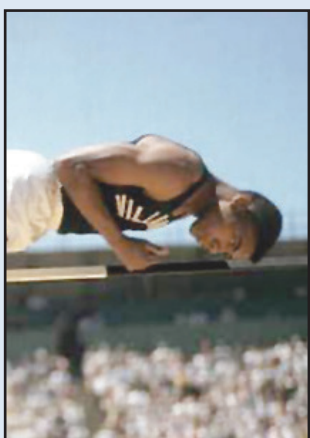
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'Highway Justice for People' voices call MassDOT to action



Public officials and members of the general public attended the "Highway Justice for People" event on Wednesday, May 26.

— Photo by Joe Creason

By Joe Creason

Mystic Avenue and McGrath Highway cut through Somerville like river rapids made of steel and concrete. Walking alongside it, as many pedestrians and residents of Somerville do every day, is like paddling a canoe around edges of a hurricane comprised with raging noise, industrial particulates and speeding cars. This "Corridor of Death," as many in the community are calling it, has already claimed the lives of three pedestrians in just two years.

Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets (SASS), a community organization formed with the intention of raising awareness and engaging leaders on the values of accessibility, equitable investment, safety and the mitigation of climate change, put forth a major effort in changing the status quo of perilous conditions for residents in the area with the "Highway

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After tumultuous 2020, Union Square Farmers Market looks to rebound

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

Last Saturday, Union Square Farmers Market gathered for the third time in the 2021 season of the market. Located at the intersection of Somerville Ave. and Carlton St., the Farmers Market is looking to have a successful season following the struggles that 2020 posed.

The market currently runs every Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with this being the fifteenth year the Farmers Market has been in operation. The market has become a staple of the Somerville community.

But in 2020, the COVID Pandemic brought new challenges to the market and its vendors alike.

According to Executive Director of Union Square Main Streets, Jessica Eshleman, the Farmers Market adapted to the pandemic in different ways.

"Last year's market was run with very specific guidance and guidelines from

Continued on page 4



The Union Square Farmers Market is gaining traction in 2021 after experiencing a tough period of low attendance in the previous year.

— Fernando Cervantes Jr.



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NEWSTALK

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

This past weekend, the city joined the state in lifting remaining COVID-19 restrictions. State guidelines will still require face coverings to be worn on public transit, in rideshares and taxis, in healthcare facilities, and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings. For more information on the state’s reopening plan and guidelines, visit mass.gov/reopening.








SomerStreets: Carnaval returns to shake up East Somerville. The SomerStreets 2021 season will start in a modified format, featuring a series of smaller events on **Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6** (rain dates June 12 and 13). Performances will be limited to 150 attendees, and most will require a ticket to attend. Tickets are free, but attendees will need to preregister through the **Somerville Arts Council** at somer-villeartscouncil.org/somerstreets. SomerStreets: Carnaval is organized by the **City of Somerville**, the Somerville Arts Council, and **East Somerville Main Streets**. For information on how to participate in any of the SomerStreets events, go to somer-villeartscouncil.org/somerstreets or contact **Iaritza Menjivar**, Special Events Manager, at (617) 625-6600 ext. 2998 or imenjivar@somervillema.gov.

Mobile vaccine clinics start this week: The first clinic will be held from 3:30-6:00 p.m. on **Thursday, June 3** at the Somerville Housing Authority site at 530 Mystic Ave. This is a walk-in clinic, but if you would like to pre-register a link will be posted later in the week at somer-villema.gov/vaccine. The vaccines are free, no ID or health insurance is required, and vaccines are available to everyone age 12+ regardless of immigration status. Many more mobile clinic sites will follow.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to a great guy, **City Councilor At-Large Bill White** is celebrating this week. We wish him a very happy birthday. **Michael Albano**, is celebrating his birthday. We wish him a *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 2 – June 8 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>June 2</i>	Cloudy	88°/58°	5%	2%	SW 13 mph
 Thursday <i>June 3</i>	Rain	71°/64°	42%	27%	S 15 mph
 Friday <i>June 4</i>	Cloudy	80°/64°	26%	19%	SW 11 mph
 Saturday <i>June 5</i>	Cloudy	85°/67°	7%	4%	WSW 13 mph
 Sunday <i>June 6</i>	Cloudy	89°/69°	9%	5%	WSW 11 mph
 Monday <i>June 7</i>	Sunny	90°/72°	2%	1%	WSW 10 mph
 Tuesday <i>June 8</i>	Sunny	91°/69°	22%	9%	W 8 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Obituary: James E. ‘Buff’ MacAuley

Margie and Kenny Wright says:

Buff my favorite brother in law. More like a brother. I will keep you in my heart forever. We love you so much. We are gonna miss you forever. I love you Buff

Desiree (Wright) Sicard says:

Uncle Buff there are no words. You will forever be in our hearts. My favorite uncle .. love, Paris

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Somerville Arts Council Volunteer Celebration

Join the Somerville Arts Council for a gathering of good cheer and lite refreshments. It has been a rough year and they are happy to be able to meet with folks in person. As in year’s past, they have an informal celebration with their board, volunteers, friends, and newcomers.

Come out to meet the staff and board, provide us feedback and ideas. Learn more about how they are easing into the reopening phase and our upcoming programs and events– especially ArtBeat, SomerStreets, Nibble, Ignite, and much more.

This also a good time to sign up to volunteer. They always need your help with these events.

If you want to find out more about our work and meet other folks, please come out: Wednesday, June 9, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Location:

Powder House Park (a.k.a Nathan Tufts Park)—(we’ll be in area that is to right of the stone field-house, near the convergence of the Powder House rotary, College Ave., and Broadway)

For commuters–Minutes away from Davis Square and directly across the street from the bus stop. If you drive and do not have a Somerville parking permit, 2 hour parking is available on Broadway.



NOTICE:

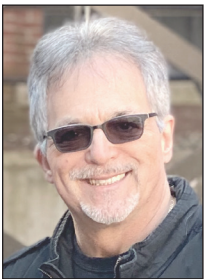
Free: Sofa, seats 3, off white in pristine condition.
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Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Get the papers, the papers!



Just call me Jimmy Two Times. I had the pleasure of having breakfast last week with five other Somerville guys, most in my age group, give or take a few years. We had a breakfast /meeting at the Moccia family's beautifully renovated Ball Square Cafe.

A photo of the six of us was posted on Facebook and someone commented that it looked like a scene from *Goodfellas*. Then a wisenheimer friend of mine, who's not that far behind me in age, said

we looked more like Oldfellas! I have to say, that it was a funny remark.

The comments came in and so did a bunch of the most popular quotes from the movie *Goodfellas*. My favorite, of course, was Jimmy Two Times, who said everything twice. "I'm gonna get the papers, get the papers."

It was a great get together and I posted the photo for you to look at. The "get the papers" quote made me think back to my days delivering newspapers in Somerville in the late 60's – early 1970's.

Today, if you have any daily newspaper delivered, it's usually by a person in a car flinging it out the window. I've seen them and they are pretty accurate. The real pros are the ones that don't even stop the car. They just throw while they go. It's quite a difference from when my friends and me delivered newspapers as teenagers.

Mr. Abe Learner was the boss. "Better get going" was one of Abe's favorite sayings as he tried to get us out to start delivering our papers. I'll never forget his gravelly voice and his constant cigarette smoking.

All my friends had paper routes down at Abe's, including a couple of young ladies. Abe's wife's name was Stella and she was a soft-spoken, pleasant lady. Abe was all business. The office of The Davis Square News Agency was on the block at the corner of Cutter and High-



Some Somerville Good Fellows.

land Ave. The block that now houses Opa Greek Yeeros (368) Maximum Hesh, and the former infamous Kay and Chips restaurant.

Charlie was known as "Charlie Bay State," because that was the name of his route (Bay State Ave. and surrounding streets). I was "Francesca," because I had the Francesca Ave. route which included a few other close streets. Mike was "Orchard," which included Gorham and Elmwood Streets.

He would say, "Hey, Francesca, fold those papers and get going!" I don't think he ever called me by my name. I delivered *The Boston Globe* and *The Record American* (*The Wretched American*) and afternoon *Herald Traveler*.

We would head over to the office, get our papers, and start folding them and putting elastics around them. Our hands got filthy from the ink. We would then pack them into a large white canvas bag and sling it over our shoulder. You would leave your bike parked outside. If you had a large basket, like I did, you would pack the papers into that. I remember wiping out a few times on my bike because the basket was so heavy and hard to balance and steer.

I think a lot of my friends my age have shoulder issues from lugging those paper sacks. Lots of kids stood outside businesses or on traffic islands hawking their papers. Some kids would regularly go into the barrooms to sell papers. One kid who worked for Abe graduated from delivering to selling papers in front of The Waldorf Cafeteria, where Mike's is now. That was a sweet deal.

Sundays were grueling. Thick papers

full of ads and other inserts. We had to assemble them and pack them into a rickety, splintery wooden pushcart. We'd push those clunky carts from street to street and house to house in rain, snow, and heat.

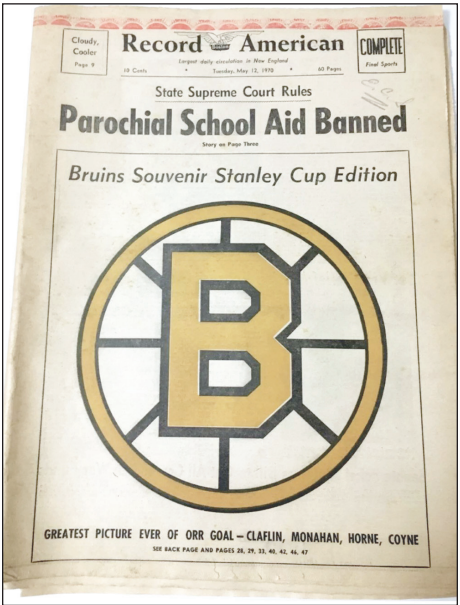
I thought I had 15 extra Sunday papers one week and instead of bringing them back to the office I dumped them down the railroad tracks near Y-Not variety on Willow Ave. Another paperboy saw me and ratted me out. Turned out that they weren't extra at all and I had completely skipped an entire street. I was bagged. I had to pay for the dumped papers, buy new ones, and deliver them to the missed customers.

It was a lot of responsibility for a teenager, and besides preparing and delivering the papers we had to collect the payment and hope for decent tips. I had to pay a guy who lived at the top of my street when I dented his aluminum screen door with a poorly flung *Boston Globe*.

Once you got in the groove, it was a great way for a young kid to earn some decent money. I'd like to thank Abe for giving me the job that helped pay for my mahogany Gibson SG electric guitar.

I also delivered *The Somerville Journal* on Thursdays like a lot of other Somerville kids back then.

That's how a reference to the movie *Goodfellas* sparked a memory. By the way, the six Somerville guys in the photo met for a reason. Stay tuned to this column for more information. In the meantime, I'm gonna go home and get my shoeshine box.



1970 Record American.



The former site of Davis Square News.



1968 Boston Herald Traveler.

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Highway Justice for People’ voices call MassDOT to action CONT. FROM PG 1

Justice for People” rally on May 26.

In attendance at Highway Justice for People were City Councilors, Mayor Joe Curtatone, State Representatives Christine Barber and Mike Connolly as well as Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley.

The rally comes as a response to a pattern of neglect from the Massachusetts State Transportation Department (MassDOT) towards the Mystic Avenue Highway corridor and the surrounding neighborhoods. As accidents lead to pedestrian fatalities in the community, MassDOT has only prolonged their timeline for building safety improvements.

Instead, MassDOT has fast tracked a steel viaduct restoration project on the Mystic Ave expanse of the Highway despite the death of residents.

“The people who live in these communities are the people who have to cross these streets dangerously all the time, who are the ones with heart problems and asthma,” said Executive Director of The Welcome Project Ben Echevarria, “What MassDOT wants to say to us is, wait in line and next time we do something we’ll build something. It’s always the same story, next time. We’re tired, we’re dying. We don’t need next time, we need now.”

The Welcome Project, an organization dedicated to empowering the residents and immigrant communities of the Mystic Public Housing Development, had many members assembled at the rally in a show of support for the cause. The Mystic Public Housing Development borders the Corridor of Death and is faced with many negative environ-

mental factors as a result.

“Why is it that every year I drive down and I have to hear about murders. If you drive through Medford, you see sound barriers, you see none here, instead you see Mystic housing and the beautiful little apartments, the second you see a sign for Charlestown-BOOM another sound wall,” Echevarria said.

According to Echevarria, the only neighborhood with sound barriers along the Somerville expanse of McGrath Highway is the affluent community of Ten Hills. Sound barriers not only protect those living around highways from the noise, but also from the fine particle air pollution produced by cars which is known to cause serious health consequences with long term exposure.

“Hundreds of families who live on Mystic Ave are breathing in the pollution every day from I-93 and it’s greatly affecting their health and we have the science to back this up,” said State Representative for the 34th Middlesex District Christine Barber.

The State Delegation has secured \$2 million dollars of funding for pedestrian improvements and another \$2 million for sound barriers through bond legislation.

“We’ve secured the money, but MassDOT has to spend it, the Baker administration has to spend it and that hasn’t been happening,” Barber said.

Officials and community organizations at Highway Justice for People, called upon MassDOT to make a Blakeley Ave crosswalk immediately and to accelerate the delayed plans

for safety improvements to the Mystic Ave and McGrath Highway corridor.

“We’ve been fighting for every inch of progress with MassDOT but we can’t do it alone. We need each and every one of you to show up on June 1 for the Boston area capital investment meeting and on June 8th for the I-93 preservation meeting,” said State Representative for the 26th Middlesex District Mike Connolly.

Connolly later made note that while driving up the Massachusetts Turnpike, he noticed 30-foot sound walls protecting the trees in more rural areas. Meanwhile, residents in Somerville live with their triple decker housing units abutting McGrath Highway.

“Why is it that MassDOT and the Baker Administration will protect the lives of trees and not the lives of our constituents,” Connolly said.

According to Connolly, in 2019 then Massachusetts Transportation Secretary Stephanie Pollack promised to accelerate a road safety audit on the Mystic Avenue corridor. The audit resulted in the approval of a \$ 6 million intersection improvement project which was planned to begin in the Summer of 2022.

In an April 2021 meeting, MassDOT told the State Delegation that the intersection improvement project would be delayed until 2023 and that they had already completed designs for a green lighted improvement project to begin in 2022 to “preserve the life of the steel on the highway bridge.”

“If you’re going to preserve the life of the steel, you need to take



action to preserve the life of our constituents,” Connolly said.

In addition to the construction of new pedestrian safety elements, elected officials and their constituents at the rally also called on MassDOT for the immediate enactment of traffic calming measures and to erect sound barriers along I-93 to reduce noise and fine air particulate pollution.

“As a black woman, I’m often told that I need to moderate my righteous indignation or rage lest people think I’m angry. Well, I am outraged because this is outrageous,” said U.S. Representative for Massachusetts’s 7th Congressional District Ayanna Pressley, “Justice delayed is justice denied.”

According to Pressley, McGrath Highway is one of the deadliest roadways in the entire Commonwealth based on data. Pressley says the existing infrastructure has continuously created environmental hazards towards the community due to structural comorbidities caused by divestment and racism. A heat map showing the rates of asthma around

McGrath Highway, correlates with a map of Covid-19 fatalities in Pressley’s 7th Congressional District, which was one of the hardest hit in the entire nation by the pandemic.

“Injustice and oppression of the minoritized and marginalized is usually intersectional, so we have to take a moment to speak to the intersectionality of our organizing and in our future not just for this corridor but for the thousands like it in this country,” Pressley said.

Pressley would go on to note that while she continues to fight for improvement funds at the Federal level, it was public outcry that defeated the Inner Belt initiative in the 1970’s which would have seen I-93 redirected through the heart of Boston and split Lower Roxbury in half.

“Organized power is realized power, and the power of the people has always been greater than the people in power,” Pressley said.

Concerned residents can make an impact by showing up on June 1 for the Boston area capital investment meeting and on June 8 for the I-93 perseveration meeting.

After tumultuous 2020, Union Square Farmers Market looks to rebound CONT. FROM PG 1

the city of Somerville, that did reduce our capacity,” Eshleman said. “It was very important to the city, that open air access to fresh healthy food remained available.”

Moreover, although the Farmers Market was able to adapt to the new guidelines placed by the City of Somerville, the Market and its vendors still felt the economic impact of the COVID pandemic.

“Last year, Union Square Main Streets saw a decrease of 68% of revenues related to this market. That represents a huge amount of impact to our tiny non-profits budget,” Eshleman said.

Paul O’Connell from Mariposa Bakery, one of the many vendors in the Union Square Farmers Market, spoke on the effects of

the pandemic on his girlfriends and his business. “It was tough last year, our sales were off because of a combination of them having to limit, to keep up with the city mandated protocols as well as, maybe people not being comfortable even with those protocols,” O’Connell said.

Furthermore, Marie Hills Owner of Kimball Fruit Farm, another vendor at Union Square, spoke on these effects as well. “The biggest change was that it was so not busy. Union Square used to be our best market and when the pandemic hit, we might have gotten a third of our customers,” Hills said. “When you’re not selling two thirds of what you used to sell you have to find an outlet. We ended up

giving a lot away to food for free because we just couldn’t sell it, it hurt our bottom line.”

But it has not been all doom and gloom for the Farmers Market and its vendors. Eshleman talked about the reaction that the local community has had to the markets’ reopening.

“Folks are so happy to see this tradition carry on, and in a continued modified way so that we can be responsive to the evolution of the pandemic that were in,” Eshleman said.

Vendors like O’Connell and Hills expressed cautious confidence that the market was on the way back to pre-covid levels. “I think it’s back, we can only wait and see,” O’Connell said.

“The residents of Somerville



are incredibly dedicated to the Farmers Market. It will come back to pre-COVID, but I’m not sure it will be this year,” Hills said.

Eshleman expressed optimism, and with the easing of restrictions by Governor Baker

on May 29, this sentiment has become more and more realistic. “I am very confident as the crops come from the fields and the temperatures warm up, that we will be getting back to our pre-pandemic numbers,” Eshleman said.

City holds Memorial Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Cemetery



By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

On Monday, a Memorial Day ceremony was held at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery located between Alewife Brook Parkway and North Street. In attendance were several city council members and Mayor Joseph Curtatone.

The ceremony was presented by the Veterans Services of the City of Somerville and its Director Ted Louis-Jaques. About 30 people were in attendance,

including ex-servicemen and the Somerville Fire Department.

Following introductions by Louis-Jaques, Mayor Curtatone spoke on the hardships experienced in the past year and its connection to Memorial Day.

"It's been not a short year, but a long grueling and difficult time period that we are not done with, but that we've come around the corner. We can think about that difficulty and the loss, but we can never really imagine and compare that to the sacrifice

the men and women who have served our nation have endured," Curtatone said.

Following other remarks from council members and Vietnam War veteran Thomas White, Mayor Curtatone and City Council President Matthew McLaughlin placed a wreath in front of the World War II memorial inside the cemetery.

A moment of silence was held in memory of all the men and women who have served the United States.



Psychological First Aid/Post Traumatic Stress Management Training

The Department of Health and Human Services is very excited to partner with Riverside Trauma Center to offer this 2-day virtual training in Psychological First Aid and Post Traumatic Stress Management. Free of charge to those who work and live in Somerville.

Dates: Friday June 4, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday June 11, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Participants must attend both days.

Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/150539603005>

Training Provided by Riverside Trauma Center: <http://riversidetraumacenter.org/>

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #230

Flag Week

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Bernard J. Cigrand is widely credited with being the "Father of Flag Day" in America. He was a United States Navy Lieutenant in World War I, teacher, Dean at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a historical author. He pushed for the holiday's establishment for over 30 years, lecturing over 2,188 times on the flag and patriotism before President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Flag Day on June 14, 1916.



In 1949, thirty-two years later and seventeen years after Cigrand's death, President Harry S. Truman signed a Congressional act into law. It recommended a voluntary observance of Flag Week. Ever since, Presidents have observed Flag Week with patriotic speeches.



January 1, 1776 is a date etched in stone in Somerville's history. On this date, the Colonial Army led by General George Washington was formed and its first banner, The Grand Union Flag, was raised in his presence on Prospect Hill. It was an ensign of thirteen alternating red and white stripes with the British flag in its upper left-hand contour.

This flag was the original American standard and waved above our troops and over our ships

Continued on page 17

City calls for student loan forgiveness, MassDOT road safety improvements

By Joe Creason

The City Council’s May 27 regular meeting began with some clarification from Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis on the PILOT ordinance, which establishes a Task Force to oversee the issue of non-profit organizations and any tax-exempt properties they may own in Somerville.

According to Davis, the new PILOT ordinance would not set a percentage that non-profit organizations have to pay the city as that is beyond the legal authority of the Council to undertake.

A resolution submitted by Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, in partnership with the advocacy group Zero Debt Massachusetts, is calling upon the Federal Government to cancel student debt.

“The student debt crisis is not new,” Ewen-Campen said, “But what is new is the moment we’re in. The pandemic has exposed how unequal and unjust our economy truly is.”

According to Ewen-Campen, a mass movement calling on the Federal Government to end student debt has been on the rise around the country. Currently, 19 percent of Somerville residents have student debt with the average amount being over \$38,000. Both of these statistics are above the state average for Massachusetts.

Zero Debt Massachusetts activist and Somerville resident Marcus Harken, says that credentialization of the labor market and stagnation of wages has made the burden of student debt unbearable for someone who has to pay rent and other living expenses.

“My two hard earned degrees, for which I sacrificed my twenties, along with \$65,000 in student debt, have granted me access to jobs that pay the same as unskilled labor, in some cases not even as much,” Harken said.

According to Zero Debt Massachusetts, two thirds of student debt is held by women and also disproportionately affects people of color more than white populations.

“While it would be an improvement for people of all backgrounds, this policy which President Biden could make major progress on with the stroke of a pen, would be practically impactful for black and Latino people and would have a real impact on the rail wealth gap as well as on the gender equality gap,” Ewen-Campen said.

According to Ewen-Campen, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley has been a leader in pushing this issue in Washington D.C. and reminding the Democrats that student debt forgiveness was a key part of their platform during the 2020 Campaign.

“We are calling on them



to keep their promise,” Ewen-Campen said.

The City Council submitted a resolution to endorse a letter from the Wage Theft Advisory Committee, and to have the letter forwarded by the City Clerk to the named parties and the Federal Delegation.

“The letter is urging the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize workers’ rights over documentation. Respecting workers sounds like a no-brainer to me, so I hope we all vote to support this,” said Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan.

Reports from the Housing and Community Development Committee noted that the pandemic eviction moratorium is set to expire in July, which poses a serious risk to community members.

“The committee also discussed the community benefit agreement that Encore Casinos promised Somerville and how they have gone about complying with that agreement,” said Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo.

The Committee report questions whether Encore has upheld the community benefit agreement to purchase \$25,000 worth of Somerville business gift cards and how these purchases are being kept track of.

In other news, the Traffic and Parking Committee reported that MassDOT will install a crosswalk on Blakeley Avenue, where Marshall Mac was fatally

injured in April. The installation will occur this Summer.

“We had extensive discussions with MassDOT about the desire for sound walls along the East Somerville expanse of I-93, since they will be spending \$37 million to address some steel deficiency issues on the viaduct there. They pretty much said no to that and they have also not said whether they would move up any of the other improvements scheduled for 2023,” said Ward 5 Councilor Mark Niedergang.

The Finance Committee reported a request from the mayor to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$2,520,000 as part of the Capital Investment Plan for FY2021.

Voices from Somerville’s Nepali community

Come hear members of the local Nepali community discuss their work in Somerville and around the world. Panelists include: an attorney who helps Nepali residents access resources, a multi-lingual advocate who works to empower women and end domestic violence, the chef and co-owner of a popular local restaurant, and an artist whose work has been seen at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and in Union Square.

The Somerville Museum presents:
Voices from Somerville’s Nepali Community

Wednesday, June 9, 6:30 p.m.

Please join us virtually on Zoom

This event is free. Register on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/156721186287>

Following the panel, listen to historian Dan Breen discuss connections between Nepal and the United States.

Panelists:

- Imagine – Artist, educator and founder of Nepal’s first Children’s Art Museum
- Rabina Lockett – Co-owner and chef, Himalayan Kitchen restaurant
- Rukmini Karki – Senior Advocate, Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence; Past President, Nepali Women’s Global Network
- Parashu Phuyal – Community Engagement Specialist and Nepali Liaison, City of Somerville

Also featuring:

- Dan Breen – Historian, Brandeis University, and Somerville resident

This event is part of the popular series, “Voices from Somerville: Culture, Community and History.” Special thanks to Erline Tanice, Adda Maria Santos, Adriana Fernandes, and Jhenny Saint-Surin for their help in producing this event series. This event has been made possible in part by Mass Humanities. Special thanks to the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for their support of the “Voices from Somerville” series. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



COMMENTARY

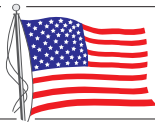
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Welcome back to normal – let’s hope it lasts.

Our View Of The Times



Somerville joined with the state in lifting the remaining COVID-19 restrictions last Saturday. This means that we can shop, be entertained, and hang out together, without the use of face coverings being mandatory except when using public transit, rideshares and taxis, or while in healthcare facilities, and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings.

This is a big deal for all of us who have struggled through past year and a half or so, having been denied so much of what stands for a large part of one’s basic quality of life quotient.

Thanks to most of us following the established guidelines and then taking the vaccine once it became available, we can honestly look forward to a time when the whole nightmare is finally behind us once and for all.

Who among us has not longed for the time when we can breathe freely without the encumbrance of those face masks, or to shop or dine out in places that have nearly dissolved into mere memories?

But it’s not entirely behind us just yet. Infections are still being reported daily, and the virus is still around. This is why qualified guidelines are still in place. Time

will hopefully work its wonders and the end will truly arrive.

In the meantime, it is our duty to ourselves, our friends and families, and the greater community at large to keep playing it safe and following those ongoing guidelines. Let’s make sure that we do so.

For more information on the state’s reopening plan and guidelines, visit mass.gov/reopening.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

happy birthday. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Richard DiPinto, Dell E. Fisher, Paul Harvey, Roz Cummins, Chris Argeropoulos, Elizabeth Rodrigues Fula, Nicole Alves Bairos, Lori DePippo and Charlie McCarthy** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

We’re sad to hear that another popular local restaurant/bar, **R.F. O’Sullivan’s** has closed its doors at its Beacon St. location. According to a statement issued on their Facebook page, the pub will move to **Lynn** and the current location will operate under a different name, while retaining the original staff. You can read their announcement at www.facebook.com/R-F-O-Sullivan-Son-100320223359313/.

Somerville Mayor **Joseph A. Curtatone**, Ward 1 Councilor **Matthew McLaughlin**, Ward 3 Councilor **Ben Ewen-Campen**, Ward 4 Councilor **Jesse Clingan**, and city staff invite you to the next virtual community meeting to discuss implementation of the **Gilman Square Neighborhood Plan**.

City consultants will present updated conceptual designs for redevelopment at the Mobil gas station site, the former Homans Building site, and nearby green space called the Gilman Triangle on Medford Street behind Somerville High School. The meeting will be held online on **Wednesday, June 2**, at 6:00 p.m. Learn more and register to attend at somervillema.gov/Gilman-Square. Interpretation into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, or Nepali may be available upon advance request by contacting the **SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs** at somerviva@somervillema.gov or calling 311.

As of **May 25**, a total of **5,744 Somerville residents** have **tested positive for COVID-19 since March 2020** (39 the past two weeks), and sadly there have been 86 deaths (though none in the past two weeks). See the latest Somerville case data at somervillema.gov/covid-19dashboard. Somerville joined state reopening and masking guidelines on May 29: On Saturday face covering requirements were largely lifted throughout Massachusetts. State guidelines will still require face coverings to be worn on public transit, in rideshares and taxis, in

healthcare facilities, schools and child-care programs, and in other settings hosting vulnerable populations, such as congregate care settings. Individual businesses may also still require masks to enter their premises, so bring a mask with you when you go out. Anyone who is unvaccinated is also advised to continue to mask up. Somerville also joined with the State in lifting remaining COVID-19 business and activity restrictions on May 29. Find out more about the State’s reopening plans [here](#).

The **City of Somerville Office of Housing Stability** is hosting a virtual workshop to assist **Section 8 tenants** looking for housing. This event is designed for Somerville Housing Authority Section 8 voucher holders or Section 8 applicants in the screening process, but all are welcome. Attendees will learn practical tips, advice, and strategies to make their Section 8 housing search more effective. The workshop will take place on Zoom on **Thursday, June 3**, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. To learn more and register to attend, visit somervillema.gov/ohs.

You now can get a **COVID-19 vaccination** without having to pre-register or

make an appointment. There are walk-in vaccination sites **all around Somerville**, and just outside it as well. **Cambridge Health Alliance** vaccine clinics have larger supplies of doses and can vaccinate kids ages 12-17. You do not need to be a CHA patient to use these clinics. They are free and open to all. **Local CVS pharmacies** and the **Stop & Shop on McGrath Hwy.** are also offering walk-in vaccines. **Local Walgreens pharmacies** require a brief pre-registration, but can process people quickly if they have open slots and you walk in. Here are the CHA walk-in sites: CHA Somerville Vaccine Center at 176 Somerville Avenue in Somerville, Mon.- Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tufts University Gantcher Center at 161 College Ave. in Medford, Wed-Thurs. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Encore Boston Harbor at 1 Broadway Center in Everett, Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olío

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#781

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. From which animal
is mohair obtained? | 8. By what name was
William F. Cody better
known? |
| 2. Who invented cross-
word puzzles? | 9. Who was the first
person to reach the
South Pole? |
| 3. What is a cabbage
white? | 10. Nirvana's ex-drum-
mer sings lead for which
group? |
| 4. Who wrote the
poem <i>The Raven</i> ? | 11. What is the main
ingredient in falafel? |
| 5. Which actress plays
Katniss Everdeen in the
<i>Hunger Games</i> movies? | 12. What is the title of
chef Anthony Bour-
dain's first book? |
| 6. Scolionophobia is a
fear of what? | |
| 7. Who starred as
Diane Chambers in the
sitcom <i>Cheers</i> ? | |
- Answers on page 23*

Answers on page 23

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.
2. Orange Juice naturally contains a small amount of alcohol.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

NIGHT AT THE THEATER

ACROSS

1. Treble or bass ____
5. Pharaoh's cobra
8. Zeus' sister and wife, and character in Broadway musical "Xanadu"
12. Hair-dwelling parasites
13. Quinceañera or bat mitzvah, e.g.
14. Puts money in the bank
15. Pearl Harbor locale
16. Flair
17. Inuit boat
18. Record-holding musical for most awards received by a single production, with The
20. Broadway hit "Jagged Little ____"
21. Comment to the audience
22. Web address
23. ____'er ____, at the pump
26. Private chapel
30. Keats' poem
31. Quit
34. Medley
35. ____ ____ or do nothing
37. Right-angle building extension
38. Razor nick
39. Like lemon
40. Make a choice
42. 1960s teen idol, Bobby ____
43. Give authority
45. Bias crime perpetrators
47. Theater, e.g.
48. Cordial disposition
50. Surrender
52. Non-musical with record number of Tony nominations
56. Shredded cabbage dishes
57. Melpomene, e.g.
58. Just a little
59. Gold unit
60. Lodge fellows
61. "Game of Thrones" bastard
62. Without purpose
63. Past tense of "is"
64. Short-term employee

DOWN

1. Hoof sound
2. Yarn spinner
3. Canyon sound

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

SUDOKU

FREE DATE CHANGES ON 2021 TOURS*

<p>BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR</p>  <p>12 days, departs year-round</p>	<p>FROM \$2,599*</p> <p>\$2,349</p>	<p>CRIMSON CANYONS & MESAS NATIONAL PARKS TOUR</p>  <p>10 days, departs Jun - Sep 2021</p>
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FROM \$1,749*

\$1,499



promo code N7017 **CALL 1-855-208-9533**

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

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

New Somerville High School field to be named after Phil Reavis Sr.

By Bella Levavi

The Somerville Memorialization Committee voted unanimously to memorialize Phil Reavis Sr. by naming the new Somerville High School field in his honor Tuesday, May 25.

Reavis is the first African American person to be memorialized in Somerville marking this historic decision.

Will Mbah, a member of the Memorialization Committee said, “I want to express my thank you to this committee for honoring this person especially on a day like this, that falls on the anniversary of the national uprising of Black and brown people.” May 25, 2020 exactly a year earlier was the day that George Floyd was killed by police that sparked protests across the country.

During Reavis’s time in Somerville High School, he became a track star, getting recruited by Villonova and later competing in the 1956 Summer Olympics. Reavis later returned to Somerville working as a teacher and mentoring scores of children in the community.

During the meeting there

was much debate about what location should bear his name. The committee was given a list from the high school architect of locations to be named. Many on the committee advocated for the indoor track, a location not on the list, to be named after him because he was a track athlete while attending high school.

Ultimately the committee decided the new field should be the location of his memorial because more people in the community have access to this field.

“This may be a more valuable asset to the lives of Somerville residents in general than just student athletes,” Kerri Connoll, Memorialization Committee member, said.

The group came to the conclusion of their debate when Reavis’s son Phil Reavis Jr. advocated for the field to be the location. “From my perspective, I like honoring dad with the field,” Reavis Jr. said at the meeting. “Because when he had been teaching, he was with U-10 type students.” The field is the size of a U-10 soccer field and is designed to be used by students as well as by people outside of the



high school.

Later in the meeting the group unanimously voted to name the Somerville High School Library after the couple Margaret Jay Jones and David Wendell Jones. After debate of whether to name two separate spaces after the Jones to respectfully honor their legacy of being separate community figures or dedicate a single space for both of them, the decision was made to designate one space for both their names to limit confusion. Ellenor Barish, Memorialization Committee member, noted that Jones will be the first African American woman to be memorialized in Somerville.

Finally, the group unanimously voted to name the Somerville High School CTE wing after Leo De Simon. Counselor Mary Jo Rossetti gave an emotional speech about Simon’s impact on the school community. “Leo was the rock behind this renovation project at Somerville High. He was such a class act, such an advocate for so many kids.” Rossetti said. “The wing will make the staff feel happy to see something about him every day.”

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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

Help support your neighbors through the **Somerville Cares Fund**. If you’re lucky enough to have some extra money, please consider a donation to the Somerville Cares Fund. This donation-based fund provides direct assistance to Somerville residents, workers, and parents of school children so that they can cover basic expenses like housing, food, and utility bills. If you’re unable to donate you can still help by sharing information about the Somerville Cares Fund with your friends and family.

CHA Somerville Hospital offers **free testing** at **Assembly Row**. To make an appointment, call 617-665-2928 (Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). More testing information can be found at somervillema.gov/covidtesting. The state’s **Stop the Spread** testing sites are also an option, including in the nearby communities of **Chelsea** and **Everett**. For more information, visit the State’s website.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan, and **city staff** invite you to a virtual community meeting to discuss upcoming schoolyard renovations at the **Arthur D. Healey School**. This project will construct a new schoolyard and U-12 recreation field, as well as a new staircase and ADA-compliant ramp between school grounds and Mystic Housing. Construction is expected to begin **June 21**, after the current school year ends, and continue **through Spring 2022**. The meeting will take place **Wednesday, June 9**, at 6:30 p.m. Discussion will cover the overall construction process, anticipated project schedule, traffic and parking impacts, school access during construction, and safety considerations. To learn more and register to attend, visit somervillema.gov/healeyschoolyard.

Join a community meeting on **Thursday, June 10**, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., (rescheduled from May 25) to learn about **supervised consumption sites (SCS)** data and research. At the meeting you can learn more about how SCS work, see data from a recently conducted needs assessment and evaluation that includes input from potential clients of the SCS and other community members, and ask questions and share feedback. A draft version of the needs

assessment and evaluation will be available at www.somervillema.gov/SCS by **Tuesday, June 8**.

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

The newly renovated **Somerville Public Library West Branch** at 40 College Ave. is now open for curbside service. Pickup will be at the building’s new front entrance **weekdays** from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and **Saturdays** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Patrons will be able to select “Somerville/West” when placing holds online. Renovation and restoration work began on the historic building in early 2019 and is now largely complete. The West Branch will open for indoor services at a later date in the not-too-distant future, at

which point a proper celebration will be held to mark the occasion. More details will be shared as they’re finalized. In the meantime, visit somervillepubliclibrary.org and follow the Somerville Public Library on social media for regular updates and glimpses inside the new space.

The next **GLX General Public Meeting** is planned for **June 30**, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting format will be virtual, and a link will be posted soon on the GLX website. The meeting will include updates on: **Construction Status, Recent Project Milestones, Testing and Commissioning of GLX service**. For project information, please visit www.Mass.gov/GLX.

Reminder: **city buildings** are still closed to the public. Although city buildings remain closed to the public, a number of city services are still available online or by calling 311. Check the “**City Service Status**” tab on the city’s COVID-19 page for more information.

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

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators’ votes on roll calls from the week of May 24-28. All Senate roll calls are on proposed amendments to the \$47.72 billion fiscal 2022 budget. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

This was the Senate’s second state budget in the COVID-19 era and most senators participated virtually from their homes or offices.

Of the of the 923 amendments filed by senators only 15 came to a roll call vote. Many others were simply approved or rejected one at a time on voice votes without debate.

To move things along even faster, the Senate also did its usual “bundling” of many amendments. Instead of acting on all the amendments one at a time, hundreds of the proposed amendments are bundled and put into two piles—one pile that will be approved and the other that will be rejected-with a single vote on each pile.

Senate President Karen Spilka, or the senator who is filling in for her at the podium, orchestrates the approval and rejection of the bundled amendments with a simple: “All those in favor say ‘aye,’ those opposed say ‘no.’ The ayes have it and the amendments are approved.” Or “All those in favor say ‘aye,’ those opposed say ‘no.’ The no’s have it and the amendments are rejected.”

Senators don’t actually vote yes or no, and, in fact, they don’t say a word. The outcome was predetermined earlier behind closed doors.

“The efficient Senate budget process this year reflected lots of careful work by our Ways and Means Chair, Michael Rodriques, and our Senate President, Karen Spilka, to build consensus in the weeks before the budget,” said Senate President Pro Tempore Sen. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont).

Despite repeated requests from Beacon Hill Roll Call, Senate President Karen Spilka’s office did not respond to a request to comment on the bundled amendments and the small number of roll calls. And no response was received from Spilka’s leadership team of Sens. Cindy Creem (D-Newton), Joan Lovely (D-Salem), Mike Barrett (D-Lexington) and Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett).

“Roll call requests are based on a number of factors that are the subject of both continuing and contemporaneous discussions within the caucus based on specific issues,” said GOP Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-North Reading).

[The process] more accurately highlights the increasingly efficient use of the legislative rubber stamp,” said Chip Ford, executive director of Citizens for Limited Taxation. “Massachusetts doesn’t need the cost of 200 legislators when a handful decide all legislation before it comes for a vote. If the three token ‘loyal opposition’ Republican senators weren’t taking up space taxpayers could at least save the ‘leadership stipends’ they collect.”

“This type of process was not the norm only several years ago.” said said Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance Executive Director Paul Craney. “Over the last few years, with new legislative leadership, they rush through votes, often don’t record the votes and don’t allow the public to gain access to what is happening because most of the important work is done behind closed doors. With that being said, the state Senate is much more transparent

than Speaker Ron Mariano and Republican Brad Jones in the House. The House is arguably the most opaque legislature in America.”

\$47.72 BILLION FISCAL 2022 BUDGET (S 3)
Senate 40-0, approved a \$47.72 million fiscal 2022 state budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2021.

Senators added on an additional \$63.7 million in spending during three days of debate on the Senate floor. The House recently approved its own version of the budget. A House-Senate conference committee will hammer out a compromise version.

“This is an extraordinarily hopeful budget, designed to get us ‘back to better,’” said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). “The Massachusetts Senate vowed to act on what we learned from the COVID-19 public health crisis and invest in areas that lift up our children, families and seniors across all communities -- and that is exactly what this budget does.”

Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport), Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means said, “The Senate has charted a hopeful path forward this week and passed a fiscally responsible fiscal Year 2022 budget that makes investments to expand educational opportunity, safeguard the health and wellness of our most vulnerable, support our children and families and meet the needs of our post-pandemic economy.

“The budget that we passed today focuses on the future and ensures that every resident, business, and family can find success in a post-pandemic Massachusetts,” said Sen. Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth), Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. “The past year has been difficult for so many, and this budget strives to put in place programs designed to recover from the effects of COVID-19. Now is the time for us to rebuild and make the commonwealth an even better place to call home.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the budget).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

TAX DEDUCTION FOR REMOTE LEARNING SUPPLIES (S 3)
Senate 5-34, rejected an amendment that would provide up to a \$500 tax deduction for any K-12 teachers’ expenses they paid for the costs of remote teaching their students. Eligible expenses include professional development courses taken related to the curriculum, books, supplies, computer equipment and for personal protective equipment, disinfectant and other supplies used for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19.

Amendment supporters said it is unfair that teachers have to personally pay from their own pockets to cover for these costs. He noted that a recent survey showed that teachers spent an average of \$745 was spent of their own money on learning materials.

Amendment opponents said they support reimbursing these teachers but argued a tax deduction is not the best way to do it. They noted the state should use some of the billions of dollars in federal funds it receives under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund and directly reimburse the teachers.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment allowing a \$500 deduction. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ALLOW FARMERS A TAX DEDUCTION FOR DONATING FOOD (S 3)
Senate 6-33, rejected an amendment that would give a taxpayer who is in the trade or business of farming and makes a charitable contribution of food to a nonprofit food organization a deduction on their income tax return for up to 25 percent of the value of the food. The amendment also regulates the contributions and sets standards that the food quality must meet.

Amendment supporters said the deduction will help these generous farmers and the charities. They noted that the federal government and several states already allow this deduction.

Amendment opponents said the state cannot afford the revenue loss in a budget that is tight and still relies on money from the Rainy Day Fund. They noted the budget delays the implementation of the overall charitable deduction that was discontinued in 2001 and argued it is not time to pick and choose a specific group of taxpayers who will receive a charitable deduction.

(A “Yes” vote is for the amendment allowing the charitable deduction for farmers. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

ADDITIONAL \$3 MILLION FOR LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH (S 3)
Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding for local boards of health by \$3 million (from \$10 million to \$13 million).

Amendment supporters said that these grants will improve public health protections across the state by strengthening local capacity and supporting sharing of services among cities and towns.

“The pandemic made clear what has long been true: Protecting our health requires strengthening investments at the local level,” said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). “In our commonwealth, every municipality has their own board of health or health department. These funds will decrease inequities between communities and promote better health for everyone.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$3 million increase in funding).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ADDITIONAL \$508,419 FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND SURVIVOR SERVICES (S 3)
Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services by \$508,419 (from \$50,874,714 to \$50,366,295).

“What many people don’t realize is that a consequence of the pandemic has been a significant increase in instances of domestic abuse,” said sponsor Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). “As a result, there has been an increase in individuals seeking services provided by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. It is critical that we provide more funding for these services so that access to care remains available for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault in the commonwealth.”

Beacon Hill Roll Call



(A “Yes” vote is for the \$508,419 increase in funding).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen

Yes

\$500,000 TO IMPROVE MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH OUTCOMES (S 3)

Senate 38-1, approved an amendment that would provide \$500,000 for the Perinatal-Neonatal Quality Improvement Network (PNQIN) of Massachusetts that works with hospitals and maternal health organizations to eliminate disparities in maternal morbidity and mortality.

“I filed [the] amendment ... to provide funding to PNQIN because I believe that it is every person’s right to build a happy and healthy family in the commonwealth of Massachusetts,” said amendment sponsor Sen. Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester). “An essential element of PNQIN’s mission is to fight and eliminate longstanding racial disparities in maternal mortality and to improve health outcomes of all pregnant people and their children. PNQIN is at the forefront of maternal health equity, and their work will unequivocally bring us closer to a commonwealth full of happy and healthy parents and children.”

“I have a strong belief that the practice of earmarking funds for private organizations within the budget leads to more harm than good in our political system,” said Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz, the only senator to vote against the amendment. “Although the PNQIN does important work, and I appreciate Sen. Chandler’s championing of this worthy cause, I believe government works better when the Legislature sticks to its role of setting categories of funding priorities, and I respect the executive branch agencies’ responsibility to make comparisons among projects and service providers to choose the organizations that best carry out those priorities. As such, I have a policy of voting against earmarks when it comes to setting budget priorities.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$500,000. A “No” vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen

Yes

ADDITIONAL \$500,000 FOR SECURITY FOR SCHOOLS AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP (S 9)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment increasing funding by \$500,000 (from \$1 million to \$1.5 million) for security and enhancements for at-risk houses of worship, schools, community centers and other nonprofit institutions. This includes the installation of security cameras, enhanced lighting, ballistic doors and bulletproof windows, rapid response alarms, perimeter fencing, motion detectors and vehicle blockades.

“We are in the middle of a pandemic of hate and violence, and it’s growing at alarming rates,” said sponsor Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow). This year alone, there was the attempted bombing at Ruth’s House, a Jewish-affiliated assisted living facility in Longmeadow, and in the months that followed, a rapid rise in Anti-Asian hate crimes. We have an obligation as a commonwealth to make sure that we have the resources to put these basic precautions in place for these community groups and organizations.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$500,000).

Sen. Patricia Jehlen

Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

BAKER SIGNS COVID-19 EMERGENCY SICK LEAVE AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CHANGES (H 3771)

Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law a bill that will provide qualified workers with up to five days of paid leave for COVID-related emergencies including workers who are sick with the virus, under a quarantine order, recovering from receiving a vaccine or caring for a family member ill with the virus. “It creates a new, predictable and stable formula to address recoveries related to COVID-19 claims,” Baker said.

The measure is also designed to relieve employers this spring from expensive unexpected unemployment system costs. Many businesses were shocked when they saw their first-quarter unemployment contribution bills and found the solvency assessment rate had jumped from 0.58 percent in 2020 to 9.23 percent in 2021, raising costs in many cases by hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Under the new law, the state would shift all COVID-related unemployment claims from the solvency fund into a new COVID claims fund and the solvency fund would revert to its original function. Employers, who fund the state’s jobless aid system, will still be on the hook in the long term, and a COVID-related assessment on businesses will kick into effect for 2021 and 2022.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE HEARING

- On June 6, the Public Health Committee will hold a virtual hearing on several bills including:

PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES MUST PROVIDE MEDICATION ABORTION (H 2399)

- Requires each state university health center to offer medication abortions to its patients and provide referrals for other abortion care services not provided in the health center. The measure provides each university with \$200,000 to pay these costs. Another provision prohibits the state from requiring a university or college to use money from its General Fund or student fees before January 1, 2026, to fund these medicine abortions.

“[This] is an important health infrastructure bill that provides funding for public colleges and universities in order to ensure access,” said sponsor Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D-Northampton). “Navigating the healthcare system as a college student can be complicated, and students often find that distance, transportation, cost and scheduling pose barriers. This bill would ensure that students within the public higher education system of Massachusetts can access this safe medication without undue obstacles.”

“This extreme measure ... is reckless, divisive and unnecessary,” said Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle. “It contains no provision requiring public university health centers to warn women of the risks, complications or adverse effects of so-called medical or medication abortions. Nor does it contain a conscience clause for physicians, nurses or other health center employees who have moral or religious objections to abortion. It is not about choice. It is about maximizing the availability and convenience of abortion in the Bay State. As is usual with such measures, there will be no choice, at all, for pro-life taxpayers.”

“Navigating an unintended pregnancy is particularly difficult for college students who have limited time, financial resources and transportation options,” said Rebecca Hart Holder, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts. “It’s even harder for the thousands of students who live in access deserts, where the closest abortion provider is hours away. Medication abortion is an extremely safe, effective way to end an early pregnancy. [The bill] will support our college students by ensuring they can get the safe, legal, medication abortion care they need to remain in control of

their bodily autonomy and continue their education without interruption,” said Jon Latino, communications officer of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts.

Bill Gillmeister, executive director of the Renew Massachusetts Coalition said the bill “would turn our public institutions of higher education into abortion mills.”

“If passed, this legislation would allocate not less than \$200,000 per public college or university to train personnel and equip places of higher education to perform medical abortions and would require them to provide for these abortion services through tuition and fees after 2026,” said Gillmeister. “Neither taxpayer money, nor the eventual tuition and fees charged all families of students attending public institutions of higher education, should be used to support Planned Parenthood and the abortion industry.”

FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS (H 2354)

- Requires all prisons, homeless shelters and K-12 schools to maintain free menstrual products, including sanitary napkins, tampons and underwear liners in private and public restrooms and to make them available in a “convenient manner that does not stigmatize any persons seeking the products.”

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 May 24-28, the House met for a total of eight minutes while the Senate met for a total of 23 hours and 40 minutes.

Mon. May 24	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:03 a.m. Senate 11:11 a.m. to 11:13 a.m.
Tues. May 25	No House session. Senate 11:10 a.m. to 7:55 p.m.
Wed. May 26	No House session Senate 10:30 a.m. to 8:05 p.m.
Thurs. May 27	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:08 a.m. Senate 11:26 a.m. to 4:44 p.m.
Fri. May 28	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

A note from Bob Katzen, Publisher of *Beacon Hill Roll Call*: Join me this Sunday night and every Sunday night between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. for my talk show “The Bob Katzen Baby Boomer and Gen X Show.” Jump in my time capsule and come back to the simpler days of the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. On Sunday, June 6, we will be celebrating our one-year anniversary with a special episode of the show. There are many ways you can listen to the show from anywhere in the world: If you have a smart speaker, simply say, “Play WMEX on Audacy.com” Download the free Audacy app on your phone or tablet. Listen online at www.wmexboston.com or tune into 1510 AM if you have an AM radio. Visit us at www.bobkatzenshow.com

Somerville ramping up pandemic recovery support for women

With women bearing the brunt of lost jobs and wages during the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Somerville is planning a host of initiatives to facilitate a true recovery for women, their families, and the city in general. Among these initiatives will be job training, grant money for women-owned businesses, and childcare support.

This shared commitment by Mayor Joe Curtatone and the City Council was recently memorialized with the Proclamation for Women’s Advancement, Equity, and Opportunity initiated by Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo, developed in collaboration with and submitted by the Mayor’s Office, and passed unanimously by the City Council.

All facets of Somerville’s city government have recognized the disproportionate economic setback suffered by women, particularly women of color, during the past 15 months and are working to put corrective measures in place. The proclamation coincides with work being done by Mayor Curtatone’s administration to direct funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help women in Somerville get back on their feet after the economic hardships brought on by the pandemic.

“The simple truth of it is if women don’t recover, then our larger society doesn’t recover,” said Mayor Curtatone. “During the pandemic, we all saw the unemployment statistics and read the reports about people dropping out of the workforce to take care of their families, and an important human story behind those numbers was that a large percentage of those

workers were women. To get our city economy thriving again – and as a matter of equity – we need to address the problem at its core so that the women in our community can rejoin the workforce and fully participate in local commerce. We need to make sure everyone who’s been dealt an economic blow by this pandemic has the opportunity to benefit from the recovery.”

During the pandemic, the city has awarded more than \$1.4 million in relief grants to 142 women-owned businesses. The city’s Job Creation and Retention Trust has also offered workforce training programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, with women composing the majority of participants in job and language skills training. Councilor Strezo, a former member of the Women’s Commission who championed the Proclamation effort, emphasized the importance of following up on that work.

“We have a unique opportunity here. Together, we can overcome the devastating impacts of the pandemic and rebuild a better world through the COVID-19 recovery process,” she said. “In less than a year, women lost an estimated three decades of job progress, so we urgently need more job creation programs, mentorship opportunities, and more deliberate support. We must acknowledge that parents, families, and caregivers need more resources now. We can support women in our community through affordable and accessible childcare and caregiver support.

We can also enhance economic recovery by investing in job opportunities for women. The Proclamation seeks to expand



pathways to the trade industries and mentorship opportunities. It also provides additional support for women and minority-owned businesses. These are just a few of the support systems the Proclamation is seeking to strengthen. I’m grateful for the Administration’s support on the Proclamation, validating that we have a catastrophic problem affecting Somerville women, children, and caregivers. We have to build out of it. I am committed to the work, as I know so many Somerville residents are.”

The city is currently in the process of identifying the areas of most pressing need for its federal ARPA funding, which will include recommendations from its Child Care Access and Affordability Working Group that was formed in July of last year. In addition, the City’s newly formed Office of Racial and Social Justice also will be working to ensure Somerville experiences an equitable recovery.

“The pandemic has highlight-

ed more so the intersectionality of inequities and disparities. Women, particularly women of color, have been especially affected during this pandemic,” said City Director of Racial and Social Justice Denise Molina-Capers. “We want to take steps to alleviate the added pressures the pandemic has put on women. Our immediate efforts will focus on pandemic recovery, but we must continue this work to sustainably address systemic factors that have created inequities for women.”

In the spirit of the priorities identified in the Proclamation, the City and City Council are committing to:

1. Continue to target additional small business support toward women and women-owned businesses;
2. Focus efforts on mentorship and job development opportunities for Somerville women of all ages;
3. Listen to the concerns and needs of Somerville women and

proactively work toward policy solutions that validate and address those concerns and needs;

4. Prioritize support for women in a COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery plan, including support for Somerville women re-entering the workplace;

5. With the City’s Director of Racial and Social Justice, continue to prioritize addressing institutional racism that affects women of color;

6. Encourage and advocate for hospitable and supportive working environments for women, parents, guardians, and caregivers;

7. Continue and expedite focusing City efforts on expanding and creating quality accessible early education, out of school, and after school options for all Somerville children; and

8. Continue to support and engage with the Somerville Women’s Commission as well as with all volunteer commissions and stakeholders able to contribute to this effort.

Gilman Square Neighborhood Plan virtual meeting, June 2

Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin, Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan, and city staff invite you to the next virtual community meeting to discuss implementation of the Gilman Square Neighborhood Plan. City consultants will present updated conceptual designs for redevelopment at the Mobil gas station site, the former Homans Building site, and nearby green space called the Gilman Triangle on Medford Street behind Somerville High School.

The meeting will be held online on Wednesday, June 2, at 6:00 p.m. Learn more and register to attend at somervillema.gov/GilmanSquare.

Interpretation into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, or Nepali may be available upon advance request by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at somerviva@somervillema.gov or calling 311.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL), written materials in alternative formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures in order to access the programs and activities of the City of Somerville or to attend meetings should contact Nancy Bacci in advance at 617-625-6600 x2250 or NBacci@somervillema.gov.



Preventing elder abuse and neglect starts with awareness

By Susan Pacheco and Norah Al-Wetaid

What if we told you that roughly 1 in 10 older adults experience some form of elder abuse or neglect, and that most of these incidents are never reported? Our guess is that you would want to do something to help. One way you can help is to know the signs of elder abuse and what to do if you have concerns.

Know Elder Abuse
Elder abuse is defined as an action – or failure to act – that creates harm or risk for someone age 60 or over. It can be physical, emotional, sexual, or financial. It also includes neglect and self-neglect.
Elder abuse impacts people across all income levels, cultures, genders, and races. Each case is unique, but these are the most common warning signs:
• Unexplained financial loss
• Unexplained bruises or in-

juries
• Isolation
• Verbal abuse
• Threats
• Changes in mood or behavior
• Rapid decline in health
• Sudden confusion
• Unexplained weight loss
• Neglecting care needs
• Hesitation to speak openly
How you can help
If you think someone is in immediate danger, call 911 or the police.
If there is no immediate danger, but you are concerned about abuse or neglect, call the Mass Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-800-922-2275. The confidential hotline is a gateway to your local Adult Protective Services program, which can help evaluate the situation and work with the older adult to help reduce risk factors.
Local Resources
The Adult Protective Services program at Somerville-Cam-

bridge Elder Services investigated more than 400 reports of abuse and neglect in 2020. In many cases, they provided ongoing support to help older adults reduce risk factors.
The name “Adult Protective Services” often gives people the wrong idea of how the program operates. They are not law enforcement and they do not take people into protective custody. They are social workers who specialize in crisis intervention and safety planning. They also often help older adults experiencing self-neglect, by connecting them with helpful resources and helping them avoid housing loss. All Adult Protective Services interactions are strictly confidential.
If you prefer, your local Council on Aging or the anti-domestic violence non-profits Transition House or RESPOND can also provide guidance on elder abuse. Whichever route you feel

most comfortable with, we urge you to say something if you have concerns.
Elder Abuse Awareness Month
June is Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Each year Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services and the Cambridge Council on Aging work together to distribute information about elder abuse and local resources. We also send out purple ribbons, which are the symbol of elder abuse awareness, and encourage people to share information on this topic using the hashtag #KnowElderAbuse during the month of June.
The past year has been a unique time. As we engage with our communities this spring, we ask that you be aware of the signs of elder abuse or neglect. Local help is available. Together we can work to reduce elder abuse and provide assistance for those who need it.



Susan Pacheco is director of the Cambridge Council on Aging, which works to promote the health and independence of local older adults by providing meaningful social and recreational options. Norah Al-Wetaid is Director of Adult Protective Services at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, a non-profit dedicated to supporting the independence and well-being of older adults, and people with disabilities.

Post 19 American Legion donates \$70,000 towards the Somerville Museum’s Access for All & More Campaign

The Somerville Museum is pleased to announce that the Post 19 American Legion has donated \$70,000 towards the Somerville Museum’s Access for All & More Campaign. At a recent membership meeting, Gene Brune, Former Mayor, Museum Trustee and a life-time member of Post 19 American Legion was invited to speak about the needs of the Museum.

Brune explained to the members that the Museum is the only membership supported cultural center of its kind in Somerville and receives no funding for the operations and expense of maintaining the building. The Museum is mostly run by volunteers with the exception of a full-time Asst. Director and part-time Art + Culture Asst. Brune asked, as a veteran and a member of Post 19, would the membership consider donating a lasting gift that will always be remembered as a part of the Museum’s history? After a brief recess, Brune was delighted when he was told that the members would be pleased to keep Somerville history alive and help make it more accessible.

Your museum in the making. Campaign Goal – 2.25m with 1.86m raised to date

For over 100 years, the Somerville Museum has held space for the stories that shape our collective history. As we pivoted throughout the pandemic, we considered how to grow through this time of crisis to better serve the community. We are proud to announce the launch of our Access for All & More Campaign, which will enable us to make critical upgrades to our historic building and will increase accessibility to our programming, website and museum community as a whole. Join us in creating the space that will tell our stories for the next 100 years.

We graciously acknowledge the generous donations of many local businesses, corporations, and private donors during the quiet phase of this campaign. We now invite our friends, members, and neighbors to help make this project a reality. Learn more and donate at somervillemuseum.org/accessforall.

As part of our campaign launch we will host a number of promotions and events during the Summer months culminating in an in-person celebration. We’re posting information and updates on our website, and social media pages.

This project is [largely] funded by the Somerville Community Preservation Act. We are also grateful for the support of our members, neighbors and private donors. Below is a list of businesses and organizations that have donated to this project to date. If your company would like to make a donation please reach out to accessforall@somervillemuseum.org for more information.

Businesses and organizations that have donated to date: American Legion Post 19, Bent Electrical Contractors, Inc., Cambridge Savings Charitable Foundation, Inc., Century 21 Legacy Properties, Inc., Century Bank, Citizens, Cleary Insurance, DG Realty + Development, East Cambridge Savings Bank, Eastern Bank Foundation, Goodwin Proctor LLP, Highland Street Foundation, iBremis Realty, Inc., J.J. Sullivan Plumbing & Heating Contractors Inc., JB Sash & Door, JVT Realty, Kiwanis Club of Somerville, Lt. James A. Logan Post No. 6800, Lyndell’s Bakery, MFS Investment Management, Middlesex Federal Savings, Sculpture & DecArts Conservation Services, Somerville Arts Council, Tufts University, Winter Hill Bank.

In-kind donations to date: Bow Market, Rococo Floral Co., QRST’s.co

— Somerville Museum | www.somervillemuseum.org | Facebook: [@somervillemuseum](https://www.facebook.com/somervillemuseum) | Instagram: [@somervillemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/somervillemuseum)



LEGAL NOTICES

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

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

City of Somerville

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES

NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on **Thursday the 17th day of June, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.**, at the **Treasury, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143**, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes. It is my intention to take for the City of Somerville the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and an incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Linda Dubuque, Treasurer/Collector of Taxes.

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **35 KIDDER AVE.**
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): VICKA R. COREY
DEMAND: **May 14, 2018** PARCEL ID: **20/H/11**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13479180**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 4750 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 27997, Page: 556.

Fiscal Year **2018** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$249.29

Interest to Date of Taking

\$54.60

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$75.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$378.89

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **14 BOSTON ST.**
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): XU WANG & JING JIANG
DEMAND: **May 14, 2018** PARCEL ID: **81/A/32**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13467152**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 0 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 61736, Page: 105.

Fiscal Year **2018** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$67.86

Interest to Date of Taking

\$24.96

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$317.82

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **11 VINAL AVE**
ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): ESTATE OF GABRIELE MANCINI
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **073A00050000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13432175**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 6000 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 11004, Page: 098.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$2,947.05

Interest to Date of Taking

\$924.05

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$4,096.10

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **103 GILMAN ST**
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): DEIRMENJIAN REAL ESTATE LLC
DEMAND: **May 14, 2018** PARCEL ID: **79/H/6**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **03138080**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 4033 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 62069, Page: 34.

Fiscal Year **2018** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$42.26

Interest to Date of Taking

\$15.92

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$75.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$133.18

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **16 UNION SQ.**
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): EDUARDO & NORA LLC
DEMAND: **May 14, 2018** PARCEL ID: **82/C/1**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **18563095**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3278 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 31171, Page: 333.

Fiscal Year **2018** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$30.00

Interest to Date of Taking

\$13.04

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$75.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$118.04

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **60 ALSTON ST**
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): GOLD STAR COURT LLC
DEMAND: **May 14, 2018** PARCEL ID: **93/D/17**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **07266080**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 2424 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 66594, Page: 570.

Fiscal Year **2018** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$17.31

Interest to Date of Taking

\$5.67

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$75.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$97.98

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **10 OAK ST**
ASSESSED OWNER(S): 10 OAK LLC
CURRENT OWNER(S): 10 OAK STREET LLC
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **083F00003000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **06239110**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3302 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 71511, Page: 277; Book: 71770, Page: 204.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$7,289.66

Interest to Date of Taking

\$2,365.82

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$9,880.48

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **165 CEDAR ST**
ASSESSED OWNER(S): 165 CEDAR ST LLC
CURRENT OWNER(S): CEDAR STREET DEVELOPMENT LLC
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **033F00012000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **18588168**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3793 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 71540, Page: 202; Book: 70988, Page: 445.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$9,824.67

Interest to Date of Taking

\$3,093.79

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$13,143.46

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **18 SANBORN AVE**
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): DAVID MAHER TRUSTEE OF SANBORN TRUST
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **073C00001000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13409130**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3660 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 66301, Page: 165; Book: 66301, Page: 163; Book: 66832, Page: 75.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$9,023.35

Interest to Date of Taking

\$2,689.19

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$1,1937.54

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **201 SOMERVILLE AVE**
ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): 201 SOMERVILLE AVENUE LLC
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **081B00019000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **16523070**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3631 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 59346, Page: 152.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$3,483.82

Interest to Date of Taking

\$1,034.34

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$4,743.16

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **26 HALL ST**
ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): CHRISTOPHER M. COOK
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **029H00002000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13453080**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 5341 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 20351, Page: 396.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$3,431.05

Interest to Date of Taking

\$1,018.49

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$4,674.54

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **22 HIGHLAND AVE**
ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): IBRAHIM IBRAHIM
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **072B00003000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **6231100**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 1722 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 35149, Page: 439.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$6,210.06

Interest to Date of Taking

\$2,183.22

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$8,618.28

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **25 ROBINSON ST.**
CURRENT OWNER(S): HEIRS OF SUSAN T. SOUZA
ASSESSED OWNER(S): SUSAN T. SOUZA
DEMAND: **May 14, 2018** PARCEL ID: **49/A/21**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **06240090**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3200 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 15686, Page: 18; DC # 174.

Fiscal Year **2018** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$142.57

Interest to Date of Taking

\$15.37

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$382.94

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **28 CROSS ST**
ASSESSED OWNER(S): SEMIA EDUCATION TECH INC
CURRENT OWNER(S): 28 CROSS STREET LLC
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **090D00016000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **12376101**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 2737 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 69282, Page: 425; Book: 71770, Page: 451.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$2,282.47

Interest to Date of Taking

\$675.74

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$3,183.21

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **7 HOWE ST**
ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): DENNIS G. LEMARD, MAXINE L. LEMARD, FLORENCE M. ALLEN
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **060C00021000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13444126**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 4057 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 19578, Page: 87.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$6,704.08

Interest to Date of Taking

\$2090.17

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$9,019.25

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **130 WILLOW AVE**
ASSESSED OWNER(S): EFSTRATIOS ALEXANDROE TRUSTEE OF THE ALEXANDRIA REAL ESTATE TRUST
CURRENT OWNER(S): NIKO C.E. ALEXANDROU TRUSTEE OF THE AL-EXANDRIA REAL ESTATE TRUST
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **024C00008000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **3122103**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 4686 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 23962, Page: 99; Book: 23962, Page: 91; Book: 62315, Page: 340 & 339.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$8,015.41

Interest to Date of Taking

\$2,654.32

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$1,0894.73

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **34 BENTON RD**
ASSESSED OWNER(S): DANIEL S. AMARAL & PETER S. AMARAL TRUSTEES OF THE MARIA F. AMARAL IRREVOCABLE TRUST
CURRENT OWNER(S): DANIEL S. AMARAL
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **043C00013000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **03136190**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 5298 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 77186, Page: 39; Book: 6971, Page: 301.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$5,866.27

Interest to Date of Taking

\$1,815.42

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$7,906.69

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **67 OAK ST**
ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): DEBRA ANN MARUO-SMITH & JOHN V. MARUJO TRUSTEES OF THE 39 HOUGHTON STREET AND 67 OAK STREET REALTY TRUST
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **083A00055000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13445100**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 4499 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 50487, Page: 210; Book: 50487, Page: 203; DC # 314.

Fiscal Year **2019** Taxes Remaining Unpaid

\$3,603.35

Interest to Date of Taking

\$1,069.91

Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking

\$225.00

Total for which Land will be Taken

\$4,898.26

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

City of Somerville

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES

NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on **Thursday the 17th day of June, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.**, at the **Treasury, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143**, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes. It is my intention to take for the City of Somerville the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and an incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Linda Dubuque, Treasurer/Collector of Taxes.

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **8 AVON ST 8**
ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): NYINGCHA DUOJI
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **051F00021000008**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **20079660**
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 0 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 63606, Page: 510.

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$2,088.94
Interest to Date of Taking	\$714.17
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$3,028.11

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LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **47 NEWBURY ST**
CURRENT & ASSESSED OWNER(S): SILLARI CHARLES J JR TRUSTEE OF 47 NEWBURY STREET REALTY TRUST
DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **009D00017000000**
ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT:
DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3870 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 71512, Page: 501; Book: 71512, Page: 493; Book: 71512, Page: 499.

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$8,639.26
Interest to Date of Taking	\$2,802.75
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$11,667.01

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE

MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Thursday, June 17, 2021** at 6:00 pm. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18 as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, **this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.**

This hearing may be relocated upon expiration the Governor's Order authorizing remote participation. Please refer to the Land Use Committee agenda posted online at tinyurl.com/publichearing061721 for the alternative meeting location, if applicable. Agendas are posted at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

REGISTER ONLINE
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/883812886653303310>

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following:

- **13 registered voters requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to revise the Boynton Yards sub-overlay area.**
- **13 registered voters requesting the adoption of an amendment to the Zoning Map to revise the Boynton Yards sub-overlay area.**
- **Moshe Safdie proposing a zoning map amendment to extend the Small Business Overlay to his property at 92 Properzi Way.**
- **Scott Zink proposing a zoning map amendment to re-zone his property at 471 Somerville Avenue from Urban Residence to MR4.**
- **Winter Hill Realty Trust proposing a zoning map amendment to re-zone their property at 8 Melvin Street from MR5 to Neighborhood Residence.**
- **A proposed amendment to repeal Section 10.5 Outdoor Café Seating.**
- **A proposed amendment to the façade build-out dimensional standard for any Apartment Building type in the Urban Residence district when abutting a property in the Neighborhood Residence district.**
- **Proposed amendments to Section 2.1 Glossary and the provisions of multiple permitted building components.**

The zoning map amendments identified above may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar for each amendment. Other proposed amendments identified above may be viewed online at www.somervillezoning.com/amendments.

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

30 Memorial Road

Somerville, Massachusetts 02145

Telephone (617) 625-1152

Web: www.sha-web.org

ADVERTISEMENT

Project Manager: Travis Panzini

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Brady Towers Balcony Painting, SHA project #2050, for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville, Massachusetts.

The Project consists of: Scrap and power wash existing concrete balconies and metal railings for approximately 84 units. After scraping and power washing, re-paint ceiling of balconies and railings for all units. Prime and patch any exposed rebar in concrete balconies.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by the Davis/Bacon Wage Rate. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the Somerville Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Bid packages will be available after **11:00 AM on Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021**. Bid packages can be obtained by emailing Travis Panzini at travisp@sha-web.org.

General bids will be received until **2:00 PM on Wednesday, June 16th, 2021** and publicly opened online forthwith.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternatives) and made payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority**.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:
Date and Time: **Wednesday, June 9 at 10:00AM**
Address: Brady Towers, Entry Lobby
252 Medford Street, Somerville, MA.

It is strongly suggested all prospective bidders attend the site visit.

Questions or requests for an appointment to see the work site should be directed to Travis Panzini at travisp@sha-web.org or 617-625-1152, Ext 330.

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

CITY COUNCIL

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Finance, meeting as a Committee of the Whole, on **Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 6:00 PM**, on the Order of Finance Committee Chair J.T. Scott, for public input on the proposed FY 2022 municipal budget.

This meeting will be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser at any time before the meeting. You will then be asked to register for the meeting. After registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar when it starts. Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5845712314029629709>.
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, 02143, or by email to cityclerk@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

JOHN J. LONG
CITY CLERK

6/2/21 The Somerville Times

CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE

MAYOR

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 6:45pm** on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public meeting and hearings **will be conducted via remote participation.**

****Should the State of Emergency authorizing remote participation be lifted, please refer to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) agenda posted on the City website for alternative meeting locations. The agenda is posted to the website 48 hours prior to the start of the HPC meeting.****

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7049509320768363531>
Webinar ID: 561-111-531

TO CALL IN

Phone Number: 1 (562) 247-8422
Access Code: 930-296-294

ALL OF THE CASES ADVERTISED BELOW HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING COMPONENT

DETERMINATIONS OF APPROPRIATENESS (LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTIES)

HPC.ALT 2021.31 – 12 Adams Street
Applicant: James Lockwood Construction Co. Inc.
Owner: Annette McKee & Mike Mariani
Replace aluminum and wood gutter with copper gutter

HPC.ALT 2021.33 – 42 Meacham Road
Applicant: Norma Elias
Owner: Saul Toby & Norma Elias Trust
Expand driveway; Replace concrete and grass ribbon driveway with paver stones

DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)

HPC.DMO 2021.15 – 108–110 Prospect Street
Applicant: 108-110 Prospect Street, LLC
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure

*While City Hall continues to be closed to the public. Case documents reviewed by the HPC will be posted on the City website at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/historic-preservation/hpc-cases>. Cases may be continued to a later date; please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website. *Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to historic@somervillema.gov NO LATER THAN NOON* one week prior to the meeting date. Email historic@somervillema.gov with inquiries.*

5/26/21, 6/2/21 The Somerville Times

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

REGARDING APPLICATION for a MARIJUANA RETAIL LICENSE & SPECIAL PERMIT by ADVESA MA, INC for 690 BROADWAY in BALL SQUARE

Organized by Ward 5 City Councilor Mark Niedergang

The owners of Advesa MA, Inc -- Jessica Pelletier, Shanel Lindsay, Tony Verzura, Tatiyana Benjamin, Isaiah Benjamin, Michael Latulippe -- their Attorney, Walter J. Sullivan, Jr., & consultants on architecture, traffic & parking, will present the plans, explain how the cannabis retail business would operate, answer questions, and listen to and respond to concerns.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 7 p.m.
WHERE: On your computer or phone via Zoom

To join Zoom meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82285159710?pwd=U29vU05iZDRPMElESk9xTUh2cVI4UT09>
To join by telephone: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 822 8515 9710
Passcode: 634767

NOTE: The applicant has filed an application with the Somerville Licensing Commission for a Marijuana Retail Establishment license and with the Somerville Planning Board for a Special Permit to operate at this location. There will be Public Hearings before the Licensing Commission and before the Planning Board when anyone can submit written testimony or testify in person regarding this application.

Questions or concerns, or for more information about the application, contact: Ward 5 City Councilor Mark Niedergang (617) 629-8033 or M.Niedergang@comcast.net

Or go to <https://www.adesa.com/somerville> to see Advesa's presentation of December 16, 2020


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**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 6:00pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone’s Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

The meeting will be held using GoToWebinar.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5986525668623100944>
Webinar ID: 840-036-835

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0052
Access code: 827-841-226


The Planning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

5 Middlesex Ave - Block 21 BRE-BMR Middlesex LLC, proposes to develop a 12-story mixed-use building subject to the Assembly Square Mixed Use District (ASMD) effective on 08/01/2019 and subject to PUD-PMP PB2018-07, as amended, which requires a Special Permit with Site Plan Review and a waiver from the maximum height limit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

5/26/21, 6/2/21 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB#21-49**

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department invites sealed bids for:

On-call roof repairs for the City

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids> or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **06/09/2021**.


Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **06/23/2021 12:00PM**. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Prevailing wage rates apply. 5% bid deposit required.

Please contact Prajкта Waditwar at pwaditwar@somervillema.gov / purchasing@somervillema.gov for more information or any questions related to this bid.

Prajкта Waditwar
Construction Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x. 3407

6/2/21 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB#21-75**

The City of Somerville, through the Purchasing Department invites sealed bids for:

Management of Catchbasin and Sewer Grit Material

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids> or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **06/07/2021**.

Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **06/21/2021 1:00PM**. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Prevailing wage rates apply.

Please contact Prajкта Waditwar at pwaditwar@somervillema.gov / purchasing@somervillema.gov for more information or any questions related to this bid.

Prajкта Waditwar
Construction Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x. 3407

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Five ways to go beyond saying ‘thank you’ to military service members

How do you thank someone who’s willing to risk their life for yours? When it comes to military service members and their families, advocates say there are many avenues for giving back meaningfully.

As part of its “Give More Than Thanks” campaign celebrating 80 years of being the “Force Be-hind the Forces,” the United Service Organizations (USO) is inviting Americans to take actions that can make a tangible difference in the lives of service members. Here are five ideas to get you started:

1. Offer Skills or Services. Many service members face difficulties translating the skills and ex-perience they acquired in the military to civilian jobs. Others struggle to adjust to the norms of the civilian workforce. Meanwhile, military spouses face professional obstacles throughout their service member’s career due to constant moves and deployments. Consider offering ca-reer advice or volunteering to guest lecture via military transition programs, such as the USO Pathfinder Transition Program, which equips service members and military spouses with tools needed to tackle the civilian job market. If you own a business or are a leader in a company, advocate for hiring qualified veterans. By offering practical support, you’re not only thanking service members, you’re helping build an inclusive community that bridges the civilian-military divide.

2. Send a Care Package. Care packages filled with treats and reminders of home let troops know that friends, family and the American people are thinking of them, even from thousands of miles away. However, the process of sending military care packages can be complicated. One easy way to do so is through USO Wishbook, where you can select a symbolic gift from a catalog to be sent to service members.

3. Support Military Spouses. Deployments are challenging for both service members and their spouses. Reach out to a military spouse whose service member is deployed and offer to cook their family dinner, or to pick up groceries. Simply reaching out to see how they are doing can also make all the difference.

4. Volunteer. Put your gratitude into action. Many USO locations across the country need volun-teers who can facilitate programs and events – virtually or safely in per-son – that provide the military community with the support needed to carry out their missions.

5. Donate. The USO has been expressing its thanks to service members by supporting the troops since World War II. Today, that gratitude is shown in USO locations around the globe; these brick-and-mortar centers serve as a home away from home for deployed service mem-bers, and a place of respite for the larger military commu-nity. USO programming keeps de-ployed troops connected to loved ones, provides resources for service members and their fami-lies and boosts the morale of the entire military community through entertainment and other supportive events. Charitable donations to the USO help make that mission possible.

To learn more about the USO’s work and discover additional ways to give more thanks, visit USO.org/morethankthanks and follow the conversation at #MoreThanThanks.

“Our service members and their families’ sacrifices require us to rise to the challenge. All Americans, united in spirit and action, can change the lives and communities of our military, and thus, our country, for the better,” says J.D. Crouch II, CEO and president of the USO. (State-Point)

— Photo © USO Photos



Yolanda Smith is appointed head of Tufts Public Safety

After a career at the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department, she will oversee the university’s emergency management, fire safety, emergency medical services, and police functions

By Kim Thurler
TuftsNow

Yolanda Smith, an accomplished criminal justice leader, will become Tufts University’s next executive director of public safety, effective July 1, following a national search that attracted more than 100 professionals from across the country.

Smith is currently special sheriff and superintendent of the Suffolk County (Massachusetts) Sheriff’s Department, where she serves as the public safety agency’s chief of staff.

In her role at Tufts, Smith will lead the department that includes the university’s emergency management, fire safety, threat assessment and management, emergency medical services, and police functions.

An immediate priority will be following up on the recommendations of the Working Group on Campus Safety and Policing created as part of Tufts’ commitment to being an anti-racist institution. These include increased transparency, greater community engagement, and increasing the use of non-sworn personnel for routine services not requiring a uniformed officer and of specially trained personnel to respond to mental health matters.

When Smith joined the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department in 1995, she viewed her job as a corrections officer as a first step on the path to a career in policing. The Georgia native intended to follow in the footsteps of her father, who had served as chief of police at Savannah State University after a career in the U.S. Air Force.

But after Smith arrived at the

sheriff’s department, she saw a huge need to expand services for women, who were at that time housed in a facility originally intended only for men, for the LGBTQI community, and for young offenders. “I found a home with people who needed my advocacy, but to help them, I had to stay and advance into supervisory positions.”

Working with “many, many staff” and “outstanding community partners,” Smith introduced gender-specific training and services for women and the first LGBTQI support group. She tapped a Connecticut model to help 18-to-25-year-olds earn high school diplomas, attend college, and learn trades.

Another innovation was Cooler Talk—weekly visits by Smith and command staff to housing units to listen to residents’ questions and concerns. She also created a less threatening uniform for some sheriff’s department personnel, so that those in custody were not always in exchanges with fully uniformed officers.

Last year, amid the civil unrest that followed the killing of George Floyd, she saw a “need to create spaces for our men and women in custody to express themselves.” She and her team collaborated with external partners to create “open circles” where people could talk about their own feelings, experiences, and traumas.

They were invited to raise their voices through art, poetry, and signs that were displayed around the facilities. “People learned to advocate for themselves,” Smith said. This approach is now something of a model for other county corrections departments.

Smith, whose three daughters are just beyond their college years, is now eager to contribute to the national conversation about what policing should look like, particularly on college campuses. “When President Monaco committed Tufts to being an anti-racist community, I really wanted to be part of that,” she said. “And in conversations I’ve already had at Tufts, everyone has been receptive to change. They want to be part of the solution.”

While her background may be atypical for higher education, Smith inspires confidence that her leadership style and skills can help Tufts advance new initiatives, said Nicole Holland, assistant professor and director of health communication, education, and promotion at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine.

A member of the university-wide search committee of students, faculty, and staff, Holland was impressed by Smith’s “nuanced understanding” of issues and the impact of small details of language. During the interview process, Holland said, “we could see the humanistic component of her leadership style at all levels.”

Smith stresses the importance of students feeling safe and confident that Public Safety is there to assist them. In an open conversation with Tufts students as part of the search process, Smith asked about their campus-safety concerns.

“What resonated with me was how actively she listened to us,” said search committee member Maame Opere-Addo, A21, who was at the time an undergraduate student. “It was clear that



“When President Monaco committed Tufts to being an anti-racist community, I really wanted to be part of that,” Yolanda Smith said. “And in conversations I’ve already had at Tufts, everyone has been receptive to change.” —Photo: David Hill

she is ready to work with and include students in this transformative effort.”

Ultimately, public safety is not the responsibility of any one person or any single department. “All of us at Tufts need to engage and be part of the conversation,” said Holland. “We have the opportunity to take a great step forward for our community.”

Captain Mark Roche, a 20-year veteran of the Tufts University Police Department and search committee member, agreed. “As a department, we have important goals related to training, certification, and how best to respond to students in crisis, to name a few,” he said. “Meeting those goals will require everyone’s commitment and close collaboration among public safety, student affairs, and many others. I think Yolanda will be able to hit the ground running, and she’ll have our support as we explore new directions for public safety at Tufts.”

Smith’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, collaborative leadership, and meaningful innovation ultimately distinguished her in an excep-

tionally strong pool of candidates, according to Barb Stein, vice president for operations, who chaired the search committee. The committee, which included stakeholders from all of Tufts’ Massachusetts campuses, conducted a search that impressed Opere-Addo as being “thorough, intentional, and thoughtful.”

“Committee members deserve our thanks for their many hours of hard work in finding a truly outstanding individual to lead our public safety team,” noted Executive Vice President Mark Howard.

Smith’s arrival provides an opportunity for also recognizing the efforts of Chip Coletta, who served as interim director of public safety at the university, said Howard. “Over the past year, Chip, Tufts Public Safety, and the Tufts University Police Department have done a remarkable job in the face of unprecedented challenges. The professionalism of this team will be an important foundation as we move forward. We’re tremendously grateful for their dedication and service.”

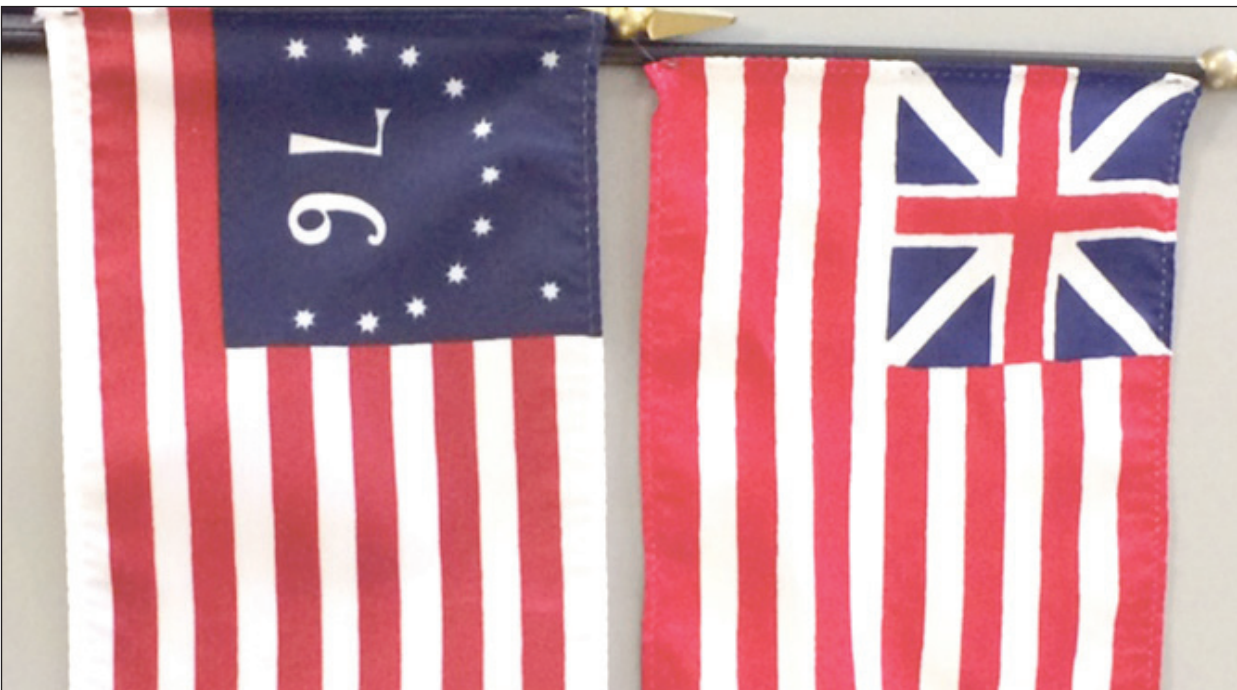
Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 5

until June 14, 1777. On that date, Congress replaced the British cornice of our flag with thirteen radiant stars on a blue field. They were equally spaced in a circle to honor the country’s thirteen original states. Since then, with the growth of our nation, our flag has changed 27 times, but the red and white stripes of the Grand Union Flag remain.

On July 4, 1910, President Howard Taft visited Somerville. He was especially impressed by the new flag-raising monument at Prospect Hill. Two years later, he framed the then new forty-eight-star flag into six rows of eight. This flag flew for 48 years until Alaska and Hawaii joined today’s fifty-star union.

Somerville was the first location in America to celebrate our flag before the constellation of stars on it began to grow. Today, she bespangles with fifty stars representing our fifty states. Of all places, Somerville, the home of the first American flag raising, should celebrate the coming week of June 14 – Flag Week! Raise the halyard, here’s to Old Glory!

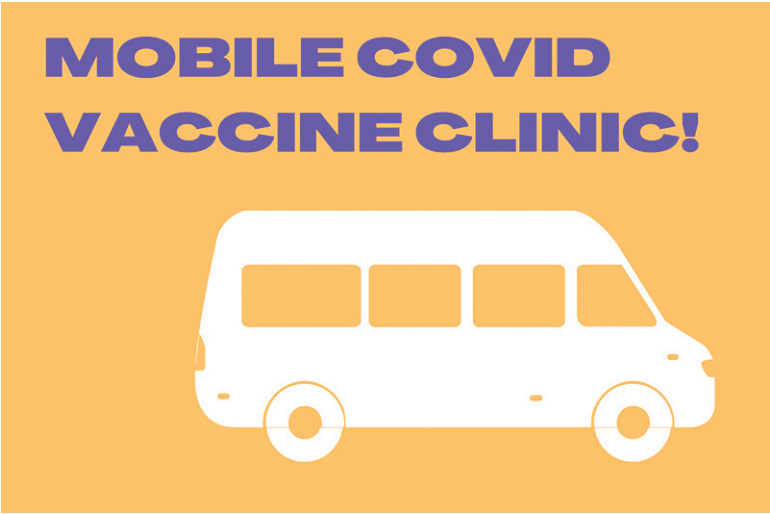


City of Somerville and Cambridge Health Alliance to offer walk-in mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinics

Persons Seeking Vaccination Encouraged to Sign Up for Mobile Vaccine Clinic Alerts

The City of Somerville Health and Human Services Department has announced plans to jointly hold mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinics with the Cambridge Health Alliance throughout the city. Mobile vaccination clinic dates will be released as sites are confirmed. Dates and locations will be listed on somervillema.gov/vaccine and will be announced via city vaccine alerts (by text, phone, and e-mail). Community members are encouraged to sign up for city vaccine alerts to receive notification when mobile vaccination sites are announced. To sign-up, complete the form in your language below, or call 311 (617-666-3311).

- English: tinyurl.com/VaccineAlerts
- Spanish: tinyurl.com/AlertasVacuna
- Portuguese: tinyurl.com/AlertasVacina
- Haitian Creole: tinyurl.com/AletVaksen
- Nepali: tinyurl.com/AlertsNepali



Mobile clinics will be free, and open to all people 12 years or older, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Identification will not be required. Mobile clinics will be walk-in, however pre-registration is encouraged to help ensure quick processing.

The city will prioritize clinic locations based on proximity to disproportionately affected community members and those facing the greatest barriers to vaccine access. Specific sites will include places of worship, neighborhood schools, housing complexes, and grocery stores convenient to residents. Clinics will be held during days and hours that accommodate a range of schedules to maximize access, including evenings and weekends.

In addition to the mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinics, vaccine is available locally on a walk-in basis at the MetroNorth Vaccination Partnership Vaccination Center at 176 Somerville Avenue (next to Target) administered by Cambridge Health Alliance. Days and hours are available at challiance.org/covidvaccine. Individuals may also pre-register at home.color.com/vaccine/register/metronorth. To search for a vaccination site anywhere in Massachusetts, visit vaxfinder.mass.gov. Anyone needing assistance accessing the COVID-19 vaccine, including finding a walk-in or mobile clinic, transportation, or language assistance, may call 311 (617-666-3311).

For more information and regular COVID-19 updates, visit www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus and sign up for city alerts at www.somervillema.gov/Alerts. Community members are encouraged to sign up for every alert method: phone call, text, email. Also follow [FB.com/SomervilleCity](https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCity) and [@SomervilleCity](https://twitter.com/SomervilleCity).

Virtual meeting to discuss Healey Schoolyard renovations, June 9

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan, and city staff invite you to a virtual community meeting to discuss upcoming schoolyard renovations at the Arthur D. Healey School.

This project will construct a new schoolyard and U-12 recreation field, as well as a new staircase and ADA-compliant ramp between school grounds and Mystic Housing. Construction is expected to begin June 21, after the current school year ends, and continue through Spring 2022.

The meeting will take place Wednesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m. Discussion will cover the overall construction process, anticipated project schedule, traffic and parking impacts, school access during construction, and safety considerations. To learn more and register to attend, visit somervillema.gov/healeyschoolyard.



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On This Day in History June 2

- 1776 – The Continental Congress resolves with the Declaration of Independence that the American colonies "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."
- 1822 – Denmark Vesey is executed in Charleston, South Carolina, for planning a massive slave revolt.
- 1881 – Charles J. Guiteau fatally wounds President James A. Garfield in Washington, D.C.
- 1937 – American aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart disappears in the Central Pacific during an attempt to fly around the world.
- 1961 – Novelist Ernest Hemingway commits suicide at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.
- 1964 – President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act into law.
- 1976 – North and South Vietnam are officially reunified.
- 1980 – President Jimmy Carter reinstates draft registration for males 18 years of age.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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

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

Singer Rachel Sumner – Wednesday, June 2 at 1:00 p.m. - Join folk singer-songwriter Rachel Sumner for an online set of acoustic music that will include traditional bluegrass/old time songs, original songs, and cover songs from favorites like Bob Dylan, Patsy Cline, and Johnny Cash. Recently awarded a grant from the Somerville Arts Council to create her debut album, Rachel will liven up the lunch hour with her acoustic guitar (and perhaps even her banjo!) If you would like to join the performance email Debby Higgins at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 to receive the ZOOM link.

Mask Hand Out– Monday, June 7 – 10:30 a.m. to Noon – At the Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. The COA has masks available for Somerville residents who are 60 and over. If you are in need of a mask or may know of a friend or neighbor who may need a new mask, you can pick it up at our Drive -Thru location. If you have any questions, please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

Mental Health Awareness – Tuesday, June 8 11:30 to 12:30 - The Somerville Council on Aging in partnership with Roberta Robinson from Cambridge Health Alliance is continuing our Mental Health Awareness series. Every month Roberta discusses new and interesting topics in regard to mental health. To RSVP, please call

Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or email her at nnaim@somervillema.gov to obtain the Zoom link.

Music & Munch – Wednesday, June 9 and June 23rd at noontime. Why not pair your lunch with a celebration of music? This 45-minute session via Zoom will treat you to a playlist of diverse musical offerings: a little jazz, some "oldies but goodies," a smidgen of classical, a dip into barbershop, a trip to Broadway. The music is taped but the experience is live. Your guide is Somerville Resident, Laura Zoll, trained as a medieval musicologist and with a life-long love of all things musical. Your preferences will help shape the session. Learn a little, sing-along, relax and enjoy some Music while you Munch. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321. You will then receive your email invitation to join the program via ZOOM.

Senior Lunch Box Pick Up – Monday, June 14 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Ralph & Jenny Senior Center 9 New Washington Street. While we aren’t able to share lunch together we hope you can stop by for this fun treat! RSVP is a must; spaces are limited. To enjoy a box lunch please call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. Masks required.

Music & Movement – Wednesday, June 16 at 10:30 a.m. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. Being physically active is not just good for our bodies, but it is also one of Mental Health America’s 10 tools to building resiliency; or the ability to overcome obstacles and manage through tough times. Physical activity can improve sleep, increase energy, decrease some kinds of pain, boost our immune systems and lower the risk for stroke and some cancers. It also helps to reduce our anxiety, depression, stress and tension. Join Steve as he shows us that exercise can come in all different forms and movements. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321. You will then receive your email invitation to join the program via ZOOM.

Zoom Book Club – Friday, June 18 at 10:00 a.m. - Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. Please contact Natasha at either 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail her at NNaim@Somervillema.gov for the Zoom link or to ask any questions.

Caregiver Check-In – Tuesday, June 22 at 11:30 a.m. - Are you a caregiver for a loved one and want to connect with other caregivers? Would you like to discuss the joys and challenges of caregiving? The Somerville Council on Aging is hosting a monthly check-in via Zoom for caregivers. Please contact Natasha by either called 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail Natasha at NNaim@Somervillema.gov.

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

ONGOING EVENTS

Taxi Rides - Do you need a ride? The COA has a program just for you. Taxi Rides for Somerville Residents 60 and Over Rides can be used for: Grocery Shopping in Somerville Pharmacy Prescription pick up in Somerville, Routine Medical Appointments in the follow areas: Somerville, Cambridge, Medford, Boston or the V.A. in Jamaica Plain or West Roxbury. Two Days Advanced Notice Required. For more information, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

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

EXERCISE

FIT-4-LIFE SCHEDULE

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Fit-4-Life YouTube
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hd26HjpwBI&t=68s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwHfyoEZaws&t=247s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcl2eBS024&t=158s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EDtaldYSz0>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAnwfwGybTI>

OUTDOOR EXERCISE PROGRAM

Mondays at 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

OUTDOOR WALKING GROUP

Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22

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

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF_EEbqF0&t=130s
Yoga with Janine video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zeczj9XXBU>

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter and daily tips please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov. If you would like to become part of our Google Group please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Artist Bridget Galway:

A window into her artistic soul

Initiated in 2009, the Inside-Out Gallery, located in the CVS Window in Davis Square, is a unique space that allows the public to view an eclectic array of works from artists and local organizations each month. Through May to June, Bridget Galway is displaying her evocative and stunning art.

Doug Holder: You talk about being from a bohemian culture of artists. How would you define bohemian?

Bridget Galway: My early childhood memories of the 50's and 60's begin when we were living in New York's West Village bohemian culture. This is an upbringing that, especially during that time was a departure from the so-called normal. It is rooted in the arts, literary, and spiritual pursuits.

That culture of writers, artists, actors, and musicians, as well as people of all sexual orientations fills my memories with the wonderful experiences that came with it.

This milieu inspired my creativity, and continues to do so to this day.

Like many bohemians during the time of my childhood, we had little money, yet rich in the abundance of that wonderful life. When the rent went up we got moving. Looking back I feel it would have been best if we lived like Gypsies, like the van life, or more so converted school buses of today.

DH: Talk about your experiences in Provincetown and New York City.

BG: In 1971, when I was 17, I left home and moved into a van for a couple of years. I still finished my senior year while living in the van. As I was raised in the sense of always being in transition, I was still able to follow through within what was familiar.

My mom moved back to Provincetown after I moved out. She had done a brief stint of living there in 1953, before moving to Key West, and then Marathon, where I was born in '54.

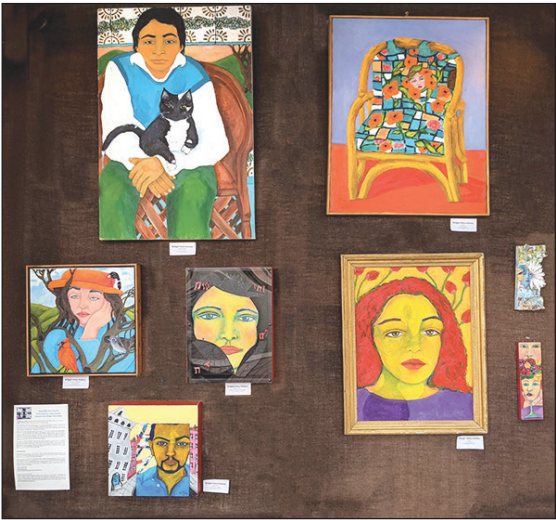
After several sojourns living in different areas, I moved to Provincetown in 1976 until 1984. The 70's and 80's were the last romantic bohemian years in Provincetown.

Then the plague AIDS swept through the town, taking the lives of so many loved ones; beautiful young bright beings.

In 1983 I left for Amherst with my 21/2-year-old son Blake. I received a scholarship to attend U/ Mass Amherst Art Department, which lead to my career in the arts.

I returned to Provincetown in the summer of 1994 and stayed through the summer after my mom passed away in 2006. I felt it was time to leave. For me it had lost so much of its romance its history was associated with. There was little to no affordable housing. It had become extremely commercial, and the crowds more like Coney Island.

I moved to Somerville, because at the time my sister Meghan was living in Alston, and I wanted to be close to her. Meghan ended up moving, and I isolated for three years with my two cats, until I got my tenacity in gear and emailed Doug holder. I am not sure how I ended up on his email list, someone must have been watching over and nudging me, I had been ignoring it for



three years. I sent him an email introducing myself, and a little about my history. He was quick to respond, and invited me to meet with the Bagel Bards at Au Bon Pan in Davis Square. I have been a Bagel Bard since 2009, and it has been a springboard for my art and writing, and I am so very grateful.

DH: Are you in any "school" of painting which influenced you? I am reminded of the Greenwich Village painter Alice Neel in some of your work. She had a unique quality in her portraiture.

BG: Alice Neel is great. It is a compliment my art reminds you of her. Her portraits convey a moment in time, along with the emotions of her subjects. This is also what I try to capture.

I am not in any particular school of painting. My early inspiration as far as artists was Chagall, and Iris Brody. Iris was a Greenwich Village artist who died quite young. The first piece I saw of hers was when I was 13, at house of a friend of my Mom. After seeing that piece I started drawing surreal images with pen and ink. I continued to do so for many years after, along with my still expressing ideas with my passion for color.

My professor and mentor in college was John Grillo. He was a wonderful colorist. He studied under Hans Hoffman in Provincetown. He started out and continued to be an abstract artist, but worked both abstract and figuratively. His sense of color and composition was my immediate attraction to study under him.

DH: Your work has been displayed in a number of literary magazines, including Ibbetson Street. There is a real intersection of poetry and your art. Can you talk about that?

BG: My art is inspired from personal emotional memories, both good and lamenting. Like my poetry it defines impressions of what was, what might have been, and is. This is either captured though being descriptive and narrative, or conceptual with a sense of romantic whimsy or melancholy. My smaller mix media pieces are notations of ideas for larger conceptual ones.

DH: Any parting shots?

BG: I would like to end by expressing my gratitude for the opportunity to exhibit at the Inside Out Gallery, hosted by the Somerville Arts Council. SAC creates many opportunities for local and visiting artists to receive recognition. The Inside Out Gallery is a main stay for artist to receive recognition by the Somerville community.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Thomas DeFreitas was born in Boston in 1969 and graduated from the Boston Latin School. He attended the University of Massachusetts in both Boston and Amherst. His poems have appeared in *Dappled Things*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Plainsongs*, *Soul-Lit*, and elsewhere. His first chapbook, *Winter in Halifax*, is forthcoming from Kelsay Books toward the end of 2021.



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— Thomas DeFreitas

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

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The angora goat | 7. Shelley Long |
| 2. Arthur Wynne | 8. Buffalo Bill |
| 3. A butterfly | 9. Roald Amundsen |
| 4. Edgar Allan Poe | 10. Foo Fighters |
| 5. Jennifer Lawrence | 11. Chickpeas |
| 6. Fear of school | 12. Bone In The Throat |

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