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independent  
newspaper

# The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com



VOL. 9 NO. 26

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Everybody gets  
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A new Taste of  
Somerville

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## Full Council votes on approval of FY22 budget



The City of Somerville FY22 budget was approved by the City Council at their regular meeting on Thursday of last week.

By Joe Creason

The City Council held a regular meeting on June 24. A full Council vote on the final appropriation of the FY22 budget was a major order of business during the meeting. "The Finance Committee met over nine nights in the last month," said Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott.

A series of appropriations and separate provisions within the Budget went through a thorough round of reviews and deliberation from the Finance Committee and City Councilors. During the course of Thursday's regular meeting, the Council moved to reconsider the initially proposed FY22 Budget of \$270,088,117.

As the result of several amendments and items of reconsideration, the Council moved to appropriate \$270,179,919 to the General Fund Operating Budget for FY22. The new appropriation is a \$91,802 increase

Continued on page 4

## Premiere Broadway looking forward to its opening

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

After a tumultuous year that saw a global pandemic, many businesses big and small were forced to close their doors. However, as restrictions loosen around the Commonwealth, many establishments have begun to open and flourish.

One of these places is an Italian-American restaurant, Premiere Broadway. Set to open in mid-July by the local Zammuto family, this restaurant will be located at 517 Broadway at Magoun Square in Somerville.

According to owner Koryn Zammuto, Premiere Broadway is seeking to become a part of the larger Somerville community. One of these ways is in sourcing the food served at their establishment.

"We're going to be getting 90 percent of our food from local farms. Whether it's poultry, fruit, or vegetables, milk, everything is going to be from local farms. So, everything is going to be in support of local

Continued on page 4



The proprietors of Premiere Broadway are eagerly awaiting the restaurant's opening, currently scheduled for mid-July.  
— Photos courtesy of Premiere Broadway



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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.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

The following **parking restrictions** and **road closures** are planned in your neighborhood on **Wednesday, June 30**, to support the **City of Somerville’s Fourth of July celebrations at Trum Field**: Broadway: No parking from Cedar Street to Charles E. Ryan Road (eastbound), 8:00 a.m. to midnight. No parking from Ball Square to Magoun Square, 4:00 p.m. to midnight. Street closed from 5:00 p.m. to midnight. Cedar Street: No parking 8:00 a.m. to midnight. Access for abutters only from Morrison Avenue to Broadway, 4:30 p.m. to midnight. Franey Road: No parking and street closed, 3:00 p.m. to midnight. Charles E. Ryan Road: No parking 8:00 a.m. to midnight. Access for abutters only from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Street closed to all traffic 6:00 p.m. to midnight. MBTA Buses 80 and 89 rerouted from 5:00 p.m. to midnight. Visit [mbta.com](http://mbta.com) for full detour information. For more information, visit [somervillema.gov](http://somervillema.gov) or call 311 (dial 617-666-3311 from a cell phone or outside the city).








\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to several locals: This week a lot of local celebrities are celebrating their birthdays. Happy birthday to our own writer and poet **Doug Holder**, a great guy. He has many friends here in Somerville and we hope he has a great birthday for himself. Another great guy,

*Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 30 – July 6 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 <b>Wednesday</b> <i>June 30</i>	Rain	98°/75°	39%	23%	WSW 14 mph
 <b>Thursday</b> <i>July 1</i>	Rain	86°/68°	56%	27%	WSW 8 mph
 <b>Friday</b> <i>July 2</i>	Rain	70°/60°	50%	25%	NE 12 mph
 <b>Saturday</b> <i>July 3</i>	Rain	67°/59°	34%	19%	NE 13 mph
 <b>Sunday</b> <i>July 4</i>	Rain	71°/63°	37%	20%	NE 8 mph
 <b>Monday</b> <i>July 5</i>	Partly Cloudy	77°/65°	25%	16%	WSW 8 mph
 <b>Tuesday</b> <i>July 6</i>	Partly Cloudy	83°/68°	19%	11%	WSW 10 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: *Our Revolution perpetuates systemic racism*

TheoNa says:

I’m not exactly sure what the author is trying to say. Is he saying that it’s racist if a white person runs for office or if a white person is elected?

Thomas says:

Mispronouncing Beatriz Gómez Mouakad’s name was a mistake that ORS has already apologized for, yet here in your section about Ward 5 you spell her name as “Beatriz Gomes” and omit “Mouakad.”

I believe you should do some self reflection before attacking others so aggressively. You are one of the agent provocateurs who instigated and perpetuated many of the racist attacks against Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven last year, and it’s clear that you and others are attempting to use the same tactics this year to attack leftist candidates. Shameful.

Villinous says:

Their entire forum and endorsement process is a sham. ORS is running a slate of candidates and then pretending to hold an open forum where it gives its pre-arranged endorsement to its in-house picks. The whole thing is rotten. That’s why McLaughlin and Clingan ditched them. And their treatment of Aman was as shoddy as it was predictable. Stephenson’s the real thing when it comes to being a community organizer and it’s got the incumbent shook.

BMac says:

ORS has been very well organized and successful. But, and not just on the issues brought up here, I don’t think they stand for what most people seem to think they stand for. I know several people who considered running and decided not to just because they did not want to deal with ORS.

Nate says:

Ben, Our Revolution is an ideological group that specifically exists to promote and fight for a progressive agenda. It’s unfair to criticize them for having “rigid ideology” or for asking candidates if they support specific policies that they consider to be bold. The fact that you take issue with these actions, and the fact that you continuously conflate Our Revolution Somerville with DSA, a separate organization with a different (though overlapping) membership and governed by different mechanisms, suggests to me that it is the ideology of these two groups that you take issue with.

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

## The Somerville Times

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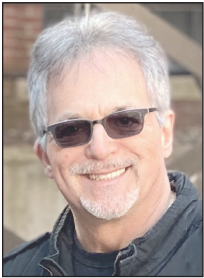
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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

# Hoodsies for everyone!



When I was a kid growing up in Somerville in the 60's and '70's, we loved July 4th. We lit off firecrackers and sparklers, plus we got free Hoodsies. The aldermen would go to playgrounds throughout the city and hand out fred Hoodsies ice cream cups to all the kids.

I don't know when the tradition started or when it ended but it's a part of our childhood that lots of Somerville people remember fondly. I asked my friends on The Pride of Somerville Facebook page

to share their memories of free Hoodsies on July 4th.

"There would be a list of what time they would be given out at each park. Aldermen gave them to us, I think. Got mine at Hoyt-Sullivan Playground on Central St. We thought we won the lottery! It was the simple things back then."

"My Dad gave them out at Craigie Park and other locations with other members of the Board of Aldermen – his name – Walter Whitney! He loved it as much as the kids!"

"Gene Brune brought them around for everyone."

"We use to get them at Powder House Park and the run down to brown school



Kids at Trum Field .



to get a second one."

"Hated the wood spoon, so I folded the top lid in half and use that to eat the ice cream."

"Gus Barrasso, our Ward 4 Alderman and a terrific guy, would deliver the Hoodsies in a small refrigerated box truck to the Mystic Ave. Brick Jungle in the 60's. Every year, without fail he'd be there early in the morning of the 4th! Great guy. RIP Gus."

"Couldn't wait to go down my street to Northeastern Jr. High playground and wait in line. So many kids back then. And the fireworks at Trum Field were awesome."

"We got Hoodsies at the grand opening of the Somerville Ave. Firehouse at Lowell St. and also at Paul Revere's ride."

"My Dad loading up our station wagon full of kids, driving around to the different locations!"

"I remember Alderman Michael Simonelli giving Hoodsies to us kids at Foss Park. A great guy."

"The Hoodsies were given out by the local alderman in Ward 1 – it was Louis Ryan or Jimmy McCarthy."

"At Lincoln Park, the Hoodsies were delivered by Billy Joyce."

"Back in the 60's, Trum Field would have a track meet on the 4 of July and give out Hoodsies to all that attended, and that night had a really nice fireworks display – with pizza trucks, hot dogs and hamburger vehicles, and slush vehicles, along with ice cream vehicles, etc. It was a pretty good time."

It's the general consensus that the little wooden spoon was annoying. Many would fold the lid and use that for a spoon!

It wasn't Fourth of July if you didn't run from park to park for your free Hoodsie.

"One of the best Somerville childhood memories."

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## Mobile Farmers Market begins July 9

The Somerville Mobile Farmers Market will begin its 2021 season on July 9. On Fridays and Saturdays until October 16, customers can buy fresh, local produce in neighborhoods around Somerville. The Mobile Market offers a 50% discount for any customers that need it and accepts cash, debit, credit, SNAP, P-EBT, WIC farmers market coupons, and senior farmers market coupons for payment. Any customers who shop and pay full price help the Mobile Market offer the discount to those who need it.

Here's where you can find the Mobile Market this summer and fall:  
Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Council on Aging/SCALE, 167 Holland Street; Fridays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – East Somerville Community School, 50 Cross Street; Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon – North Street Housing Development, 24 North Street; Saturdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. – Mystic Housing Development, near playground between 15B and 25B Memorial Road

For more information and to see what's in stock each week, visit the market website at [bit.ly/tsmfm](https://bit.ly/tsmfm). The Davis Square and Union Square farmers markets also offer a match of up to \$15 for customers paying with SNAP and P-EBT. Visit the Davis Square Farmers Market on Wednesdays between noon and 6:00 p.m. in the parking lot at Herbert and Day Streets, and the Union Square Farmers Market in its new location at 366 Somerville Avenue on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

## Can of beer weapon of choice

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Temple St. location last Friday afternoon on reports of an assault.

Upon arrival, responding officers spotted several parties engaged in actively fighting.

One of the involved parties, Chris Hicks, of Saugus, reportedly gave officers a false name, date of birth and Social Security number during booking and prior to arrest.

This was discovered when his fingerprints came back and also from an officer's previous experiences in booking Hicks.

Several individuals involved in the fight were bleeding heavily from cuts and in one case what EMT's believed to be a broken nose. Another person was bleeding from a cut inside his mouth.

One person explained to police that both she and another individual were at their home and could hear Hicks outside the window screaming. She saw Hicks and asked him to walk away from the window.

In response Hicks reportedly threw a beer at the window. One of the residents went downstairs and asked that he leave and at this point Hicks allegedly struck her with an open hand to her face and spat on her.

At this point, two other individuals came to her defense, at which time Hicks reportedly assaulted them.

During the assault, Hicks reportedly struck both parties in the face with a closed fist and kicked them with a shod foot.

According to reports, Hicks also threw a half full can of beer at one of the men, which struck him on the nose.

After Hicks was handcuffed by the officers, he was asked about what had occurred but he was reportedly non-cooperative.

Hicks was subsequently transported to police headquarters where he was booked on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery on a person over 60 or disabled, assault and battery, and furnishing a false ID, and on warrant charges of assault and battery on a corrections officer, indecent exposure, assault, and assault and battery.

**Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210** Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine **Help Keep Somerville Safe!**

## SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

<b>Arrests:</b>				
<b>Jimmy Zhang</b> , of Salem, NH, June 24, 8:21 a.m., arrested at Mystic Ave. on a charge of shoplifting by asportation.	<b>Chris Hicks</b> , of Saugus, June 25, 1:36 p.m., arrested at Temple St. on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery on a person over 60 or disabled, assault and battery, and furnishing a false ID, and on warrant charges of assault and battery on a corrections officer, indecent exposure, assault, and assault and battery.			

## Full Council votes on approval of FY22 budget

CONT. FROM PG 1

from the originally proposed budget.

"That appropriation takes into account what has been acted on by the Finance Committee sitting as a whole," said the Director of Finance Auditor Ed Bean. "It incorporates the cuts of \$406,768, corrections and adjustments that were made totaling \$143,059 and reinvestment of some of these department cuts totaling \$355,511."

Bean says the revised budget transfers \$250,000 from the cuts made, to the racial and social justice stabilization fund. During committee debates, \$60,000 was removed from the Police Department Budget for the police staffing study. The revised appropriation reallocates the \$60,000 to the Racial and Social Justice Department.

The Council had some concerns with regards to appropriations for the creation of new superintendent positions within Buildings and Grounds Divisions after they would be split into separate departments.

"Tree management positions should stay in Highways, new requests should fall under the purview of Buildings and Grounds," said Councilor At-Large Mary Jo Rossetti.

The Council was not interested in appropriating funds to move the tree crew to a new department or the splitting of the Buildings and Grounds divisions into separate departments.

"I believe that the commissioner would agree with me, the investments we need to make in both our buildings and our grounds are important enough that we need specific positions for each of these," said Budget Manager Michael Mastrobuoni.

Speaking as a representative of the administration, Mastrobouni says he suggests that the council take the proposed superintendent of Buildings and make them a deputy superintendent in the Buildings and Grounds Division. Mastrobouni stated that the administration feels strongly about keeping these positions.

Requests from the mayor called for the appropriation and authorization to borrow bond amounts of \$11,318,094, \$9,415,818 and \$8,002,411 for the Spring Hill Sewer Separation Project. The Bond Amounts were approved by the Council.

## Premiere Broadway looks forward to its opening

CONT. FROM PG 1

businesses," Zammuto said.

The restaurant wants to be an integral part of the community in more than one way. Zammuto also spoke on how the restaurant will seek to help local young artists showcase their work.

"We have spoken to the PTA and some of the programs for Somerville youth including the Somerville Arts Council and we are going to utilize our area and make a plot for the children to come and showcase their music," Zammuto said.

Due to COVID, the restaurant has met its fair share of setbacks, one being extensive delays in building the establishment. According to Zammuto, these delays grew increasingly longer.

"Through COVID, it was a lot harder than we thought it would be just because everything seemed to take so much longer than expected. The whole COVID thing really threw us a curveball," Zammuto said.

On June 15, the mask mandate in Massachusetts was lifted. The relaxation of COVID restrictions has helped local businesses and the broader Somerville economy lift back up.

Zammuto herself also expressed confidence in how their combination of safety measures and the easing of restrictions will help Premiere Broadway be successful.

"I think people want to get out, I think people are eager to get out. Our establishment has garage doors surrounding it, so there's airflow going all the way through the building and what we've done is that we've put in a commercial-grade water filter and a commercial-grade air filter so that everyone feels safe," Zammuto said.

Premiere Broadway is currently hiring. More information can be found on their website: <https://premiereonbroadway.com>.





# Commission approves new look for 15 McGrath development

By Joe Creason

The Urban Design Commission met on June 22 to review and discuss plans for upcoming developments and projects within the city.

A high-rise development is being constructed right off of the bustling thoroughfare at 15 McGrath Highway. Plans for this development, managed by real estate firm Leggat McCall Properties, have been reviewed by the commission before and adjustments were made with the intention of bringing a smooth transition as well as a pedestrian feel to the high-way-attached development.

“The facade and overall feeling that it gives to the building is an improvement from the last time we saw this design,” said acting Commission member Tim Talon.

Changes to the design include fins and accent panels, which the developer says lends to the concept of motion in the facade. A large offset square “jewel box” resting on the face of the building, is now set to be wrapped in vertical fins with a worn copper finish to give a slightly warmer impression.

Some components of the building’s final design are still subject to change depending on the status of other projects in the surrounding area.

“We’ve recently received plans from MassDOT regarding their improvements for McGrath Highway but we still need to wait for an adjusted permitting process before moving forward,” said Development Manager at Leggat McCall Properties Michael Gerhardt.

The shifting plans concerning McGrath Highway have impacted the surrounding community and will continue to impact the outcome of the development.

“Depending on the specifics of the renovation MassDOT



will undertake, how this site will be accessed vehicularly, will probably be different from what we see on the site plans today,” said Director of Planning Sarah Lewis.

McGrath is commonly referred to as a difficult location for free-flowing foot traffic. “I was out there the other day and it really is brutal for pedestrians,” Gerhardt said.

The commission cautioned the developers on the business presence of the roadway and the public use of the planted buffer zone on the highway by many, including bus commuters at the McGrath stop, which is located directly in front of the development.

“We’re really trying to have a welcoming pedestrian area when they walk on to the property,” Gerhardt said. “Knowing that however MassDOT decides to configure McGrath, it is still going to be a very busy street, so were trying to heavy up the elements and planting to create a dense protection area for a pedestrian plaza.”

The Design commission moved to make no further design recommendations to the 15 McGrath development.

The focus of the meeting was a project of much smaller scale.

“What we’re doing is a little backyard cottage,” said the architect for the project on 59 Albion St.

The architect has been working with clients who own the

property at 59 Albion St. for the past three years. Last year, a severely structurally compromised barn was removed in spite of attempts to save the structure and deliberation from the historical association. The owners now plan to replace the old barn with a new recreation structure. “We’re using some influences from modern barnyard aesthetics and something that would be fun,” the 59 Albion architect said.

After presenting the design plan and layout in proportion to the rest of the lot, the commission had positive comments as well as critiques to offer. “It doesn’t seem like the friendliest facade to expose to the neighbors. I can imagine that the old barn had something a little nicer, so I hope there’s a way to do something a little bit better than the concrete facade,” said Commission member Andrew Arbaugh, who said this in reference to the eight-foot-high concrete wall modeled at the back facade in the new barn design.

“The backyard cottage itself is not commercial. It is not planned to be used as a residence or a rental or anything,” the 59 Albion architect said. “It is strictly for recreational use for the owners.”

The owners of 59 Albion St. bought the home six years ago and plan on keeping the property as a long-term residence where they can raise their two children.

## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

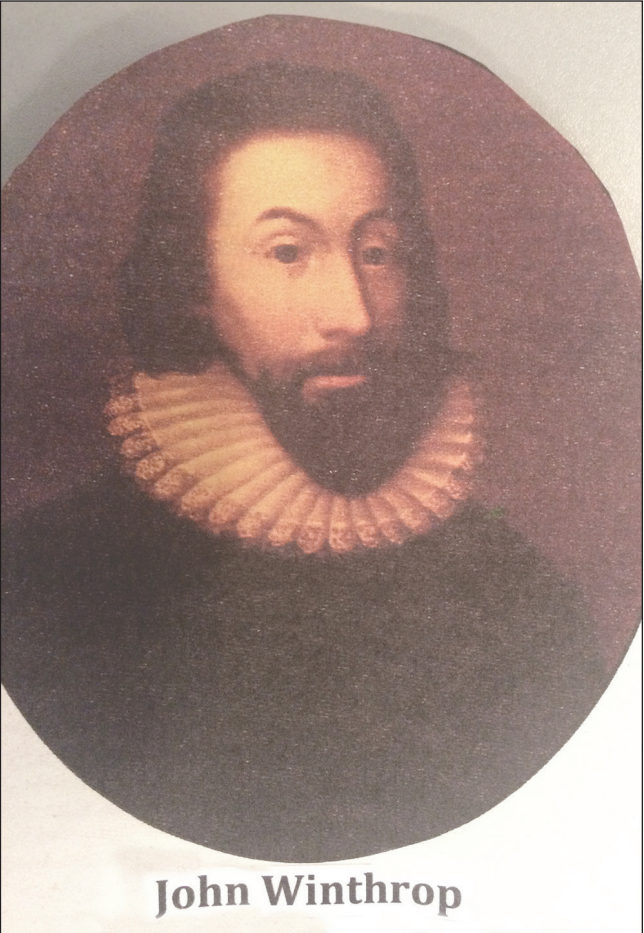


Eagle feathers #232

### The Governors

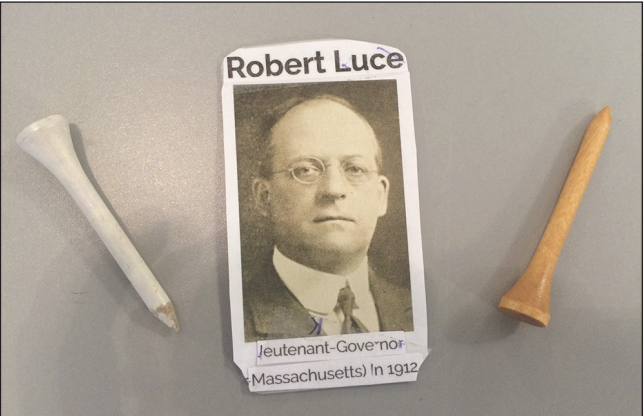
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

History tells us that the first European venture which explored Somerville soil in 1621 was a nine-man patrol of Plymouth soldiers, three Native American scouts, and Captain Myles Standish, the Pilgrims’ protector. Under Governor William Bradford, Standish was Plymouth Colony’s military leader and its first Lieutenant Governor.



Through the years, the Somerville land that Captain Standish explored has been held in esteem by governors, their relatives and their affiliates. Most notable is the Winthrop Estate which extended from our Ten Hills to Medford’s Royall House. It was owned at different times by:

- John Winthrop - First Governor of Massachusetts for 16 years
- John Winthrop, Jr. - Governor of Connecticut
- Elizabeth Usher - Wife of New Hampshire’s Lieutenant Governor John Usher
- Sir Robert Temple - Son of the Governor of Nova Scotia
- Robert Temple Jr. - His wife was the daughter of Governor Shirley
- Isaac Royall and Richard Russell - Both on the “Governors’ Council”
- Heirs of Governor Oliver Ames (1887-1890)



At the beginning of the Revolution, King George appointed British General Thomas Gage as Commander and Chief of all British forces in North

Continued on page 11

## Virtual Concert hosted by the Boston Red Sox

Patriotic Music and Poetry: A live stream concert from Fenway Park, Friday, July 2, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Enjoy music and poetry celebrating our nation and our national pastime, featuring Red Sox Organist Josh Kantor and Poet Laureate Dick Flavin.

If you would like to attend the virtual concert live from Fenway Park please contact Debby Higgins for the Zoom link at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.





Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE.** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records the votes of local representatives and senators from the week of June 21-25.

**\$5.3 BILLION IN COVID FEDERAL AID FOR THE BAY STATE (H 3902)**

Last week was another chapter in the ongoing dispute over who controls the \$5.3 billion in federal money the state received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Baker administration argues that the governor doesn't need legislative approval on how to spend the money. The Legislature disagrees, and a few weeks ago approved a measure that would segregate the money in a separate fund and give the Legislature control over when and how to spend it. Gov. Baker responded with a compromise that would allow him to unilaterally spend \$2.8 billion of the funds in several areas including housing and homeownership, economic development, job training, workforce development, health care and infrastructure. It would give the Legislature the authority to spend the remainder

Last week, on a strictly party line vote, the House 30-130 and the Senate 3-36 rejected the governor's amendment.

Baker's plan included \$300 million for expanded homeownership opportunities, focused on first-time homebuyers who are residents of disproportionately impacted municipalities; \$300 million for senior and veteran housing; \$100 million for cultural facilities and tourism; \$150 million for workforce credentials for entry and mid-level wages; \$35 million for English for Speakers of Other Languages programs and Adult Basic Education; \$50 million for financially stressed hospitals in disproportionately impacted municipalities; \$175 million for addiction treatment and related behavioral health services; \$300 million to improve culverts, dams and other environmental infrastructure; \$100 million to enhance and modernize state park facilities; and \$100 million to close the digital divide and increase broadband internet access.

"The Legislature stands firm in its commitment to employing an open, transparent and thorough public process to best understand how we as a state can make smart investments with these one-time federal dollars to address pressing and long-term needs while promoting a just recovery for all areas of the state," said House Speaker Ron Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka in a joint statement. "Therefore, the Legislature will be holding a series of public hearings throughout the summer ... with the goal of crafting spending plans directly informed by feedback from constituents and stakeholders, including those representing the areas identified by the governor in his proposal. We will continue to seek input from the governor and expect that he will file additional legislation so that his priorities can be part of that process. We invite the Baker administration to testify in these hearings."

"While the administration has proposed working with the Legislature to appropriate all of the funds, the administration also remains concerned about holding up these funds with a process that would take years while the communities that were hit hardest by the pandemic, including communities of color, wait," said Baker Communications Director Terry MacCormack following the vote.

The original bill now goes back to the governor who is likely to veto it. Both the House and Senate seem to have the number of votes necessary to override the veto.

(A "Yes" vote is for the governor's proposal allowing him

to spend \$2.8 billion of the funds. A "No" vote is against the proposal.)

Rep. Christine Barber	No
Rep. Mike Connolly	No
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	No
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	No

**LEGISLATURE CONTROL \$4.9 BILLION AND BAKER CONTROL \$200 MILLION (H 382)**

House 160-0, approved a new version of the bill determining who controls the COVID federal aid. This version would segregate \$4.9 billion in a separate fund and give the Legislature control over when and how to spend that amount while giving the governor control over \$200 million.

Supporters said that this will give the Legislature control over the vast majority of the funds but allow the governor to respond to any urgent public health and other needs that might require immediate use of the funds prior to the legislative hearings and action.

Rep. Daniel Hunt (D-Dorchester), the co-sponsor of the measure, did not respond to numerous attempts by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on his proposal.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes

**\$200 MILLION FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES (H 3903)**

House 160-0, approved a bill that includes authorizing \$200 million in one-time funding for the maintenance and repair of local roads and bridges in cities and towns across the state. The package is a bond bill under which the funding would be borrowed by the state through the sale of bonds.

"The ... bill is an important one, as every member knows and our municipal partners know, because it is essentially our unrestricted commitment and assistance to municipalities for local road and bridge repair and maintenance projects that they identify at home and know best how to prioritize," said Rep. William Straus (D-Mattapoiset), House chair of the Transportation Committee. "There's really no equivalent program without strings that's provided in any other state in the country. It's something we do. We're not ahead of the pack, we're the only one in the pack that provides this kind of assistance to our municipalities."

Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Executive Director Geoff Beckwith said he is relieved that the bill is moving forward and called it a much needed first step. "Communities depend on these funds for critical road repair projects," said Beckwith. "Ideally, the state will also use a portion of this year's large state surplus to supplement the \$200 million bond bill and put more funding on the street, as it has done in past years to move above \$200 million in total funding. MMA estimates that the annual cost of getting and maintaining 30,000 miles of municipal roads into a state of good repair is approximately \$600 million, and communities don't have the resources to get there themselves."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber	Yes
-----------------------	-----

Rep. Mike Connolly	Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven	Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**HEALTHY AND GREEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (S 1382)** – The Committee on Public Health held a hearing on legislation that would require the state to provide an assessment of the extent to which the state's K-12 public school buildings provide students a healthy environment that is conducive to learning while efficiently using energy and resources and limiting exposure to toxic building materials. The state would also develop standards for healthy and green schools and a plan for all schools to meet the standards by 2050 including protection against infectious disease, including COVID-19 and influenza; healthy indoor air quality and sufficient ventilation and air circulation; adequate availability of clean and safe water and water fountains; appropriate thermal comfort, humidity and temperature controls; appropriate artificial lighting and plentiful natural light; proper acoustic and noise control; and opportunities to shift to fossil-free fuels."

"Most school buildings in Massachusetts are over 50 years old, and many don't comply with modern standards to protect students from toxics and other dangerous materials," said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "They also don't provide adequate fresh air, clean water or other necessities for good learning. Tragically, schools serving low-income communities and people of color are more likely to be the least healthy. My bill directs the state to see where improvements are needed and set a plan so all students can learn in healthy environments where they can succeed."

**HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?**

*Beacon Hill Roll Call* tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of June 21-25, the House met for a total of ten hours and 14 minutes while the Senate met for a total of two hours and 54 minutes.

Mon. June 21	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:19 a.m. Senate 11:13 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.
Tues. June 22	House 11:01 a.m. to 4:58 p.m. No Senate session
Wed. June 23	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. June 24	House 11:02 a.m. to 3:02 p.m. Senate 1:07 p.m. to 3:09 p.m.
Fri. June 25	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at [bob@beaconhillrollcall.com](mailto:bob@beaconhillrollcall.com)



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville celebrates the 4th of July!

Our View Of The Times



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

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

nation comes around?

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

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

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

So take the family out tonight, June 30, for the annual Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration at Trum Field. The entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. and the spectacular fireworks display follows. Make some patriotic memories with your loved ones this year.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Len Ferrari, of Century 21 North East, is celebrating this week. Lenny is a great guy and we wish him the best. Happy birthday, Lenny. Also this week, happy birthday to Andy Puglia, a smart man who knows Somerville like the back of his hand. We wish Andy a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to James "Brian" Roche, from a great family here in Somerville. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Leslie Phelan, Kristina Rosario, Devon Michele, Suzan Baltozer, John Correia, Carlton Soohoo, Rose Nash and Tamara McAllister 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 5 City Councilor Mark Niedergang, and city staff invite you to a virtual community meeting to discuss the proposed expansion and renovation of Somerville Junction Park. City staff will give an overview of existing conditions, present conceptual ideas for potential future uses, and gather feedback from attendees. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 7, at 7:00 p.m. Register to attend at somervillema.gov/Junc-

tionParkMtg1.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

A walk-in clinic for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be held Wednesday, June 30, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Clarendon Hill Towers at 1372 Broadway (the Administration Building). No appointment is necessary, but if you prefer you can pre-register at somervillema.gov/vaccine. The clinic is free, and open to all people 12 years or older, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Identification is not required. All minors must have parent or guardian permission. Anyone 12-15 years old must be accompanied by a par-

ent or guardian. Permission forms will be available onsite, or you can download one here. If you need assistance, please call 311 (617-666-3311).

\*\*\*\*\*

Free meals all summer for Somerville youth. The summer meal program starts on July 6. Anyone 18 years old and under can visit spots around the city to pick up breakfast or lunch. Please visit the summer meals page to find locations and times. <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/summermeals>.

\*\*\*\*\*

The City of Somerville's annual SomerMovie Fest returns this year with a series of seven family-friendly films being shown in parks around Somerville. Screenings begin at sundown and the schedule is as follows: Thursday, July 8, *The Empire Strikes Back*, Seven Hills Park; Thursday, July 15, *Mulan* (animated version), Nathan Tufts Park; Thursday, July 22, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, Nunziato Park; Thursday, July 29, *The Sandlot*, Lincoln Park; Thursday, August 5, *Coco*, East Somerville Community School; Thursday, August 12, *Black Panther*, Baxter State Park; Thursday, August 19, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, Seven Hills Park. While attendees are

not required to wear masks, anyone who is not fully vaccinated is advised to wear one whenever they are in a crowd.

\*\*\*\*\*

Another campaign launch for mayor was held on June 28 at the Neighborhood Restaurant in Union Square. Candidate for mayor, Mary Cassesso, packed the outdoor patio with supporters on a sweltering summer night. Family, friends, residents and business owners were happy to hear from former State Rep. Denise Provost, who introduced her friend and heard Mary's story and her robust vision for our city. Among the elected were Senator Pat Jehlen, Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, School Committee folks Carrie Normand and Sarah Phillips. A host of candidates for office in this year's election and former elected officials were also there.

\*\*\*\*\*

The City of Somerville and its contractor, Simple Recycling, are making several changes to Somerville's curbside textile recycling service to improve the program for residents and the environment starting Thursday, July 1. Pickups must be scheduled in advance. Under the current model, a Simple Recycling truck drives the entire trash

Continued on page 13



FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#785

1. Why was *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll banned in China?

2. What Texas city got its name from the Spanish word for yellow?

3. How many of the 32 teeth in an adult's mouth are molars?

4. What are the seven numbers from 0 to 100, that look the same when written upside down?

5. What was the first electrified lighthouse in The United States?

6. Which of the Great Lakes is the only one

without a border?

7. Who became the Pillsbury Mascot in 1965?

8. What U.S. President never married?

9. What two U.S. Presidents died on July 4, 1826?

10. Why do we celebrate July 4 with fireworks?

11. Who was the first and only U.S. President to elope?

12. What building is on the back of a twenty dollar bill?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. In the United States, lettuce is the second most popular fresh vegetable.

2. A skunk's odor can be detected by a human a mile away.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD  
SUMMER OLYMPICS

- ACROSS
- 1. Welsh dog breed
  - 6. With juice, or au \_\_\_\_
  - 9. Pirate's yes, pl.
  - 13. What a subordinate does
  - 14. Cigarette residue
  - 15. Chimney cleaner
  - 16. Coffin holders
  - 17. "Sheep be true! \_\_\_\_-ram-ewe!"
  - 18. Poisonous Christmas berry
  - 19. First U.S. city to host Summer Olympics
  - 21. Swimmer with most Olympic medals
  - 23. Part of a min.
  - 24. Field hockey's stick and ball, e.g.
  - 25. Gayle King's network
  - 28. Capital of Latvia
  - 30. Canoeing: slalom and \_\_\_\_
  - 35. Rhine tributary
  - 37. Building annexes
  - 39. A in AV
  - 40. Three-ply cookie
  - 41. Madison cycling, e.g.
  - 43. Light ball tap, in volleyball or tennis
  - 44. What hoarders do
  - 46. Not happening (2 words)
  - 47. Half-rotten
  - 48. Martial art debuting in Olympics in 2021
  - 50. Make a plaintive cry
  - 52. Short for although
  - 53. Luau instruments
  - 55. Street in Paris
  - 57. \_\_\_\_ horse in gymnastics
  - 60. One of pentathlon events
  - 64. Kentucky Derby drink
  - 65. Rock in a glass
  - 67. Small Asian ungulate
  - 68. Spy's cover
  - 69. Not a win nor a loss
  - 70. Run off to marry
  - 71. Pat dry
  - 72. Eastern Standard Time
  - 73. Between shampoo and repeat

- 4. Greek sandwiches
- 5. Federal Reserve in relation to U.S. currency
- 6. Boxing moves
- 7. All-time Olympic record holder in medal count
- 8. Popular fitness magazine
- 9. Military no-show
- 10. Crowd-sourced review platform
- 11. Mature elvers
- 12. I do this with my little eye
- 15. Tibetan mountaineer
- 20. Slipperier
- 22. \_\_\_\_-been
- 24. London's Tyburn Tree, e.g.
- 25. Kick the bucket
- 26. Thailand's neighbor
- 27. Give sheep a haircut
- 29. A valley in Scotland
- 31. "Ant-Man" leading actor
- 32. Dostoevsky's "The \_\_\_\_"
- 33. Beethoven's famous symphony
- 34. 2021 Olympic host
- 36. Civil Rights icon
- 38. Long adventure story
- 42. \_\_\_\_ welcome!
- 45. Tree cutters' leftovers
- 49. \_\_\_\_ out, as in victory
- 51. One suffering from tuberculosis
- 54. Chosen few
- 56. Food safety threat
- 57. Threat to muscles
- 58. Mixture
- 59. Source of protein
- 60. Pedal pushers
- 61. Golf club
- 62. Midday slumbers
- 63. High school club
- 64. #6 Down, sing.
- 66. Post-Soviet Union union

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

SUDOKU

FREE DATE CHANGES ON 2021 TOURS\*

BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR

12 days, departs year-round

FROM \$2,599\* \$2,349\*

CRIMSON CANYONS & MESAS NATIONAL PARKS TOUR

10 days, departs Jun - Sep 2021

FROM \$1,749\* \$1,499\*

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

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

© StatePoint Media

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20			21	22				
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41				42		43		
44				45		46				47			
48					49		50			51		52	
				53		54			55		56		
	57	58	59					60				61	62
64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

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Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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



# Chamber of Commerce brings recovery to restaurants with Taste of Somerville

By Bella Levavi

Food festivals can be fun for all in attendance, but while restaurants are extremely short staffed this summer it is unreasonable to bring restaurants to the street for Taste of Somerville and Cambridge. Welcome to: Taste of Somerville passport addition. This year, Taste of Somerville and Cambridge will help restaurants as well as allow people to try food from across the area. To sign up for the passport one must go on their website (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-taste-of-cambridge-somerville-21-tickets-157845422909?aff=CambridgeWebsite>) and donate \$30 to the passport program. This money goes directly to local restaurant workers and

non-profits. The passport holders will dine at four participating restaurants from July 1 to August 15 and receive stamps in their passports from the restaurants. Once they have all four stamps, the diners will win four \$25 dining vouchers for future visits. “We’ve had very successful outdoor taste events that have benefited the community and promoted restaurants,” Stephen Mackey, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Somerville, said. “That was interrupted last year, so this year we thought we would try something different.” Mackey explained that the state was interested in seeing the community collaborate in recovery programs, so the Chamber of Commerce for Somerville

and Cambridge came together to create this event. The two Chambers also brought in the local universities to participate in Taste this year. Restaurants and nightlife in Somerville experienced hard losses from the past 15 months due to the pandemic, so this event is attempting to make up for some of the lost revenue from that time. With many Somerville restaurants closing these past months, the community and Somerville groups are working to help the restaurants that have sustained themselves bounce back. “Our business can’t make back up the losses we incurred,” Jimmy Liang, CEO of JP Fuji Group and owner of Fuji at Assembly, who is participating in the passport program, said. “Hopefully, our business will survive and



Fuji at Assembly is one of the four local restaurants that will be participating in the Taste of Somerville passport addition.

thrive. Beyond putting in a hard day's work there isn't much else we could do.” “We love supporting anything that the Chamber of Commerce is doing and the Taste of Somerville is a great way to welcome back customers to

the restaurant and also support our local small businesses,” Greg Coughlin, Owner of Olde Magoun's Saloon, who is also participating in Taste, said. “Especially since the pandemic, we’re so grateful to the city and neighbors for keeping it local.”

## Heat safety tips

- Never leave children or pets alone in a closed vehicle – even with the windows cracked open, interior temperatures can rise almost 20°F within 10 minutes.
- Be a good neighbor. Check on family, friends, and neighbors, especially the elderly, those who live alone, those with medical conditions, those who may need additional assistance, and those who may not have air conditioning.
- Drink plenty of water — even if you are not thirsty. Avoid alcoholic beverages and liquids high in sugar or caffeine.
- Make sure pets have plenty of water and a cool place to rest.
- Limit outdoor activities and exposure to the sun. Do not leave pets outside for extended periods of time.
- Slow down and avoid strenuous activity.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing; light colors reflect heat and sunlight and help maintain normal body temperature.
- If you do not have air conditioning, stay on your lowest floor and out of the sun. Use fans to stay cool and avoid using your stove and oven. Consider spending time in • air-conditioned public spaces (wear a mask indoors if you are not vaccinated).
- If you must be outdoors, limit your outdoor activity to the morning and evening hours.
- Use sunscreen with a high SPF and wear a wide-brimmed hat.
- Eat well-balanced, light, regular meals.
- If someone is showing signs of heatstroke, call 911 immediately. Signs of heatstroke include a body temperature over 103 degrees; hot, red, dry, or moist skin; a rapid and strong pulse; and possible unconsciousness. While waiting for help to arrive, move the person into a cool area, help cool them down with wet towels or a cool bath, and DO NOT give them fluids.
- For more safety tips, visit [cdc.gov/extremeheat](https://www.cdc.gov/extremeheat) and visit [www.somervillema.gov/keepcool](https://www.somervillema.gov/keepcool) for more strategies to stay cool in the heat.



# Representative Barber testifies alongside advocates and supporters for driver’s license bill

On June 23, Representative Christine P. Barber of Somerville and Medford testified in support of her bill H.3456, the Work and Family Mobility Act — alongside other lead bill sponsors Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield) Senators Brendan Crighton (D- Lynn) and Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), and dozens of advocates for the bill. The Work and Family Mobility Act would allow all qualified Massachusetts residents, regardless of immigration status,

to apply for standard Massachusetts driver's licenses using valid documents. Driving is a key tool of economic mobility, and having a driver's license allows people to safely get to work, drive their kids to school, and participate in their community. If passed, Massachusetts would join 16 other states who have expanded access to driver's licenses to immigrants without status, including Connecticut and Vermont. “It’s critical that families can access care and parents can take

their children to the doctor safely without worrying they will be pulled over for driving without a license” Rep. Barber said. “I have heard from constituents that passing this bill would have an immediate impact on the lives and success of immigrant families in our state.” The Joint Committee on Transportation heard testimony from legislators, law enforcement, impacted individuals, and other supporters in a hearing that lasted over 4 hours. Hundreds of supporters attended and


watched the hearing virtually. Throughout the hearing, advocates emphasized the important impact of this on public health, as the state continues to combat the COVID-19 crisis. Supporters also highlighted the bill’s potential benefits on public safety and the state’s economy. Many who testified Wednesday referenced the support for the bill offered by Chelsea Police Chief Bryan Kyes, who leads the Massachusetts Major Cities Chiefs of Police Association. Kyes said that the bill

makes sure everyone on our roads has valid identification enables our police officers to better identify drivers. Advocates and legislators throughout the hearing affirmed that tested and insured drivers make the roads safer for everyone. Importantly, the bill ensures that all drivers know the rules of the road, pass the same driving test, register their vehicles, and have insurance. State revenue is also expected to increase as more residents pay for licenses and auto registrations.



LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



**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, July 20, 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 Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Registration URL:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7900977723480331023>

Webinar ID: 574-258-011

**TO CALL IN**

Phone Number: 1 (914) 614-3221

Access Code: 264-211-371

**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 (re-advertised)**  
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 (re-advertised)**  
Applicant: Norma Elias  
Owner: Saul Toby & Norma Elias Trust  
*Expand driveway; Replace concrete and grass ribbon driveway with paver stones*

**HPC.ALT 2021.37 – 36 Atherton Street**  
Applicant: George Saropoulos  
Owner: Same as applicant  
*Installation of a new driveway*

**HPC.ALT 2021.39 – 50 Sargent Avenue**  
Applicant: John Murray  
Owner: Same as applicant  
*Replace wood gutters with anodized metal gutters*

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

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

**HPC.DMO 2021.17 – 383 Broadway**  
Applicant: Broadway Somerville Apartments, LLC  
Owner: Same as applicant  
*Demolish garage*

*Documents reviewed by the HPC for LHD property alterations and the demolition review process are available 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 or email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. **Note:** Written comments due to [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) **NO LATER THAN NOON** one week prior to the meeting date. Email [historic@somervillema.gov](mailto:historic@somervillema.gov) with inquiries.*

6/30/21 The Somerville Times

**MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Elm Court, LLC, to Athas Capital Group, Inc., dated March 5, 2019, and recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 72305, at page 398, as assigned to The Rama Fund, LLC, by assignment recorded on March 29, 2019, in said Deeds in Book 72400, at page 204, and as further assigned to PS Funding, Inc., by assignment recorded on April 11, 2019, in said Deeds in Book 72443, at page 93, and as further assigned to Wilmington Trust, National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as Trustee of MFRA TRUST 2016-1, by assignment dated July 21, 2020, recorded on August 10, 2020, in said Deeds in Book 75328, at page 438, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at One o'clock PM, on the 22nd day of July A.D., 2021, on the premises below described being known as 111 Elm Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage as set forth below:

To wit: “A certain parcel of land together with the buildings thereon situated in the City of Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and being lot numbered 27 on a plan of land entitled “Plan of Land in Somerville, belonging to Timothy Tufts arranged and numbered by L.R.W., May 6, 1890” which plan is recorded with Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 62, Plan 39. Said land is bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHWESTERLY by Elm Street, eighty-six and 01/100 (86.01) feet; NORTHWESTERLY by land now or formerly of Wentworth, Trustee, fifty-one and 47/100 (51.47) feet; NORTHEASTERLY by lot numbered 26 on said plan, seventy-seven 88/100 (77.88) feet; SOUTHEASTERLY by Hancock Street, eighty-seven and 96/100 (87.96) feet. Containing 5,429 square feet more or less, according to said plan of land.

Subject to restrictions of record insofar as the same are now in force and applicable, Said premises are conveyed subject to and with the benefit of easements and restrictions of record insofar as the same are now in force and applicable.

APN: 030-C. 00019-000000

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 111 ELM STREET, SOMERVILLE, MA 02144”

The above premises will be sold subject as above and to the following: any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal assessments and liens; any and all outstanding water and/or sewer charges; any and all covenants, easements, restrictions, rights, reservations, conditions and/or other enforceable encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage; and to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession, if any of the aforesaid there be.

Terms: Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$20,000.00) will be required to be paid in cash or by certified check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale as earnest money. The balance is to be paid in cash or by certified check within thirty (30) days of the sale at the Law Offices of Ford & Paulekas, LLP, 280 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT 06103. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

WILMINGTON TRUST, N.A., NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF MFRA TRUST 2016-1  
Present Holder of Said Mortgage

By: /s/ David A. Hill, Jr.  
David A. Hill, Jr.  
Its Attorney

Attorneys for Mortgagee:  
Ford & Paulekas, LLP  
280 Trumbull Street  
Hartford, CT 06103  
(860) 527-0400

Dated: June 24, 2021

6/30/21 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Middlesex Probate and Family Court**  
**208 Cambridge Street**  
**Cambridge, MA. 02141**

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

**MIDDLESEX Division** **Docket No. MI21P0471EA**

Estate of: John J. Collins  
**First Name Middle Name Last Name**

Also Known As: John J. Collins, Sr.

Date of Death: December 19, 2020

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of

Petitioner John J. Collins of N. Attleboro MA  
**First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)**


[x] a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

[x] John J. Collins of N. Attleboro MA  
**First Name M.I. Last Name (City/Town) (State)**

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve [ ] with [x] **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representative appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

6/30/21 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville**  
**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**  
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 6:00pm** through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1223244485290769424>

Webinar ID: 240-273-787

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0060

Access code: 713-146-510

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


**28 Chestnut Street** Brickbottom I QOZB LP proposes to develop a 4-story LEED Platinum commercial building in the Commercial Industry (CI) zoning district which requires Site Plan Approval.

**28 Fitchburg Street** Brickbottom I QOZB LP proposes to develop a 4-story LEED Platinum commercial building in the Commercial Industry (CI) zoning district which requires Site Plan Approval.

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 Zoning Board of Appeals 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](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

6/30/21 The Somerville Times



**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 virtual public hearing on **Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 6:00pm** through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

**TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/624598886873918224>

Webinar ID: 618-279-227

**TO CALL IN**

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0052

Access code: 613-811-865

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

**201 Highland Avenue** Emily Lagasse proposes to establish a Pet Day Care or Training commercial service principal use, which requires a Special Permit.

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](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

6/30/21 The Somerville Times

**LEGAL NOTICE:**

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of **CURTIS LEE STREALLY**, please contact Attorney Justin Bo West between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00p.m., Monday thru Friday, 521 E. Main Street, Suite A, Ville Platte, LA 70586 or call (337) 363-0484.

6/30/21 The Somerville Times

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SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council’s Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at 6:30 PM**, on the petition of 101 South Street Owner LLC for a Flammables License for the storage of 6,984 gallons of flammables at 101 South Street.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, **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 this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8734075484724541197>. You can also find this link on the City website’s calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the City Clerk at the address below, or by email to [cityclerk@somervillema.gov](mailto: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 Committee.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

JOHN J. LONG, CITY CLERK  
[CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV](mailto:CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV)

6/30/21 The Somerville Times

Three town hall meetings on proposed supervised consumption site

Three virtual town halls are planned for July to further the conversation around opening a supervised consumption site (SCS) in Somerville. Each meeting will have a different focus to address various stakeholder perspectives. Each meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, July 13 - Hear from potential users of the site and Harm Reduction Specialist
- Thursday, July 22 - Listen to the stories of families of people who use drugs and a discussion around community impacts of a supervised consumption site
- Tuesday, July 27 - Join a conversation around potential impacts a supervised consumption site could have on neighbors and businesses

Attend the town halls online or by phone:

- Each meeting will be hosted on Zoom, and there will also be an option to call into the meeting from a phone.
- Visit [somervillema.gov/virtualtownhall](http://somervillema.gov/virtualtownhall) at the start time of the meeting to join live or get call-in information.
- Call-in information will also be available on the day of the meeting on GovTV, RCN channel 13 and Comcast channel 22, or by calling 311.
- All of the town halls will be shown live on GovTV, RCN channel 13 and Comcast channel 22, and at [youtube.com/somervillecitytv](http://youtube.com/somervillecitytv). They will also be rebroadcast on GovTV and available to watch later on YouTube.

What is a supervised consumption site?

SCS are harm reduction interventions that have been implemented in more than 10 countries, including Canada, Australia, and across Europe to prevent fatal overdoses and connect people to services. People who use drugs are allowed to consume substances in the SCS under the supervision of staff who can intervene in the event of an overdose or other medical emergency. Often additional services like basic health care, housing support, and recovery resources are also offered at an SCS. To date, there have been no reported drug overdose deaths in a SCS.



Request for Qualifications

Somerville Housing Authority is accepting proposals for Construction Managers at Risk from the highest ranking pre-qualified CMs for the construction of Mystic Water Works II. The following three firms have been pre-qualified to submit proposals in response to an RFP: Colantonio, Inc., Dellbrook Construction, Windover Construction.

Mystic Water Works Housing Phase II is the proposed second phase of a two phased af-fordable housing development in the West Somerville neighborhood at the intersection of Mystic Valley Parkway, Alewife Brook Parkway and Capen Court.

Contact Information:

Josh Luttrell  
98 Magazine St.  
Boston, Ma. 02119  
508-902-7755  
[Josh.luttrell@anseradvisory.com](mailto:Josh.luttrell@anseradvisory.com)

RFP available to pre-qualified bidders on **Wednesday, June 30th at 9 AM** from Josh Luttrell. RFP response deadline for submission is **July 19th, 2021 at 5:00 PM**

For additional information regarding this project contact Josh Luttrell, information above.

Somerville Housing Authority.  
Joseph R. Macaluso, Executive Director

6/30/21 The Somerville Times

Somerville Fire Department fire safety and prevention tips

Higher summer temperatures and dry weather bring an increased risk for fire hazards. To keep your household and neighbors safe, the Somerville Fire Department is asking residents to take steps to prevent fires and stay safe.

Here are some ways to prevent fires and staying safe:

- Check batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and make sure they are working.
- DO NOT use grills on porches, on any floor of your home. Grills should also not be used close to any buildings.
- Fire pits and chimineas are prohibited in Somerville.
- If you use air conditioners, be sure they are plugged into updated and secure sockets or surge protectors. Only plug extension cords into one outlet, and do not run cords under any rugs.
- Avoid smoking on porches, or while sitting in bed or on couches. Make sure smoking materials are fully extinguished before stepping away. Use a metal container full of sand or water to completely extinguish smoking materials. Smoking materials should never be tossed onto the ground or into mulch.
- Remove overstuffed furniture from porches.
- NEVER clean with gasoline or store it in warm places.
- Make plans with your household for evacuating in case of a fire and where you would meet outside.

Thank you for considering these important steps to help us ensure the safety of our community.

Ms. Cam’s  
Olio  
Answers

From on page 8

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. It portrayed people and animals as equals | Doughboy  |
| 2. Amarillo                                  | 8. James Buchanan                                   |
| 3. 12 (including 4 wisdom teeth)             | 9. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson                  |
| 4. 0, 1, 8, 11, 69, 88, 96                   | 10. Many feel it represents “bombs bursting in air” |
| 5. The Statue of Liberty                     | 11. John Tyler (ran off to marry Julia Gardiner)    |
| 6. Lake Michigan                             | 12. The White House                                 |
| 7. The Pillsbury                             |   |

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 5

America and as military “Governor” of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. After the disastrous battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill, he was forced to resign.

The following Massachusetts governors also had a Somerville connection:

- Edward Everett, a former Broadway, Winter Hill resident, was a pastor, educator, orator, politician, ambassador, and the 15th Governor of Massachusetts.
- James Sullivan, who Sullivan Square was named after, was the major moving force in building the Middlesex Canal from Boston to Lowell through Somerville and beyond. This enabled the historic Concord River to flow through this city for over fifty years. He was the founding President of the Massa-

chusetts Historical Society and the fifth Governor of Massachusetts.

- Robert Luce was a Somerville native, a journalist, a statesman, and a writer. He presided over the city’s little-remembered Somerville Golf Course which was located near Powder House Circle. Today’s Tufts students call the location, Tufts Beach. He served the State of Massachusetts for many years and in many ways. He was its 42nd Lieutenant Governor.

- Harry Ellis Dickson rose from Somerville High School’s orchestra to be the Conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra. The Center of Fine Arts and Humanities Room at the Winter Hill Community School is dedicated to him. Today his daughter, author Kitty Dukakis, and his son-in-law, former Massachusetts

Governor and 1988 presidential candidate, Michael Dukakis are spearheading the Somerville Museum’s capital campaign, “Access for All & More: Campaign for the Future.” To move forward, the historic museum must become ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant in its new entrance and elevator project. Please help give the Somerville Museum and our history a “lift.”

The Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville, MA 02143.





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](mailto: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](mailto:ckowaleski@somervillema.gov) or by phone at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315.

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

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

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

ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

EXERCISE

FIT-4-LIFE SCHEDULE

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise  
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise  
Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise  
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise  
Fit-4-Life YouTube

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hd26HjpWBI&t=68s>  
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwHfyoEZaws&t=247s>  
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcl2eBSS024&t=158s>  
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EDtaldYSz0>  
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAAnfwGybTI>

OUTDOOR EXERCISE PROGRAM

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

OUTDOOR WALKING GROUP

Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22

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

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF\\_EEbqF0&t=130s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF_EEbqF0&t=130s)  
Yoga with Janine video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zezcj9XXBU>

For questions or to register for a Fit-4-Life Zoom exercise class, please contact Chris at [CKowaleski@somervillema.gov](mailto: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/>

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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](mailto: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](mailto:DHiggins@Somervillema.gov)

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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



I only know 25 letters of the alphabet.  
I don't know y.

On This Day in History  
June 30

1520 – Montezuma II is murdered as Spanish conquistadors flee the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan during the night.

1857 – Charles Dickens reads from *A Christmas Carol* at St. Martin's Hall in London, his first public reading.

1859 – Jean Francois Gravelet aka Emile Blondin, a French daredevil, becomes the first man to walk across Niagara Falls on a tightrope.

1908 – A mysterious explosion levels thousands of trees in the Tunguska region of Siberia with a force approaching twenty megatons.

1934 – Adolf Hitler orders the purge of his own party in the "Night of the Long Knives."

1936 – Margaret Mitchell's novel, *Gone With the Wind*, is published.

1948 – John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley demonstrate their invention, the transistor, for the first time.

1960 – Alfred Hitchcock's film, *Psycho*, opens.

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

route every day and picks up the pink textile-recycling bags on the curb. Scheduling pickups will significantly reduce the contractor’s driving miles, which will reduce gas usage and emissions, and it will streamline service so bags don’t get missed. Pickups can be scheduled at simplerecycling.com or by calling 866-835-5068. For more information, visit simplerecycling.com or somervillema.gov/textilerecycling.

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

Health Alliance vaccine clinics have larger supplies of doses and can vaccinate kids ages 12-17. You do not need to be a CHA patient to use these clinics. They are free and open to all. Local CVS pharmacies and the Stop & Shop on McGrath Hwy. are also offering walk-in vaccines. Local Walgreens pharmacies require a brief pre-registration, but can process people quickly if they have open slots and you walk in. Here are the CHA walk-in sites: CHA Somerville Vaccine Center at 176 Somerville Avenue in Somerville, Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tufts University Gantcher Center at 161 College Ave. in Medford, Wed-Thurs. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Encore

Boston Harbor at 1 Broadway Center in Everett, Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Individuals younger than 18 will need parental or guardian consent to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. A parent or guardian can either accompany a minor age 16 or 17 to their vaccine appointment, or fill out a consent form that the minor can then bring with them to the appointment. Consent forms in multiple languages are available at the state’s website. Parents must accompany children ages 12-15 to their vaccine appointments.

Help support your neighbors through the Somerville Cares Fund. If you’re

lucky enough to have some extra money, please consider a donation to the Somerville Cares Fund. This donation-based fund provides direct 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.

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OFF THE SHELF  
by Doug Holder

'Petition' by Joyce Peseroff

*Petition*  
By Joyce Peseroff  
Carnegie Mellon University Press  
Pittsburgh, MA  
ISBN: 978-0-88748-661-6  
74 Pages

Review by Dennis Daly

Petitions are like prayers, only they are addressed with more certitude. Humanity seems no more capable of reforming itself in the name of itself or its favorite deity than a distracted Almighty, who has clearly moved on to newer and more interesting subjects. Nevertheless, the very act of petition engenders sympathetic audiences of listeners and possibilities.

Joyce Peseroff, in her new poetry collection, entitled *Petition*, makes her idealistic position clear and leads her readers through the daunting and changeable present-day suburban wilderness into her extraordinary alternative world of imagination and hope.

Using an even, never-gritty, tone, Peseroff moves through her diverse themes seamlessly seeking moments of insight, irony, and lyrical profundity. She is a master of her craft.

In her poem *Not Far*, Peseroff locates herself geographically and pleasantly, noting, in widening and closing circles, the unpleasantness of human reality. Without tapping into the emotional cliché of self-guilt, she makes her point with disquieting, efficacious juxtapositions. Consider this one effective example early in the book:

And further, far from the hum of my new furnace, is a furnace  
lit and relit by a warplane's vector, the pilot burning to powder  
city blocks, houses wall to wall, the mother and father inside  
churned like concrete, or blasted with shrapnel if they leave,  
or by a smoothed-cheeked soldier with an assault rifle.  
Light-headed with hunger, they fall under the treads of  
as tank.

My favorite Peseroff poem in this collection, *The Astronauts*, charts a parent's fear of her child's independence in celestial terms. The needs of imparting wisdom and protecting one's own contends against the child's driving desire to discover herself. The poet's cosmic language works wonderfully. She opens the poem this way:

If I'm the sun, then people I love  
whirl past me in elliptical orbits  
like comets, once in a hundred years.  
And if I'm a planet, each is a moon  
with a dark side. Crooked in the arm  
of a galaxy, I spiral at light speed,  
but since all matter's in motion I  
appear to be sitting still  
in an armchair, reading ...

Once one locates society's imbalances and comprehends the brutishness of nature, which may inspire an ongoing stream of petitions, the question becomes, how must one deal with them? Concomitantly, is understanding necessary and, if so, how must one then empathize? And, finally, what about suffering? Does suffering open the door to perception? In Peseroff's poem *Missing Hiker Kept Journal of her Ordeal*, terror devolves into pedestrian concerns. And the mind focuses, not on suffering, but on practicality. The poet explains in detail:

"When you find my body, please call"—discovered on  
a Navy  
Training base.

Sun dropped below the clouds. A silver arrow glinted  
from a blue  
Marker—lower on the oak than I expected, three feet  
of snow  
girding its trunk.

A moment of terror. Ten  
minutes. Nothing, but  
something  
Nothing. Something.  
--"my husband George  
and my daughter Ker-  
ry"—notebook  
removed two years later,  
two miles west of the  
trail, inside her blue  
tent.

*La Casa Bellina*, Peseroff's poem of friendship, illness, and the healing properties of a devil-may-care attitude, begins with concern, eases into compassion, then onto the horror of a good friend's bi-polar obsessions. This poet, unlike many others dealing with this same subject matter, finds an answer, a way out through humor and life-affirming giddiness. The poem concludes with a broad word-smile:

...Let's walk  
past the river. Don't look down—  
at the marble step, push open  
the door to La Casa Bellina.  
We'll swipe bread from the tables, sip  
nectar distilled from honey and fog  
and stiff the old libation bearers—  
naked under black tuxedos—  
throwing silver as we go.

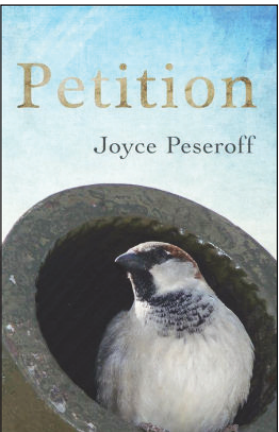
Cemeteries, always the grist for poetry and those inclined to poetry, often delivers mixed messages to practitioners (very near to petitioners, isn't it?) of grieving. Time spent with the departed nearly always becomes an issue, a corresponding weight to counter guilt. Peseroff's poem *Visiting My Parents' Grave* follows this schematic in spades. The poet's addition of a comedic character, Aunt Rita, is ingenious. One can argue the logic or illogic, but Rita's take on the cemetery makes a lot of sense to me. She tempts death-threatening dangers in order to exit that place. Here is the heart of the poem, lines that set up Rita's view, projecting near neatness and near contentment:

...Pink marble  
lies flush with spikes  
of Bermuda grass so the mower  
will find no impediment,  
and there's no leaving  
the traditional pebble  
beside the epitaph my mother  
inscribed for them both:  
Forever in Our Hearts.  
Another mourner's tree  
has leapt from the ground  
to shade her words...

Another poem I like especially much Peseroff is entitled *Thirst*. This piece amounts to an imagistic essay on desire and imagination. In this poem, at least, human-kind occupies the center of the universe. Matter or the tangible exists simply, without pizzazz, until touched by someone's consciousness. On the other hand, the fancies and aspirations of our species are nothing until they settle upon the solidity of an object. The poet nails her point of ardor here:

The soul needs a soul-  
making vale, the lion a grass-  
fed lamb. Dear thirst,  
dear life, dear lack—before  
desire, the planet was no  
gorgeous world, Eden  
no poem, the tale no Troy,  
Helen a girl herding goats.

And, like the blind poet, who alchemized that simple girlish goatherd into Helen, Peseroff, in this new collection, offers her readers singular poetic compositions, the subjects of which she wonderfully imbues with her deeply delightful, transformative passion. Lovely.



Lyrical  
SOMERVILLE  
edited by Doug Holder

Megha Sood is a Pushcart-nominated poet, editor, and blogger from Jersey City, New Jersey. She is an Associate Poetry Editor at journals *MookyChick* (UK), *Life and Legends* (USA), and a Partner in the Literary project "Life in Quarantine" with CESTA, Stanford University, USA. Her works are featured in journals, including *Poetry Society of New York*, *American Writers Review*, *Kissing Dynamite*, *Rising Phoenix Review*, and many more. Blogs at <https://meghasworldsite.wordpress.com/> and tweets at @meghasood16.



Old Shoes

Lying on the top shelf  
covered with layers of time  
Still, has their character  
carrying their worries  
from moments of time  
They smiled when he  
slipped into them  
wilted when they left  
aged with the feet  
for all the road traveled  
more or less  
Marked in their sole  
they store their own maps  
leather has been worn  
thread has been frayed  
seams showing at the gaps  
They wait eternally like  
that unwanted kid in the  
foster home  
never to be picked out again  
An elegy is a gesture towards acceptance  
oh! those old shoes  
of my father  
those who once shined;  
the feet crossed  
the dimensions  
leaving those wretched shoes behind.

— Megha Sood

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