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## The Somerville Times



VOL. 8 NO. 23

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020

**TWENTY-FIVE CENTS** 

## Inside:



Let's go out to the drive-in page 3



**Recognition of Beautiful Stuff** page 9



**Drive-by cap and** gown deliveries pages 12-13

## City: Local restaurants need support



Representatives of the City of Somerville signed on to a bill submitted to the state legislature in support of a cap on fees charged by third party delivery services.

## By Alberto Gilman

An open letter to the Massachusetts state legislature and governor, signed by 41 elected officials, was submitted on Tuesday, May 26, calling for a cap on third party delivery fees.

Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen put forward this resolution, which had unanimous support, two weeks earlier at the previous City Council meeting. Bill HD.5054 is currently being pushed in the state house.

"This is an issue that I have heard about from local restaurants in Somerville and Union Square Main Streets," Ewen-Campen said in a phone interview. "The basic issue is that the pandemic has not only just overall had a catastrophic effect on the revenue that small business, including local restaurants are receiving, but it's also shut down in person dining,"

Third party delivery apps create difficulties for local restaurants trying to stay afloat during the pandemic, and in reaction this issue has been brought forward to the state level. Continued on page 4

## Somerville farmers markets open with new guidelines

## By Isabel Sami

On a normal Saturday, the Union Square farmers market has about 50 vendors. On Saturday, May 30, it had about 25. Strict guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic forced new protocols to be put in place for open-air farmers markets nationwide, and in Somerville the market organizers are being as cautious as ever to keep residents safe. Both the Union Square and Davis Square markets had to adapt before re-opening. Jessica Eshleman, executive director of Union Square Main Streets, has seen two seasons of farmers markets in the square. This year she says the market's focus is shifting from friendly gathering to friendly safety. Eshleman describes the market as "the community's living room" with vibrant energy that fills the square on Saturdays and invites residents and shoppers to linger and enjoy the setting.

But this year, the global coronavirus pandemic created obstacles for open Continued on page 7



The Union Square and Davis Square farmers markets are operating once again, this year with guidelines to help protect shoppers from COVID-19 exposure. – Photo courtesy of Union Square Farmers Market

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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.

City buildings will remain closed to the public beyond Monday, June 1. In the coming weeks, some city offices may begin to reopen for in-person business. More details will be shared as they become available. As a reminder, all city-sponsored and permitted events are canceled through the end of the year. Many city services are still available online and 311 is available 24 hours a day to answer any questions or for service requests. You can find more information on the city's COVID-19 response at www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The bridges are back! Remember when the biggest news in town was that three bridges were being closed for Green Line construction? Well, even though we're in a world now where their reopening isn't the top city news, we'd still like to pause and celebrate. We did it. The major work there is done. The Washington Street Bridge reopened on Sunday and the Ball Square Bridge is set to reopen sometime this week. Additional work will continue and travel will be single lane in each direction for a while. More info is at somervillema.gov.

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, a former Somerville resident who still works here, is celebrating his birthday. We wish him a 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 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.

Somerville resident Nico Lang has started a GoFundMe to raise money to buy lunches for the staff of our local Market Basket to thank them for their service to our community in the last few months. https://www.gofundme.com/f/somer-

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The Somerville Times

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ville-market-basket-staff-appreciation.



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Continued on page 11

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## The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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## **Somerville Weather Forecast**

for the week of June 3 – June 9 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday June 3	Partly Cloudy	80°/61°	21%	44%	WSW 13 mph
Thursday June 4	Sunny	86°/64°	9%	21%	W 11 mph
Friday June 5	Partly Cloudy	87°/67°	21%	37%	SW 13 mph
Saturday June 6	Thunderstorms	79°/59°	49%	51%	WNW 12 mph
Sunday June 7	Partly Cloudy	69°/55°	20%	41%	NNE 11 mph
Monday June 8	Sunny	74°/53°	1%	19%	NNW 10 mph
Tuesday June 9	Sunny	74°/58°	19%	20%	NNW 9 mph
	Wednesday June 3  Thursday June 4  Friday June 5  Saturday June 6  Sunday June 7  Monday June 8  Tuesday	Wednesday June 3Partly CloudyThursday June 4SunnyFriday June 5Partly CloudySaturday June 6ThunderstormsSunday June 7Partly CloudyMonday June 8SunnyTuesdaySunny	Wednesday June 3Partly Cloudy80°/61°Thursday June 4Sunny86°/64°Friday June 5Partly Cloudy87°/67°Saturday June 6Thunderstorms79°/59°Sunday June 7Partly Cloudy69°/55°Monday June 8Sunny74°/53°TuesdaySunny74°/58°	Wednesday June 3         Partly Cloudy         80°/61°         21%           Thursday June 4         Sunny         86°/64°         9%           Friday June 5         Partly Cloudy         87°/67°         21%           Saturday June 6         Thunderstorms         79°/59°         49%           Sunday June 7         Partly Cloudy         69°/55°         20%           Monday June 8         Sunny         74°/53°         1%           Tuesday         Sunny         74°/58°         19%	Wednesday June 3         Partly Cloudy         80°/61°         21%         44%           Thursday June 4         Sunny         86°/64°         9%         21%           Friday June 5         Partly Cloudy         87°/67°         21%         37%           Saturday June 6         Thunderstorms         79°/59°         49%         51%           Sunday June 7         Partly Cloudy         69°/55°         20%         41%           Monday June 8         Sunny         74°/53°         1%         19%           Tuesday         Sunny         74°/58°         19%         20%

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: Mystic Cleaners and Tailors closes**

Steve Keenan says:

They were the best in the business-sorry to see them go. Best wishes to them!

## Courtney O'Keefe says:

I'm saddened to read this. Mystic Cleaners and Tailors were the saving grace to all of my improperly fitted clothes for a long time. If any of the tailors end up at different locations or going out on their own, please let us know.

## Response to: Moroccan Hospitality: Just the two of us

## Arthur Moore says:

Looking at the room this place has in the picture I can't see why they can't have some people there. I would think with common sense and sanitary precautions they could hopefully have enough to maybe at least survive until things happen to open fully. Granted I am not an expert but it would seem safer than a supermarket to do at least that much. I am sure people would work the state in order to survive. This economy needs to get going safely as well as fight this virus. What are our city officials doing to help? We all need to be working together on this. If our current ideas on reopening don't work and we have to reverse it we can at least know we tried. We are adults here and need to act like one.

## Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

I'm afraid not. Plenty of studies show that prolonged exposure inside publicly accessed buildings without wearing a mask is extremely hazardous. And one cannot dine with a mask on. It's terribly unfortunate for restaurateurs, but public safety is paramount. I hope that this business can hold on by offering pickup and delivery. We are adults here, let's behave accordingly.

## Germ says:

This place is great – been there a few times.

I think the difficulty is in making standards & regulations that can apply to all types of physical spaces, and furthermore determining what level of risk is acceptable. To go forward we're going to have to accept some level of risk.

This space is actually fairly small. Yet I could imagine a table layout that allows in 5-6 parties for distancing (assuming each table has families currently living together...) . But equally important (more, actually) is air movement / exchange, as yes there are multiple studies that show how the virus travels & lingers indoors. That's where a lot of these spaces are inadequate. Upgrading mechanical systems to even begin to address this is too great an expense for a small business like this, especially when occupancy needs to be reduced.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments



## Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

## **Drive-ins are in**



Were you one of the lucky ones who saw The Beatles' movie A Hard Day's Night at The Meadow Glen Drive-In in 1964?

Drive-in theaters are making a come-

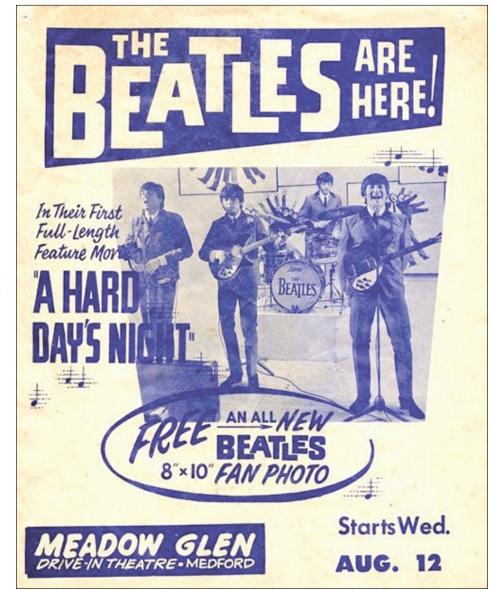
back. The successful Mendon Twin Drive-In may be setting a welcomed new trend in the face of social distancing.

A lot of us remember going to the drivein to see a movie. I can even recall going there in my pajamas. I remember my Uncle Joe taking us to the drive-in to see The Blob which came out in 1958. it's one of my fondest childhood memories and we often bring it up at family gatherings. As

soon as one of us kids got their license to drive, it was an overstuffed junk-box, full of your buddies, heading to the drive-in.

The drive-ins we went to the most were either The Meadow Glen or Medford Twin (Wellington). Remember driving up over the bumps to get a good spot close to the screen? How many of you actually hid in the trunk to sneak in? Back then there was still a lot of space in the trunks of cars even with a full-sized spare tires.

I did some research (a call to my friend Charlie), and it went like this: at first they charged by the person and then in later years, by the carload. We started hiding in the trunk when they started charging by the person. When they charged by the carload, I remember squeezing four



\$250,000.00 England's Largest, America's Finest Outdoor 1060-CAR "In-Car individual "In-Car in each car to-push-private push-1000-CAR CAPACITY. Come and See the MARVEL of Modern Theatres 50c ADMISSION plus 10% TAX. Children under 12—FREE Route 16, Mystic Valley Parkway, at WESI Tower

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

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

Our hours of operation moving forward will be

12:00 to 8:00 p.m. until further notice.

Be safe and stay healthy – The Mount Vernon Restaurant

people in the front and about eight in the back. We even used to sit on the hood and roof at times.

Remember the speaker, that faded and chipped silver monstrosity on the wire that crackled and squeaked, you had to move the car six times to maneuver it close enough to fit in the window, only to scratch the glass? I can't remember when the sound started being broadcast over your car radio. You were instructed to tune to AM 1520 or something like that to pick up the movie's audio.

When I was researching additional information for this article, I went to driveins. com. In 1972, there were 83 operating drive-ins in Massachusetts. The ones nearest to us here in Somerville were: Fresh Pond, Suffolk Downs, Saugus, Revere, Neponset and of course the two in Medford. Some of the movies we may have seen at the drive in were Superfly, Bruce Lee in Fists of Fury and The Godfather.

We stood in long lines after watching the dancing and singing food in the concession stand commercial, only to eat that cardboard pizza and those rubber hot dogs. I believe it was the Meadow Glen drive-in that had that a round, horse

trough-like contraption in the men's room. The same guy who is responsible for the restrooms at the old Boston Garden, and Fenway Park probably designed it. Thanks for the memories!

In the really early days, my brother and sister and I used to sit in the back of dad's '53 Chevy and hit the drive-in. I can actually remember standing up in the back seat while dad drove. There were no seat belt laws back then, but dad's arm use to swing back to protect us if there was a sudden stop. An occasional cigarette ash also made its way into the back seat. It's a miracle some us kids weren't blinded or burnt by our parents smoking in the car when we were kids.

Eventually beers replaced sodas, girlfriends replaced our buddies and the mall replaced the drive-in.

The Kowloon Restaurant in Saugus is turning their parking lot into socially distanced drive-in/ eat-in car experience. Bringing back drive-ins make a lot of sense. What next? Mullets? Bell-bottoms? Woo Woo Ginsburg and Adventure Car Hop!

Remember: be sure to replace the speaker before driving away.



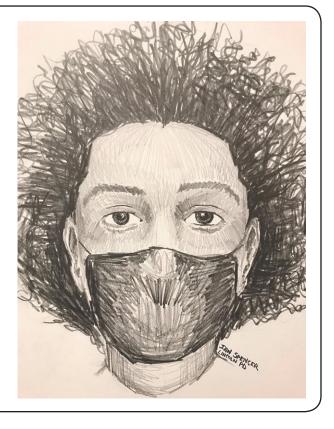
## Somerville Police seeking suspect in shots fired into occupied vehicle incident

On May 25, at 08:44 p.m., the Somerville Police Department received several reports of gunfire in the area of Greenville Street and Boston Street. When officers arrived on scene they located evidence indicating that numerous shots had been fired at an occupied vehicle. The preliminary investigation yielded enough information to generate a composite sketch of a suspect (right).

The suspect in the sketch can be described as a 17 to 19-year-old, light-skinned, Hispanic male. The suspect was said to have curly hair and was wearing a black medical-style face covering.

Anyone who knows this person or has knowledge of this incident should contact the Somerville Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division at 617-625-1600 x7220 or Detective Robert Pasqualino at 617-625-1600 x7235

— Somerville Police Department



## Statement from Mayor Curtatone on the killing of George Floyd

"This week I was outraged, saddened, and then outraged again by the killing of George Floyd, who died begging for his life as a police officer knelt on his neck. Mr. Floyd joins the far too long list of black Americans who have been killed because they were black. The circumstances surrounding the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many others were different but the root cause was the same - racism.

Grief-stricken protesters have taken to the streets around the country chanting "Black Lives Matter." We shouldn't need to be reminded of that, but the truth is that the idea that black lives are not as valuable as white lives is tragically ingrained in our culture. We needn't look further than recent reopening protests to see that. Armed white men stood outside government buildings and went home alive after their protests, meanwhile, jogger Ahmaud Arbery never made it home from his run.

We need justice to be served for victims like Floyd, Arbery, and Taylor. But it goes deeper. As a society, we, especially white people, need to work to understand how racism has shaped our country, our beliefs, and our institutions. We

need to closely examine our own prejudices and problematic beliefs. We must reject racism where we find it whether it's in a courtroom, the Rambles of Central Park, or a presidential tweet. We must admit our failings and fix every one. It will take conscious effort and it will be uncomfortable, but it's what we must do to stop more black lives from being lost. It's what we must do to ensure we are a fair and free society where all can thrive."



## **Message from Somerville Chief David Fallon**

On Sunday evening, the Somerville Police Department sent officers to Boston to assist with public safety efforts not just because we have a long-standing mutual aid agreement with Boston, and not just because we are duty bound to protect all free speech, but because, as a department, we wanted to ensure that peaceful voices would have a safe place to speak up about what we also feel as trained officers and simply as people: the tragic death of George Floyd was avoidable, unwarranted, and, in our eyes, criminal. We stand with and are proud of the peaceful protesters for voicing their calls for change and for demanding that what happened to Mr. Floyd, never happens again.

Procedurally just, compassionate, unbiased policing must be our path moving forward. As a Department we are working to help keep the focus on this message and not focus on the few who followed the peaceful protests with harm and havoc. Our message is clear: We as a Profession and society can and must, face our failings and do so much better.

We sent four officers and a supervisor to assist with the peaceful demonstration, and around 11 p.m., after Boston sent out a call for further aid, we sent four more officers and a supervisor. We will continue to protect and serve and strive daily to be part of the change our nation so desperately needs.

Sincerely,

Chief David Fallon Somerville Police Department



## City: Local restaurants need support **CONT. FROM PG 1**

Somerville restaurants are now reliant on delivery take out options that are made possible through third party apps. The ongoing issue is that certain companies are currently considering taking over several of these services.

"You have the very small number of enormous corporations that have kind of monopolized what we call third party delivery apps," Ewen-Campen said.

In the city of Somerville, there is no possibility of bringing forth any discussion concerning this issue with these larger corporations. That is why state support is needed to push it further.

Restaurants that currently deal with the situation could face longer periods of recovery or deal with the possibility of closure.

"A lot of the local restaurants in Somerville, like in every city, are part of the lifeblood of the neighborhood," Ewen-Campen said. "The last thing we want is to come out of this with a lot of vacant storefronts."

Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo, who signed on to the resolution, offered her thoughts on the matter, as she started to learn more about this issue. "I had been hearing that these third party delivery services had been squeezing restaurants in this way with upcharges. I just see that as so unethical in a time when restaurants are trying to do everything they can," Strezo said in a phone interview. "Somerville residents really love, we love our city."

Ward 7 Councilor Katjana Ballantyne, who also signed on to the resolution, expressed her thoughts on the matter. "During this pandemic time right now, if they stay open, in many ways it is just to be able to survive at the bare minimum, with minimal employees," Ballantyne said in a phone interview. "I'm concerned about their opening too and keeping to the social distance."

As the state begins its first initial reopening stages, the next plan of action is recovery and the importance of conducting business fairly with third party apps.

"We are all in this together," Ewen-Campen said.

## Somerville sets higher safety standards

## Salons and barber shops reopened on June 1

After a collaborative effort by Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, local salon and barbershop owners, the Somerville Board of Health, and city staff, a reopening timeline and safety requirements are now in place for Somerville hair service providers.

Establishments were allowed to reopen on June 1 on the condition that they submit compliant safety plans to the city, follow all safety requirements in the state's reopening plan, and, until further notice, do not offer blow-drying.

"Our guiding principles here are to protect worker, customer, and community safety with the hope that everyone can open once and stay open. We want visitors to our local businesses to know that the owners and the city are fully informed, vigilant, and committed to safety. It doesn't mean we will be able to prevent all risk. The virus is still here. But in Somerville, our salon and barbershop owners have gone the extra mile to review, prepare for, and take every precaution to reduce that risk," said Mayor Curtatone.

After a review of Governor Charlie Baker's phased reopening plan, the city of Somerville previously announced a more cautious Monday, June 1, start for certain on-premises businesses such as manufacturing, offices, and certain personal services, while also stating that additional safety needs for hair salons and barbershops would be under review. Over the past week, the city's Economic

Development team held a virtual forum for salon and barbershop owners in the city, which led to intensive and swift work by an advisory group.

Over the course of five days, a self-selected advisory group of hair service providers representing the roughly 70 providers in the city worked with city Health Department, Inspectional Services, and Economic Development staff to review the array of safety protocols announced across the nation, dig into existing research, review equipment needs and sources, and issue final recommendations that exceed the requirements of the Governor's plan. They also identified some aspects for which they asked the Mayor to advocate for change.

"I am honored to be a part of this and I'm grateful that Mayor Curtatone created this opportunity for all of us to work together. It was helpful to work with a health official as we worked through this because our main goal here is to open once and do it well and safely. Getting this right the first time is best for us, our staff, our customers, and the public," said Lindsay Griffin, of Lindsay Griffin & Co., one of three co-chairs of the advisory group.

Key differences include that Somerville salons and barbers are opening one week later than allowed by the state, and in Somerville, the submission of a compliant safety plan is required (plans should be submitted to ISD@somervil-



lema.gov). Inspectional Services will be carrying out spot inspections to ensure proper plan implementation. Blow drying will also temporarily not be allowed; this service will remain under review. A safety plan checklist is being prepared based on State guidelines and local discussion; it will be shared with all owners to standardize key requirements.

"I'm glad the mayor wants to go above and beyond the state guidelines," said Griffin. "We would rather be more cautious, and I think we really did this right. I'm on board with the no blow drying requirement. We did this in just a few days, so I have to admit it was stressful, but it brought all of the owners together with one goal, and doing that strengthened the community and formed new relationships that will be important to all of us going forward."

As a result of advisory group discussions, the city also committed to reviewing possible options for COVID-19 testing to be expanded to workers in Somerville, not just residents. Owners also self-organize to create information-sharing channels to share ongoing tips, solutions, PPE resources, and other related information, and city staff will be assisting with compiling safety supply and equipment sources as well.

Finally, a number of concerns were raised about whether gloves, rather than rigorous handwashing, aid or detract from safety in the salon context, and a request was made for the Mayor to raise this with the state.

"This is the greatest public health crisis of our lifetimes, and that demands the greatest community effort to get through it," said Mayor Curtatone. "I want to thank our local proprietors for the extraordinary sacrifice they've already made by closing to help flatten the curve, and for their commitment to safety going forward. But the other half of this equation is the public. Our best chance of safely easing into reopening is if everyone continues to follow safety guidelines. You must continue to social distance, wear face coverings in public, wash hands thoroughly, cover your coughs and sneezes, and stay home if you feel unwell or if you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Our businesses are committing to keeping us safe and each of us

must commit to keep them and all of us safe too. The better everyone sticks to the plan to keep the curve flat, the sooner we can head back toward life that is closer to normal. It's up to us."

The official order, safety plan checklist,

and any updates will be posted to the city website as soon as they are available at www.somervillema.gov/covid19 under the "What's Open, Closed, and OK?" tab. Somerville Requirements for salons and barbershops are as follows:

1. Effective at 12:01 am, June 1, 2020 hair salons and barbershops may open their businesses to workers and customers, provided that they follow the workplace rules and standards set forth and referenced herein.

2. All hair salons and barbershops must maintain and follow at a minimum the safety rules and guidelines referenced in the Governor's COVID-19 Order No. 33.

3. Before being permitted to open, each brick-and-mortar location shall submit a compliant COVID-19 Safety and Layout Plan to the Inspectional Services Department for review. The plan shall be made available to workers, customers, and city inspectors.

4. The city, through its enforcing agents, shall have the right to request modifications to the Safety and Layout Plan so as to bring it into compliance. Businesses that fail to comply with health and safety requirements, as determined by the city's enforcing agents, may be required to cease operations until they can safely resume.

5. In addition to the service restrictions set out in the Commonwealth's sector-specific guidance, blow-drying shall not be permitted until further notice.

6. A customer log, as referenced in the Commonwealth's sector-specific requirements, must date back to a minimum of four weeks, to allow for contact tracing.

For more COVID-related information, resources, and supports for Somerville businesses, visit somervillema.gov/CovidBizHelp.

For more information and regular COVID-19 updates, visit www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus and sign up for city alerts at www.somervillema.gov/Alerts. We urge you to sign up for every alert method you are able to receive: phone call, text, email. Also follow FB.com/SomervilleCity and @SomervilleCity.

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## **Beacon Hill Roll Call**



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. The House and Senate continued to hold remote sessions with just a few members in the chambers. Most members watched and listened to the debate from their home or business office through their computers and voted via phone.

## IMPROVE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (S 2618) – Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law legislation that supporters say will provide additional unemployment insurance relief to low-income families, non-profit institutions and employers.

Provisions include ensuring 30 weeks instead of 26 weeks of unemployment compensation during any week in which there are more than 100,000 claims; extending the grace period for contributions for many non-profits that self-insure for unemployment claims; protecting employers from increased unemployment insurance costs due to COVID-19; and removing a cap that results in many low-wage workers not receiving additional amounts of unemployment insurance.

Supporters said these provisions make important changes to the unemployment insurance system and will provide emergency relief to both affected workers and business owners who are trying to keep their businesses afloat. They said it is important that the state continue to support workers who, through no fault of their own, have had their incomes interrupted by the executive orders and regulations necessary to contain the spread of COVID-19.

"It is welcome news that this legislation, passed with bipartisan support, has been quickly signed into law," said Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow). "Our communities are facing layoffs and potential long-term consequences during this health and economic crisis. This is a vital action taken to protect the wellbeing of our economy while providing urgent relief for over one million families and hundreds of small businesses."

"It is so important that we continue to support the people who have had their incomes interrupted by the efforts necessary to contain the spread of COVID-19," said Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville). "I am glad we are able to take this step to expand unemployment to help more people, and their families, longer and with extended benefits."

"This legislation strikes the appropriate balance of providing additional support to employees and nonprofits while also ensuring employers are not negatively penalized due to unforeseen circumstances in these unprecedented times," said Brooke Thomson, Executive Vice President of Government Affairs at Associated Industres of Massachusetts (AIM). "Passage of this legislation will ensure employees and employers are in a position to get the economy up and running again as soon as it's safe to do so."

## COLLECT VITAL COVID-19 DATA (H 4710,

S2703) – After several weeks of differences between the House and Senate, the two branches agreed on and sent to Gov. Baker a bill that would require that the Department of Public Health (DPH) compile, collect and issue daily online reports on the number of people tested for COVID-19. The report would include the number of positive cases, hospitalizations and deaths along with the gender, race, ethnicity, primary residence, occupation, disability, age and primary language of each case. The bill was filed in response to increasing concerns about the dis-

proportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color and disproportionately impacted populations.

To ensure a comprehensive understanding of cases statewide, the legislation also requires that daily reports include data and demographic information from municipalities and counties with more than 25 positive cases, elder care facilities and state and county prisons.

The measure also requires the governor's Executive Office of Health and Human Services to describe the actions it is taking to address disparities identified through the data collected. Another provision establishes a task force to study and make policy recommendations for how to address these health disparities. The task force is required to issue an interim report by June 30, 2020, with a final report due August 1, 2020.

"This strong, comprehensive bill will help us begin to address the disparate impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare, especially among our communities of color and other vulnerable populations," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "I am proud of the thoughtful and collaborative work my Senate colleagues, as well as the Senate Working Group, did to advance this urgent piece of legislation. I look forward to it becoming law."

"This legislation has two major wins: data transparency and government accountability," said Senator Jo Comerford (D-Northampton), co-chair of the Committee on Public Health and chair of the Senate COVID-19 Working Group. "Public access to comprehensive data is foundational to a strong democracy and a healthy government is one that commits publicly to address any disparities and inequities found in the data."

"Communities of color are more vulnerable to disease because of long-term, structural barriers to care and treatment," said Sen. Julian Cyr (D-Truro). "COVID-19 has disproportionately sickened and killed underserved and underrepresented populations in Massachusetts, and the commonwealth is obligated to respond and care for communities where the need is greatest. Collecting actionable demographic data is critical to inform policies and interventions for the duration of the pandemic. This legislation is a step towards making right the gaping equities that COVID-19 has laid bare."

"We thank the Senate and House for the legislative actions taken to prioritize the needs of those living in long-term care residences and senior housing locations," said American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Massachusetts State Director Mike Festa. "We believe transparency and notice to the public is critical for public health. Caregivers and family members need and deserve to have information on COVID-19 positive cases and deaths for their own health decisions and as they consider possible next steps and interventions for their loved ones."

"The bill requires greater transparency from the Baker Administration about what actions they are taking to address the inequities shown in the data," said Carlene Pavlos, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Public Health Association. "Knowledge is crucial but is only valuable if it leads to smart action. As Massachusetts considers additional stages of reopening, we must use data to ensure that communities of color, low wage workers and other marginalized populations do not suffer further than they have already.

"The COVID-19 illness has mercilessly targeted

older adults, especially those living in congregate settings," said Rep. Ruth Balser (D-Newton) whose bill to require reporting by all elder facilities — including Soldiers Homes, nursing homes, assisted living residences and independent senior housing — was rolled into this bill. "Only with accurate and comprehensive information about the tragedy that is unfolding in elder facilities, can we direct the resources that are needed, and save lives."

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

EXEMPT FACE MASKS FROM THE SALES TAX - (H 4760) – Rep. Josh Cutler (D-Duxbury) filed legislation that would exempt facial coverings from the state's 6.25 percent sales tax.

Supporters said the demand for face masks to help prevent the spread of the virus is expected to increase dramatically with new workplace regulations going into effect. They noted that while clothing is currently exempt from the sales tax, masks are not considered clothing and are taxed. They argued that the bill would reduce consumer costs for purchasing masks and help increase production by encouraging the growing cottage industry of non-medical mask makers.

"Local crafters selling face masks are playing an important role in meeting our need for more masks," said Cutler. "The last thing we want is to see them run afoul of the tax collector or be discouraged from making more."

\$500,000 FOR SMALL BUSINESSES AFFECT-ED BY COVID-19 - Attorney General Maura Healey's office announced it will award \$500,000 in grants to cities and towns to provide financial relief to small businesses impacted by closures and losses as a result of COVID-19. Grants will be given to many local and regional agencies and organizations that are assisting small businesses in the communities they serve. The grant funds are designed to help small businesses address fixed debt, payroll, accounts payable, lost sales, lost opportunities and other working capital expenses incurred as a result of the pandemic.

Barnstable, Bellingham, Chelmsford, Easthampton, Holyoke, Lynn, Medford, New Bedford, Newburyport, Orange, Pembroke and Revere were awarded grants along with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission.

"Bellingham's Small Business Relief Partnership grant award from the attorney general's office is welcomed news for our business community," said Daniel Spencer, the chair of the Bellingham Board of Selectmen. "The town plans to get these grant funds out quickly to assist our small business community as they make plans to reopen their doors in the days and weeks ahead. Without the support of programs like this many of our residents who have spent a lifetime building their businesses would be facing permanent closure."

"The town of Chelmsford appreciates the attorney general's assistance for small business," said Paul Cohen, Chelmsford Town Manager. "The town will be mindful to help those women and minority-owned small businesses that need extra support to recover in the months ahead. These entrepreneurs provide the unique business ventures that form the character of the community."

## **Beacon Hill Roll Call**

continued from page 6

STATE OWES CITIES AND TOWNS \$727,000 FOR EARLY VOTING EXPENSES - State Auditor Suzanne Bump urged the state to reimburse communities \$727,169.37 to cover the costs of mandated early voting expenses in the 2020 presidential primary election. She also urged the Legislature to create a permanent process to fund this service automatically following each election.

"Early voting has already proven to be a valuable addition to our democratic processes," wrote Bump in a letter to the Legislature. "Establishing a formal procedure to fund the expenses incurred by our municipalities will make it that much stronger."

Bump determined in 2017 that parts of the law requiring early voting are unfunded mandates for which cities and towns have to pay. Among other things, this mandate requires that communities establish an early voting polling location that has sufficient staff. Cities and towns have been reimbursed over \$2 million since 2016 and more than \$32 million since 1984 to cover these mandated expenses but the Legislature has not yet funded costs of early voting in the 2020 presidential primary election.

Since 1984, election-related mandate determinations and certifications from Bump's office have resulted in more than \$32 million in state allocations to cover mandated municipal costs.

QUOTABLE QUOTES - Special "I solemnly swear" Edition

TWO NEW SENATORS TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE – Newly-minted Sens. John Velis (D-Westfield) and Susan Moran (D-Falmouth) were sworn into the Senate at the Statehouse last week. The Democratic pair won special elections for two Senate seats that were previously held by Republicans.

The wins whittled down the number of Republicans in the 40-member Senate from six to a mere four. Velis beat John Cain, a Republican newcomer from Southwick to

win the seat that former Sen. Don Humason gave up after he was elected mayor of Westfield. Falmouth's Susan Moran beat Republican candidate Jay McMahon of Bourne to win the district formerly represented by former Sen. Vinny deMacedo who left the Senate to become the director of regional partnerships for Bridgewater State University.

"I'm going to be able to look at my kids and say, let me tell you about the time I was sworn in as a state senator with a global pandemic. I always try to be a glass half full type of guy. So I'm just trying to find the positives in it, and nothing changes the fact that I got elected to the state Senate." — Sen. Velis

"I wanted to surround myself with experts who are already deep into the community, because I'm right away going into budget. I wanted to be sure that we were really heavy on constituent services from day one." — Sen. Moran

"We could do this through some other means other than trying to be here. But I think our view was it was important for your families, in particular, and for you ... that we swear you in in this building and that we do it despite all the constraints that are associated with that." - Gov. Baker

"Just work hard. Work hard and, you know, they know what to do. They've already been doing it." - Senate President Karen Spilka advising Velis and Moran.

## 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 25-29, the House met for a total of seven hours and 18 minutes while the Senate met for a total of nine hours and 25 minutes.

Mon. May 25 No House session No Senate session

Tues. May 26 House 11:01 a.m. to 3:07 p.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 5:13 p.m.

Wed. May 27 No House session No Senate session

Thurs. May 28 House 11:02 a.m. to 2:14 p.m. Senate 11:07 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Fri. May 29 No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

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## Somerville farmers markets open with new guidelines **CONT. FROM PG 1**

markets that are usually flooded with people. After Governor Charlie Baker announced farmers markets were essential services on March 23, farmers market organizers nationwide got to work preparing safer settings for shoppers and vendors.

To prevent unsafe conditions, Union Square Main Streets coordinated with the City of Somerville, the Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources, the National Farmers Market Coalition, and Somerville's Public Space and Urban Forestry Division.

Changes in the Union Square market's setup include a 50 percent decrease in vendors to create more space for social distancing and space between booths. The market is confined to the parking lot so organizers can monitor the number of people inside, ensuring crowds do not form. Organizers also establish COVID-prepared vendor booths, with no-contact selling where customers point out what they want and vendors get their groceries without customers touching the produce.

On the USMS website there are links for customers to reserve shopping slots at specific times, and customers can pre-order groceries and pick them up from the market without having to go from booth to booth. These measures decrease the number of people inside the market, and also let farmers sell to more their customers. Organizers ask that only one representative per household go to the market, and also ask that shoppers wear masks, keep their distance, and take the online shopper's pledge.

"This is the time when we need our immune system strong," says Eshleman. "And this is also the time when not everyone is feeling comfortable or confident shopping in an indoor, enclosed setting like grocery stores or other markets, so for us to be able to provide this open-air commerce opportunity was really important."

Eshleman believes that accessing fresh, healthy food is an important need in the community, and also wants to bring support to the small independent vendors who sell in the market, saying, "The Union Square farmers market has always provided a really important marketplace for those entrepreneurs to be able to test products, connect with customers, and grow their visibility, and certainly in a time when COVID has just wreaked economic havoc on small businesses."

The Union Square farmers market is also offering SNAP matches of up to \$50 for eligible customers. Since 2005, USMS has privately funded and provided SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) matches of up to \$10. Now, due to economic conditions and unemployment rates, customers who receive SNAP benefits are now eligible for a dollar-for-dollar match up to \$50 per market through June 27.

USMS has been raising funds privately through its independent nonprofit, which Eshleman says has been "prioritizing an inclusive farmers market with access to healthy food and raising the dollars to make this match possible." A grant from the Somerville Jobs Creation and Retention Trust made this funding possible through June.

The Union Square markets takes place every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. through November 21 in Union Square Plaza.

In Davis Square, on Wednesdays from noon to 6:00 p.m., the market setup has changed from its usual arrangement of booths in the square. Now there will be only one entrance and exit to the market to monitor the number of visitors inside, and it is recommended that customers pre-order from vendors and register for the market online, much like the Union Square market.

Vendor booths will be set up to follow health and safety guidelines, and all shoppers will be required to wear masks and wash their hands when entering and

For both markets in Somerville, public safety is the priority. During a time when people are forced to be distant, the return of weekly farmers markets can bring some normalcy back to the community that has been sheltering at home for so long.

"It's exciting to do this work with the Union Square farmers market, and with COVID it's a very significant undertaking," Eshleman says. "But again, we recognize that this service to the community is essential in so many ways."

For more information on the Davis Square market, visit https://www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis. For Union Square market, visit https://www.unionsquaremain. org/2020-season.

## Somerville announces additional \$1.5 Million for rental assistance

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone announced an additional \$1.5 million in rental assistance for Somerville residents experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding, which is provided by the federal CARES Act, will be distributed to local nonprofits to support rental assistance for low- and moderate-income households.

"The statewide moratorium on evictions is a good start, but we all know it's not enough," said Mayor Curtatone. "Many tenants will still owe back rent when the moratorium ends. Others will be struggling to reenter the workplace and will need rental assistance until they are able to stabilize financially. One of the rallying cries of this pandemic has been 'stay home, save lives.' But the reality is stay home if you can afford it.' Through no fault of their own, too many people are having to decide whether to pay rent or buy groceries. This pandemic has not impacted everyone equally. In Somerville, we're doing everything we can to direct relief where our residents need it most."

The city recently amended its 2019 Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan in order to become eligible to receive more than \$2 million in Supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding made available through the CARES Act. As noted, \$1.5 million will be allocated for rental assistance. The remaining funds will support other critical COVID-19 relief efforts, including healthcare services and food security programs.

"... too many
people are having
to decide whether
to pay rent or
buy groceries"

"Paying rent in Somerville was always a burden to our most vulnerable populations, who already pay half their income on shelter. The COVID-19 pandemic made this difficult decision impossible for many people," said City Council President Matt McLaughlin. "I'm proud to know Somerville is putting money behind our advocacy to get tenants as well as their landlords through these challenging times."

Residents seeking rental assistance will be able to access the funds through partner nonprofit organizations. Per federal requirements, nonprofits interested in administering these funds will need to submit an application to the city. Further details about that process will be announced soon. Organizations awarded funds will then develop and implement their own applications for residents. Once nonprofits have been selected, an announcement will be made to the community on where and how to apply.

In the interim, tenants in need of emergency COVID-related assistance for unpaid rent, as well as homeowners currently in need of help with unpaid mortgage bills, can apply for assistance paying those bills through the Commonwealth's RAFT program (Residential Assistance for Families in Transition). There are no immigration restrictions on receipt of RAFT benefits. Tenants and homeowners having difficulty accessing RAFT benefits can contact the city's Office of Housing Stability at somervillema.gov/ohs to fill out a request for OHS assistance with those applications or call 617-625-6600 ext. 2581.



Tenants are also protected from evictions during the COVID-19 state of emergency in accordance with city and state legislation, but absent further action at the State level, any missed rent payments will still be due at the end of the moratorium.

This new funding for rental assistance is the latest of several financial supports the city has established during this pandemic. These include the Somerville Cares Fund (which has raised nearly \$300,000 to date to help meet the basic needs of the city's most vulnerable individuals and families), the \$1 million Small Business COVID-19 Relief Fund, and the addition of \$80,000 early during the crisis to

the city-funded Rental Assistance Flex Fund administered by the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

"Approximately 65% of Somerville residents are renters, and most of the individu als who are experiencing severe economic hardship during this pandemic pay rent for their housing. Some are not eligible for unemployment assistance or stimulus payments," said Somerville Office of Housing Stability Director Ellen Shachter. "This makes for an incredibly anxious, uncertain time for too many people in our community. These funds will allow more people to stay in their homes, which is vitally important because housing security is crucial to containing this pandemic."

## Dorothy's Corner

## BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Over the past couple of years, I became interested in meat curing after checking out some curing and smoking sites on Facebook. I did some online research about the method and decided to give it a try.

Depending on what type of cured meats you want to make, the right type of curing salt is key. For instance, the two main salts are Prague Powder Premium #1, and Prague Powder Premium #2. They are commonly referred to as pink salt. But it is important to note these salts are NOT Himalayan pink salt and should not be used as such. These salts can be dangerous if not used as directed, and should be stored away from any other salts and spices.

Both of these salts contain sodium nitrates. Prague #1 is used for making sausage, bacon, jerky and others. Prague #2 which contains a higher content of sodium nitrate and is used for meat products that are air dried

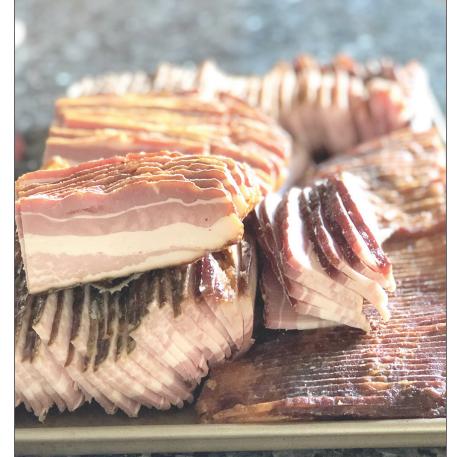
and not cooked, like salami, air dried ham, prosciutto, and pepperonis.

I highly recommend reading the link listed below for more detailed information on the chemical structures and how these and other salts work for meat preservation. https://barbecuebible.com/2014/08/26/guidenitrites-prague-powder-curing-salts/

Another great source for information about meat curing, along with excellent recipes, is a book by Michael Ruhlman and Brian Polcyn called Charcuterie The Craft Of Salting, Smoking & Curing (Revised & Updated).

I hope if you're interested in curing your own meats you will give it a try. I can tell you, having made my own bacon and Canadian bacon, I'm hooked! Do your research and make up a game plan, and I promise the result will be rewarding and absolutely delicious! The picture here is cured and smoked bacon.

Visit Dorothy's website at http://ddimarzo2002.wix.





## **OBITUARY**

## Salvatore 'Johnny' Sillari



Salvatore "Johnny" Sillari died peacefully at home in Plymouth on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, with his family. Johnny was born on January 19, 1939, in Somerville into a large family from Gaeta, Italy. He was the first born child of his generation, Johnny worked hard his entire life, starting parttime at the age of twelve for his father's successful plumbing and heating business. He graduated from Somerville High School in 1957, studied at Wentworth Institute of Technology, and then received his Master's Plumbers License. He took over the family business, eventually passing it on to his son, Charlie. The way he lived his life gifted his children with a strong work ethic, the ability to speak their truth, and a deep generosity to others.

Johnny served in the Army and was honorably discharged in 1963. He loved the Boston Red Sox and was elated to finally witness them win the World Series. Johnny loved playing cards and board games with his wife, Christine, watching old war movies, and dining and drinking with friends. He

especially loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. Everyone loved his witty sense of humor and his irreverent attitude.

Johnny was predeceased by his parents Charles and Clara Sillari. He is survived by the love of his life Christine (Kacoyanis) Sillari with whom he wanted to spend every waking moment. They recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. Johnny was a devoted father to Christina, her husband Arne and their daughter Selena; Charlie, his partner Melanie, his sons Charles and Johnathan, and their mother Roberta; and his loving son Stephen. He also leaves behind his sister Rosann of Lynnfield; and his brother Ralph, his wife Debbie and their three daughters, Elizabeth, Emily, and Catherine of Lexington. He also leaves behind his dear Uncle Danny and his godchild Marie from Medford.

Johnny will be buried at Oak Grove Cemetery in Medford on Monday, June 1st, at 1:00 PM. There will be a Celebration of his Life in Plymouth and in Somerville announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless (149 Bishop's Highway, Kingston MA 02364) or Food For Free (11 Inman St, Cambridge, MA 02139). The family is deeply grateful to the incredible staff of Cranberry Hospice and Palliative Care in Plymouth.

## Somerville city buildings to remain closed to the public



City buildings will remain closed to the public beyond Monday, June 1. In the coming weeks, some city offices may begin to reopen for in-person business. More details will be shared as they become available.

As a reminder, all city-sponsored and permitted events are canceled through the end of the year.

Many city services are still available online and 311 is available 24 hours a day to answer any questions or for service requests. You can find more information on the City's COVID-19 response at www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus.

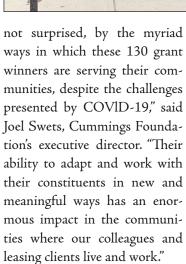
## The Beautiful Stuff Project awarded Cummings Grant

The Beautiful Stuff Project, a creative reuse center located on Medford Street, is one of 130 non-profits to receive grants of \$100,000 or more through Cummings Foundation's \$20 Million Grant Program. The Somerville-based organization was chosen from a total of 738 applicants during a competitive review process.

Emily Bhargava, Community Art Director at the Beautiful Stuff Project remarks, "The grant is not only a welcome infusion of dollars but a confirmation of the importance and uniqueness of our organization and its mission. We will continue to evolve to meet the needs of Somerville residents during the Covid-19 pandemic, and we are excited about supporting a bright future of play and learning for everyone in the city." Grant funds will allow The Beautiful Stuff Project to expand the ways that it provides materials to teachers and families, and will support the collection of even more wonderful materials from local businesses.

The Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. Through this place based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of debt—free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

"We have been impressed, but



Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$280 million to greater Boston nonprofits. Social distancing requirements will prevent Foundation and grant winner representatives from convening for a reception at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn, as planned, to celebrate the \$20 million infusion into greater Boston's nonprofit sector. Instead, Cummings Foundation expects hundreds of individuals to 'gather virtually for a modified celebration in mid—June.

The Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program resulted from a merger of the Foundation's two

flagship grant programs, \$100K for 100 and Sustaining Grants. The Foundation and its volunteers first identified 130 organizations to receive grants of at least \$100,000 each. Among the winners are first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that have previously received Cummings Foundation grants. A limited number of this latter group of repeat recipients will be invited to make in-person presentations in the fall, when public health related circumstances allow, proposing that their grants be elevated to long-term awards. Thirty such requests will be granted in the form of 10-year awards ranging from Continued on page 17





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## **COMMENTARY**

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

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

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

## Reopening Somerville

After a collaborative effort between the City and local salon and barbershop owners, safety requirements were in place for Somerville hair service providers to open June 1. Establishments must submit compliant safety plans to the City before opening, follow all safety requirements in the State's reopening plan, and, until further notice, not offer blow-drying. In less than a week, a self-selected advisory group of hair service providers representing the roughly 70 providers in the city worked with City Health Department, Inspectional Services, and Economic Development staff to review various safety protocols announced across the nation, dig into existing research, review equipment needs and sources, and issue final recommendations that exceed the requirements of the Governor's reopening plan. Salon and barbershop owners also worked together to set up information-sharing on issues like best practices, personal protective equipment sources, and tips and solutions to issues that arise.

## City Buildings Remain Closed to the Public

City buildings will remain closed to the public beyond Monday, June 1. In the coming weeks, some City offices may begin to reopen for in-person business. More details will be shared as they become available. As a reminder, all City-sponsored and permitted events are canceled through the end of the year. Many City services are still avail-

able online and 311 is available 24 hours a day to answer any questions or for service requests.

## First Shared Streets Pilot Set Up

Somerville's first Shared Streets route, which is now up and running, connects the Winter Hill and East Somerville neighborhoods and includes the Somerville Public Schools food distribution sites at the Healey and East Somerville Community schools; the Project Soup Food Pantry at 165 Broadway; Stop and Shop; and the Capuano School. Shared Streets creates more room on quieter residential streets for pedestrians and cyclists by closing the street to through traffic, which helps people social distance as they make necessary trips. Residents of the street, their guests, emergency vehicles, and delivery and services vehicles are still allowed access. Additional routes will open throughout the summer, which will give City Mobility staff members time to evaluate each route and make changes as needed. Shared Streets routes have been designed to help connect residents with essential services like grocery stores, medical facilities, and food distribution sites. To see a full map of planned routes and schedule, visit our SomerVoice site at https:// somervoice.somervillema.gov/ covid19mobility. As routes are implemented, feedback on them can also be submitted on SomerVoice.

Safety measures include signage and flexible barriers to alert all users to the shared use of these streets. Somerville's program will use temporary materials that can be modified based on our experience and feedback from residents with the pilot. Motorists allowed to use a shared street should drive slowly and expect to see people

in the street on these routes. People walking, rolling, and biking should remain alert and aware and make room for these allowed vehicles.

## Staying Informed During COVID-19

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

## Here are some additional ways you can stay informed:

- Sign up for City alerts at www.somervillema.gov/alerts or by calling 311. You can choose to get phone, text, and/or email alerts.
- Tune in to City Cable (RCN channel 13, Comcast channel 22) for information and updates.
- 311 is available 24/7 to answer questions and provide information.

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

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

Dear Sir,

Inequality is the root cause of the region wide affordable housing crisis. The efforts by Somerville to remedy the affordable housing is like whack-a-mole, it just keeps coming. We will never be able to build enough affordable housing to satisfy the demand. That's because we are addressing the symptom and not the cause of the problem. There are two obvious major issues that impact affordable housing that are not being addressed.

Firstly, we have wage inequity. That so many are deprived of a living wage keeps people in poverty and in life sustaining mode preventing them from moving forward out of their critical situation. Their need for inexpensive housing is substantial. The answer is to pay everyone a living wage and this is something the state must address because it is a state issue and not something Somerville can address.

Secondly, we have expensive, outdat-

ed, non-integrated public transit. This forces people into pollution generating cars creating traffic jams if they need to commute. Boston has some of the worst congestion in the US. If commuters pick public transit then the fares are too high, the trains too crowded and outdated and prone to failure. Commuting from the north shore or south coast into Boston means a painful \$100 a week+ drain on finances. That is not sustainable on a less than living wage.

People want to be close to their work and entertainment and now that cities have become less industrial and more service oriented they are cleaner and more desirable. Remember the shift from the cities to the suburbs post WW2 was a function of wanting a green space to raise a family. Now cities are cleaner people want to live in them, especially the greater Boston area inside Rte. 128.

So what is the answer? Both these issues have been addressed overseas and are known solutions. Europe, Australia/

New Zealand, the UK, Ireland, Canada and others pay a living wage and have realistic, affordable public transit. Some European cities have free public transit. Mexico City has the Metro – rail and bus that costs about 25 cents regardless of distance. So how do they do it?

The argument posited by commerce is that higher wages would make them uncompetitive, but a Big Mac costs about the same in Germany or Australia as it does in the US but the staff are paid a living wage. Their corporate taxes are higher too. In many countries the cost to eat out is comparable or less than in the US but without the tip. Mexico used the funds from a toll road outsourced to private interests to subsidize the Metro. Most cities consider public transit an expense item and don't even contemplate it making money or breaking even. It is a service to enable business and reduce pollution.

None of the other developed countries have the crushing demand for affordable

housing we see here in New England. They have worked out that if they solve the living wage and public transit issues then suddenly the root causes of the affordable housing problem fade.

We can build more affordable housing, and we should. But we need direct the focus at a regional solution not a local one if we truly want and outcome that solves the problem. We need the state to step up, fix the public transport system, especially fix the fare structure to be affordable and also legislate for a living wage. \$15 is not enough, to catch up with the past 3 decades of real wage slide we need look to \$20/hour.

But then again, do we really want to solve this problem or just apply yet another band-aid on a few more local affordable units? It's time for Somerville and Massachusetts to lead in the elimination of the affordable housing crisis.

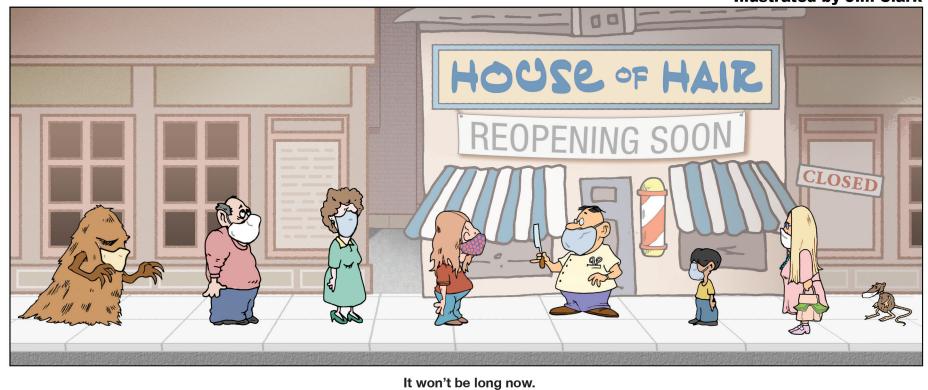
Alan Bingham Somerville

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## COMMENTARY

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



## **Our View Of The Times**



The sense of anticipation is rapidly building as we all await and live through the gradual reopening of various businesses and services in the city.

So many of us need and want our haircuts and styling – we're even willing to go without the blow dry. It's one of many small steps that will eventually lead us back to business – and life – as usual.

Hopefully, we will continue to see fur-

ther reopenings take place as the risk of COVID-19 contamination decreases. Finger, toes – whatever else – crossed.

We've been through a lot. The sometimes nerve wracking effects of prolonged social distancing, the hand washing, mask and glove wearing – it hasn't always been easy. But we've hung in as well as we could and our efforts are paying off. We've kept the instances of coronavirus infection to

a minimum, because we did it right. We did our duty to ourselves and our family, friends and neighbors.

And now we can finally get ourselves snipped, shaved, and powdered. How nice will that feel? How badly did we take this simple necessity for granted before all this took place? It's clear that it will be quite some time before we ever take it for granted again.

And let's not forget how nice – and necessary – this will be for these businesses themselves. The barbers, stylists and shop owners have suffered a little more than we have, since they have been out of work for as long as our hair has been over-growing. Let's be happy for them, and grateful for their service once they get rolling again.

And now, just a little off the sides, please, and don't spare the Bay Rum.

## Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Our sincere condolences go out to the family and friends of **Salvatore "Johnny" Sillari**, who sadly passed last Tuesday. He will be missed by many.

There are increasing reports of unemployment fraud, so keep an eye on your mail and email. The state is warning residents that criminals are using stolen personal information to file fraudulent unemployment claims. So keep an eye on your mail and email. If you get an unemployment letter or email saying you applied for benefits but you did not, please report it. If you did apply, read the materials carefully and make sure they fully match your information. To report possible unemployment fraud to

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

the state call (877) 626-6800 or https://

www.mass.gov/info-details/report-un-

employment-benefits-fraud.

As part of their efforts to make it safer to move about or do business during COVID-19, the city's mobility team installed their first sidewalk expansion effort this week on Bow St. in Union Square. The idea is to provide more space for walking, standing in line at a safe social distance, curbside pickup, and outdoor commerce like outdoor dining.

It's done by shifting parking and driving lanes while still keeping them available. They will be monitoring how it works and making improvements as needed. More expansions are to come. Learn more at https://somervoice.somervillema.gov/covid19mobility/news\_feed/shared-curbs.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

On **Thursday, June 4**, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. the Somerville Museum will host a SHS Curator Panel Discussion. Earlier this year students from the Somerville High School Local History Club, with guidance from their teacher Adda Maria Santos and the Somerville Museum, curated an exhibition The Basement Project: Not Your Usual Basement Junk. Through objects from the Museum's collection, each student thoughtfully reflected on Somerville's past and their experience as a Somerville resident today. Unfortunately, the show was cut short by the pandemic and the associated events were cancelled. Join them over Zoom to hear about the exhibit development process and the students' object selections, as well as their reactions to the exhibition being cut short. For more information, visit https://www.facebook. com/events/693535668138203/.

The Somerville Board of Health strongly urges all residents to be tested for COVID-19. The more people that get tested, the safer our reopening will be. You do not need to have symptoms or a doctor's referral. To sign up for free COVID-19 testing for Somerville residents, call 617-665-2928, Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Healthy, local food is important. The Farmers Markets are open again in Davis Square (www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis) and Union Square (www.unionsquaremain.org/2020-season). But this year they will be different. Both markets will encourage only one person per household to do the shopping, incorporate social distancing guidelines and allow a limited amount of shoppers in the space. Please sign up for a shopping spot in advance at the market websites. SNAP and HIP benefits are accessible for shoppers in both markets. No gathering or socializing is allowed in the markets. See you there and remember that we are in this together ... from a responsible 6 ft. dis-

\*\*\*\*\*\*

tance, of course.

East Somerville Safe Pick-up Market takes place Sunday, June 7. Pre-order from the list of participating businesses and pick-up your order safely on Sunday between 10:00 a.m. and Noon. For more information, visit https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/market.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Once Somerville is pleased to announce the launch of their fundraising shirts. They're printed by Somerville's Hemlock Ink Custom Screenprinting. When you buy this T-shirt you are simultaneously supporting Once Somerville and another small local business. Order your T-Shirt here: https://stores.inksoft.com/hemlockink\_support/shop/product-detail/1002755.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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.

## **Drive-by cap and** gown deliveries

Full Circle/Next Wave started the celebration of their seniors with a Cap & Gown drop off on May 28 - the principal, assistant principal and teachers caravanned to each of the 16 graduate homes to drop off their caps and gowns, lawn signs and a few small gifts (class of 2020 SWAG).

On June 3, Full Circle will be hosting a virtual graduation ceremony as well as a Diploma Pickup/Stage Walk on June 10 at Dilboy, following SHS.

Similar celebrations are in the works for the eighth grade with a diploma drop off on June 11 and Zoom Celebration on June 12.



















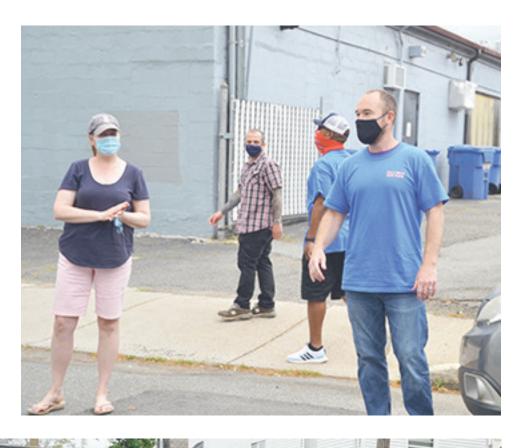




## A mother's message:

Full/Circle Next Wave, what can I say? Words cannot express how I feel about the teachers and staff at Full Circle/Next Wave. Years ago, when my son was in the 6th grade, his school had told me he should go to Full Circle/Next Wave. I fought against it because of the rumors the school used to have. So, as years went by I saw him struggle and not doing well at SHS so I decided, let's give Full Circle/Next Wave a chance. As I look back I shouldn't have made that decision back then. The staff and teachers at the Full Circle/Next Wave are amazing and will make sure to do anything to help their students to succeed. I am so happy to have my children in this school with such amazing people and the amazing lengths they go to for their students. Thank you for everything you all

> — Michelle Full Circle/Next Wave mother









## **FUN & GAMES**

## Ms. Cam's Dio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. When is Go Fishing Day?

2. When did the The Great Seattle Fire take place?

3. What band started off as the Polka Tulk Blues Band?

4. What is Crepe de Chine?

5. Musician Mike Shinoda is from what group?

6. Who was the first First Lady born in a hospital?

7. What color are the flowers of the curry

plant?

8. Which Frist Lady advocated for beautifying the nation's cities and highways (The Highway Beautification Act)?

9. In each bag of M&Ms, what is the most prevalent color?

10. The first book in the Goosebumps series had what title?

11. What is a hurdygurdy?

12. What was the Beatles' first film?

Answers on page 19

## SUDOKU American Standard WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500 ✓ Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience ✓ Ultra low entry for easy entering & exiting ✓ Patented Quick Drain® Technology ✓ Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard ✓ 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage Limited Time Offer! Call Today 866-612-7490 5 6 1 9 4 1 5 3 8 9 7 2 8 6 8 5 4 3

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.

## The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. All Hebrew names that end with the letters el have something to do with God.

2. In Silence of the Lambs, Hannibal Lector (Anthony Hopkins) never blinks.

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD **OUTDOOR FUN**

## **ACROSS**

- 1. Sacred song
- 6. Chowed down
- 9. Acoustic repetition
- 13. Capital of Vietnam
- 14. 4 qts.
- 15. Teamsters' group
- 16. Affair, in Paris
- 17. Bit of binary code
- 18. Part of TNT
- 19. Sleeping under the stars
- 21. Horticulturist's hangout
- 23. Articulate
- 24. Combustible pile
- 25. Joe Louis move
- 28. Epiphany guests
- 30. Forgo
- 35. WWII side
- 37. Bonfire fodder
- 39. Royal topper
- 40. Tiny river
- 41. Pond buildup
- 43. Miners' passage 44. Best not mentioned
- 46. What seekers do
- 47. Fairytale beginning
- 48. Same as "slow down"
- 50. Upper hand
- 52. Toni Morrison's "\_\_\_\_\_ Baby"
- 53. Threads
- 55. Pie \_ mode
- 57. a.k.a. shuttlecock
- 60. Flying saucer
- 64. 2 halves of a diameter
- 65. Pilot's deadline
- 67. Fire starter
- 68. Triangular road sign
- \_\_\_ Luis Obispo
- 70. "Die Lorelei" poet
- 71. Other than what is
- 72. One laid
- 73. Poker stakes

## DOWN

- 1. First-rate, slangily
- 2. Ditto
- 3. Soon, to a bard

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	34
35			36		37			38		39				
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	57	58	59					60				61	62	63
64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				
3	FREE! Savings Include an American Standard Right Height Tolet WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500													
AS SEE	✓ Backed by American Standard's 140 years of experience ✓ Ultra low entry for easy entering & exiting ✓ Patented Quick Drain® Technology ✓ Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard ✓ 44 Hydrotherapy jets for an invigorating massage													

CROSSWORD

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4. They are usually drunken 5. Biblical prophetess 6. Full of excitement 7. Sun kiss 8. Funereal lament 9. "National Velvet" author \_\_\_\_\_ Bag-10. Give a ticket

11. Sound warning 12. Lennon's wife 15. State of agitation 20. African antelope 22. "Who \_\_\_\_ we kidding?"

24. a.k.a toes

25. Banned lawn darts

26. Type of rotation 27. "The Hobbit" hobbit

29. Played with a driver 31. Bye in Palermo

32. Lacked, for short

33. The oldest Goldberg sibling

866-612-7490

34. Skier's turf

36. Snail-like

38. Volleyball turf

42. Painter Degas

45. Beat the Joneses

49. Interesting person, acronym

51. Eli Manning's first name

54. Ganders' companions

56. Famous ski town

57. Get-out-of-jail money

\_\_ of Marc

59. Make someone angry

60. Jack London's "White

61. Fisherman's supply

62. Marine eagle

63. Augments

64. Pastrami partner

66. "You're it!" game

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

## Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

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## The Somerville Times

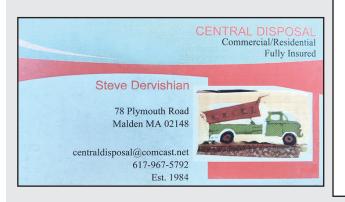
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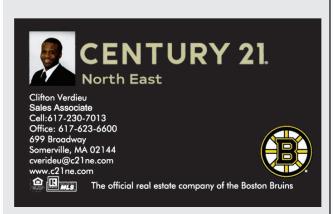
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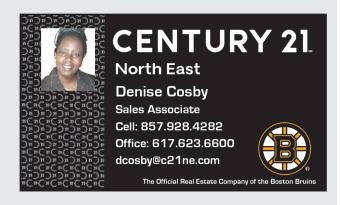
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**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY** DEVELOPMENT JOSEPH A. CURTATONE **MAYOR** 

**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 23, 2020 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.

## TO USE A COMPUTER

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/45144155584240655

Access code: 885-331-859

**TO CALL IN** 

+1 (631) 992-3221

Access code: 788-982-253

## **DETERMINATIONS OF APPROPRIATENESS** (PUBLIC HEARING)

## HPC.ALT 2020.11 - 47 Vinal Avenue

Applicant: Michio Painter & Nadia Cohen

Owner: same as applicant

Replace basement windows with egress windows and replace bulk-

## DETERMINATIONS OF HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT (STEP 1 IN THE **DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS)**

## HPC.DMO 2020.11 - 55 Heath Street

Applicant: Lynne Thompson Owner: same as applicant Demolish carriage barn

## HPC.DMO 2020.12 - 71-72 Union Square

Applicant: Laxmi N. Pradhan, Trustee of Everest Realty Trust Owner: same as applicant

Demolish principal structure

## HPC.DMO 2020.13 - 217-233 Holland Street

Applicant: Silva Realty, LLC Owner: same as applicant

Demolish principal & accessory structures

As 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 to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Historic Preservation Commission at the public hearing or via e-mail to historic@somervillema.gov. All written comments must be received by NOON, one week prior to the date of the HPC meeting.

6/3/20 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be conducted by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM on an Application for a Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Managers, Transfers of Stock/New Stockholders and a Change of Manager for Shri Pramukhdrashti Corp. d/b/a Contan Discount Liquors, 115 Alewife Brook Parkway, Somerville, MA and an Application for an Alteration of Premises/Outdoor Seating for Bow Market Entertainment LLC, 337 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA

You and other members of the public are invited to attend and be heard at this Hearing.

Because of Governor Baker's and Mayor Curtatone's recent orders limiting the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Licensing Commission 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, into your internet browser anytime before the meeting: https://attendee. gotowebinar.com/register/2199014866765810960. 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.
- 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, Somerville, MA, 02143, or send an 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 Commission.

For the Commission Christopher Allen Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

**Attest: Lori Batzek** 

**Administrative Assistant** 

6/3/20 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



## City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

## **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 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

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/ register/4668677411644376336

Webinar ID:

**TO CALL IN** 

1 (631) 992-3221 Phone number: Access code: 852-021-233

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

345 Medford St 345 Medford St, LLC proposes to construct a 6 story

general building with a non-conforming rear set back in the Mid-Rise 4 district. This proposal requires three (3) Hardship Variances: for additional floors, for additional building height, and

for encroachment on the rear setback.

34 North St (Clarendon Hill)

POAH, Redgate, and the Somerville Community Corp seek a Comprehensive Permit under M.G.L. Chapter 40B. The proposal would replace the existing 216 units of housing at Clarendon Hill and create 375 additional units, for a total of 591 residential units in a mixture of apartment buildings and rowhouses. The Applicant is requesting waivers from various sections of the City's ordinances and requirements, including but not limited to waivers relating to the following topics: maximum density; maximum height; minimum set backs; parking requirements. The Applicant is also seeking a waiver to have the review required by various sections of the Code of Ordinances be conducted by the Zoning Board.

71 Union Square

Laxmi Pradhan, Trustee of Everest Realty Trust, proposes to construct a 3-story commercial building in the Commercial Core district. The proposal requires two Hardship Variances for ground story height, and for ground story fenestration.

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.

5/27/20, 6/3/20 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 public hearing on Thursday, June 11, 2020 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/4776727518817582096

737-354-627 Webinar ID:

**TO CALL IN** 1 (562) 247-8422 Phone number: 835-015-452 Access code:

The Planning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A

and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

378 Highland Ave NE Harvest Corp proposes to establish a Cannabis Retail Use in the MR3 district which

requires a Special Permit.

**5 Middlesex Ave** CDNV Assembly, LLC & CDNV Land, LLC is

seeking an Amendment to the Planned Unit Development-A Preliminary Master Plan previously approved under PB2018-7 from June 7, 2018 on 9.43 acres (Lots 88-A-1 & 99-A-15) in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use District (ASMD). The Amendment would allow for approximately 1.6 million square feet of mixed-use development (an increase of approximately 100,000 square feet). The proposal replaces the existing building (Block 24) and approved buildings for Blocks 21, 25, and 26 with primarily office/R&D/lab development and a new above-ground structured parking for up to 1,283 vehicles still focused around a significant Civic Space. The Applicant has also requested

133 Middlesex Ave Federal Realty Assembly Square, LLC is seeking a Revision to the SPSR-A Phase 1-AAA Assembly Square Marketplace, (PB#07.10, approved March 16, 2007), under the Planned Unit Development -Preliminary Master Plan (PUD-PMP) originally approved on December 14, 2006 (PB#2006-59 as amended) in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use District (ASMD) for a change of use to accommo date new office or restaurant uses within the existing building (no increase in square footage).

modifications to previously approved waivers.

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.

5/27/20, 6/3/20 The Somerville Times



## S.H.A. Job No. P-AUT052020

The Somerville Housing Authority invites bids from contractors for Auto, Small engine, Snow and Lawn Equipment Repair and Maintenance Contract # P-AUT052020. The Project consists of providing labor and material and other duties as described in the attached pro curement package.

Contract term is 3 years from date of on "Notice to Proceed" form

General Bids will be received by email only, until 11:00 A.M., June 17, 2020 and opened forthwith, at the Somerville Housing Authority Purchasing dept., 25 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 01245.

Bid forms and Contract Documents will be available from our at the Somerville Housing Authority web site. after 11:00 A.M. on June 3, 2020. You may download them from our web site www.sha-web.org under our bid opportunities tab. There will be no charge for these documents. If downloaded, you must contact Anthony Crespo and leave a contact email to receive changes, or updates.

Due to covid pandemic bids will only be accepted by email. Please email on or before due date to Anthony Crespo Tonyc@sha-web.org. Subject line on email should read Auto Contract Bid # P-AUT052020. If an email is received, you will receive a reply. It shall be the vendor's responsibility to ensure the bid is received. If you don't get a reply notify Anthony Crespo at 617-625-1152 extension 336.

6/3/20 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 6:00PM, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for a Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Managers, Transfers of Stock/New Stockholders and a Change of Manager for Shri Pramukhdrashti Corp. d/b/a Contan Discount Liquors, 115 Alewife Brook Parkway, Somerville, MA

> For the Commission Christopher Allen Joseph P. Lynch Jr. John J. McKenna

**Attest: Lori Batzek Administrative Assistant** 

6/3/20 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Monday, June 15, 2020 at 6:00PM, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for an Alteration of Premises/Outdoor Seating for Bow Market Entertainment LLC, 337 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA

> For the Commission Christopher Allen Joseph P. Lynch Jr. John J. McKenna

Attest: Lori Batzek **Administrative Assistant** 

6/3/20 The Somerville Times

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## **LEGAL NOTICES**

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NORFOLK, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL ACTION NO. 1928CV01293

JAY CASHMAN, INC.,

Plaintiff,

ADIL DHOUHI, Defendant.

## ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, a civil action has been brought against Adil Dhouhi seeking judgment on counts of Money Had and Received, Unjust Enrichment, Breach of Fiduciary Duty and Breach of Loyalty, Conversion, Fraud, and Breach of the Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing

WHEREAS it appears to the Court from the Affidavit of Tom E. Zoller filed in this action that after the exercise of reasonable due diligence that no one can find Adil Dhouhi and that no personal service of the Complaint may be made upon Adil Dhouhi, it is ORDERED, pursuant to Mass.R.Civ.P. 4(d)(1), that notice of this suit be given to Adil Dhouhi by publishing this Order, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the last publication to be at least twenty (20) days before said return day, in the Boston Globe and each of three newspapers of general circulation distributed within three miles of 15 Murray Court, East Boston, MA 02128; 16 Franklin Street, Apt. 1, Somerville, MA 02145; and 7 Lowman Circle, Peabody, MA 01960.

WE COMMAND YOU, ADIL DHOUHI, if you intend to make any defense, that on or by June 30, 2020, or within such further time as the law allows you, do cause your written responsive pleading (or other response as appropriate) to be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Norfolk Superior Court, 650 High Street, Dedham, MA 02026 in said Commonwealth, with a copy to be served upon the Plaintiff's attorney, James G. Grillo, Esq., Davagian Grillo & Semple LLP, 365 Boston Post Road, Ste. 200, Sudbury, MA 01776, and further that you defend against said suit according to law if you intend any defense, and that you do and receive what the Court shall order and adjudge therein. If you fail to meet the above requirements, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13(e), your answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which you may have against the Plaintiff which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiff's claim or you will be barred from making any such claim in any other action.

SO ORDERED.

Dated this 13th day of April 2020.

Loans Cloyson

JUSTICE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

WITNESS, Judith Fabricant, at Dedham, Massachusetts the <u>/34</u> day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.

5/20/20, 5/27/20, 6/3/20 The Somerville Times



## Information Session and Public Hearing on FY2021 Water and Sewer Rates, June 11

The City of Somerville will hold a virtual information session and public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 water and sewer rates on **Thursday, June 11**. The information session will start at 6 p.m. and the public hearing will begin promptly at **6:30 p.m.** Anyone who would like to testify is welcome to attend. Written testimony will also be accepted until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16. Written testimony can be submitted by emailing water@somervillema.gov or by mailing it to the Water and Sewer Department, 17 Franey Rd., Somerville, MA 02145.

The information session and hearing will be hosted on the GoToWebinar platform and there will also be an option to call into the meeting from a phone. Visit <a href="www.somervillema.gov/water">www.somervillema.gov/water</a> shortly before 6 p.m. to join live or get call-in information, or call 311. The information session and public hearing will be recorded and rebroadcast on City Cable (channel 13 on RCN, channel 22 on Comcast) and on the City's You Tube channel

The proposed rates were submitted to the City Council during its meeting on Thursday, May 28, and can be viewed online at <a href="www.somervillema.gov/water">www.somervillema.gov/water</a>.

Interpretation into Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, or Nepali is available upon advance request (at least 5 business days advance notice needed) by contacting the SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs at <a href="mailto:somerviva@somervillema.gov">somerviva@somervillema.gov</a> or calling 311.

Individuals with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, 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 should contact Nency Salamoun, at 617-625-6600 x2323 or NSalamoun@somervillema.gov.

6/3/20 The Somerville Times

Want to write local
Somerville stories?
Call 617-666-4010
and speak to the Assignment Editor

## Firefighters Memorial Sunday postponed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Firefighters Memorial Sunday has been postponed.

Local 76 plans to hold Memorial Sunday in the fall with the hopes that family and friends can attend as they have in the past.

Please take a moment on June 14 to remember all members who have made the ultimate sacrifice.



## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

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

Dear Editor,

I want to remind people that starting June 1st, 2020, flavored tobacco, including menthol cigarettes like Kools and Newports will no longer be sold in Massachusetts. Last Fall, the Fight All Flavors campaign and many supporting partners worked to build grassroots understanding of and support for a proposed flavored tobacco restriction with an explicit focus on building youth leadership and calling out the tobacco and nicotine industry's targeting of menthol in communities of color.

The tobacco and vaping industries have targeted youth, LGBTQ populations and communities of color with their deadly products, causing many health consequences for these populations specifically. Flavors, like mint and menthol, are a leading reason that young people start vaping and using tobacco.

The law, which goes into effect on

June 1, 2020, means that:

Menthol cigarettes and all other flavored tobacco products like flavored cigars, flavored chewing tobacco, and flavored e-cigarettes and nicotine vaping products will no longer be widely available in Massachusetts.

E-cigarettes and nicotine vaping products will increase in price.

I'm excited to see that No Menthol. Know Why. is an extension of that work; they're working with community-based organizations, youth advocates, public health and health care partners, local health departments, churches, regional Tobacco-Free Community Partnership programs, and more to reach out to and support the communities most impacted by the new law. They want to build awareness about the law and provide information about the resources available to help people quit smoking.

You can help spread the word in Health Resources in Action

your community. Visit NoMenthol-KnowWhy.org to learn more, to share your menthol story and to find tools and resource to share.

For information about how the law will be enforced visit mass.gov/ NewTobaccoLaw.

Help for those who want to quit vaping, smoking or using other tobacco products is available for FREE at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669) and KeepTrying-MA.org.

Contact Edgar Duran Elmudesi at the Metro Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership, eduran@hria.org or 617-451-0049 x549 to learn more about the law, how you can support people in quitting and to find out how you can partner with us.

Edgar Duran Elmudesi Metro Boston Tobacco-Free Community Partnership Health Resources in Action

## The Beautiful Stuff Project awarded Cummings Grant CONT. FROM PG 9

\$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

This year's diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. The non-profits are spread across 40 different cities and towns, and most will receive their grants over two to five years.

The complete list of 130 grant winners is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org. A great deal more information about Cummings Foundation is detailed in Bill Cummings' self—written business book, "Starting Small and Making It Big: Hands-On Lessons in Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy."

## About The Beautiful Stuff Project

The Beautiful Stuff Project collects materials from local businesses and manufacturers and diverts them from landfills by giving them a second life through creative play. Working with schools throughout Somerville and neighboring cities, The Beautiful Stuff Project brings an amazing Treasure Box curriculum into classrooms to encourage exploration and STEAM learning, and also leads collaborative community art projects, drop-in art sessions for immigrant parents, camps, and other creative activities for community members.

During this time of social distancing and the COVID-19 outbreak, the Beautiful Stuff Project is finding ways to manage the realities of running an organization in a very new context. Most of the upcycled materials that filled the storefront have been turned into colorful creativity care packages and delivered to hundreds of families in need throughout the city, and in partnership with SFLC, Beautiful Stuff Project has turned it's Medford Street storefront into the city's diaper donation hub, preparing diapers for weekly distribution at the school meal sites. We have started a Beautiful Stuff Project At Home YouTube channel, and activity kits and upcycled grab-bags are now available for delivery and curbside pick-up. In all of these new ways materials are still being diverted from landfills and encouraging playful learning.

The generous grant from the Cummings Foundation recognizes the special role that The Beautiful Stuff Project plays in Somerville and its neighboring communities and the important needs that it meets every day.

## **About Cummings Foundation**

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn, and Veterinary School at Tufts, LLC in North Grafton. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

## **Congratulations Class of 2020!**

SHS is highlighting graduates on their @SHS\_SeniorSpotlight Instagram account.

## CAP & GOWN / GRADUATION SCHEDULE

- · Cap & Gown / Gift Bag Pickup is at Somerville High School. Graduation is at Dilboy Parking Lot.
- · Social Distancing Guidelines MUST be followed. Masks are required. Please allow 6 feet of distance from others.
- Bring Chromebooks, textbooks, instruments, uniforms & other items to return to Cap & Gown Pickup.
- One automobile per senior at graduation ceremony, or maximum of 5 people per family if walking.
- Graduation schedule 2020

Cap & Gown at SHS	Graduation; Dilboy	Last Name	through	Last Name	Report Time
6/3/20	6/10/20	Al-Hedri	_	Bartolomeu	9:00-9:30AM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Bastien	_	Beriguete	9:30-10:00AM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Bermudez	_	Butler	10:00-10:30AM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Campos	_	Chiaravalloti	10:30-11:00AM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Childs		Cyriaque	11:00-11:30AM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Da Cruz	_	Dodin	11:30-12:00PM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Duclos-Orsello		Felisbino	12:30-1:00PM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Felix		Garcia	1:00-1:30PM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Garcia Rodriguez	_	Greene	1:30-2:00PM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Guevara	_	Hughes	2:00-2:30PM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Hunt		Knudsen	2:30-3:00PM
6/3/20	6/10/20	Korzennik		Leyva	3:00-3:30PM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Lizama Flores	_	Marquez	9:00-9:30AM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Martinez	_	Mehary	9:30-10:00AM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Mejia, Angie		Moura	10:00-10:30AM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Munoz	_	O'Brien	10:30-11:00AM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Obiapuna	_	Pandey	11:00-11:30AM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Pena		Pineda Tejada	11:30AM-12:00PM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Plumb	_	Reyes Jimenez	12:30-1:00PM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Reyes Pena		Salazar	1:00-1:30PM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Sanchez		Sharma	1:30-2:00PM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Shea	_	Sorto-Flores	2:00-2:30PM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Sousa Grilo	_	Valladares	2:30-3:00PM
6/4/20	6/11/20	Valverde	_	Zorrilla- Romero	3:00-3:30PM

## **GRADUATION CAPS AND GOWNS**

Caps & Gowns, along with Graduation Gift bags, can be picked up at Somerville High School on Wednesday, June 3, and Thursday, June 4, 2020.

- + Beacon House Wednesday, June 3, 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- Elm House Wednesday, June 3, 12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.
- $\bullet$  Highland House Thursday, June 4, 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- Broadway House Thursday, June 4, 12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.

Students will be assigned staggered times to report at thirty minute intervals. IMPORTANT: Students must report during their scheduled time only. Seniors should return any school chromebook, textbook, or other school property when picking up their Cap & Gown. Seniors with personal belongings in their locker should also inform us at that time and a staff member will retrieve these items from their locker. Please contact your Assistant Principal if you are unable to pick up your Cap & Gown at your assigned time and we will make other arrangements.

## **DIPLOMAS**

Students will have an opportunity to individually walk across the stage and pick up their diploma in a series of 3-hour events (2 each day) scheduled by House in a series of "drive-up" graduation events at the Dilboy Stadium parking lot over the course of two days. Graduating students and family members will be invited to Dilboy on either June 10th or June 11th, 2020. Over the course of a 3-hour period, each graduate will individually walk across the stage, receive their diploma, and have their photo taken. We have set up the following schedule over the 2-day period.

- Beacon House Wednesday, June 10, 2020 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- Elm House Wednesday, June 10, 12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.
- Highland House Thursday, June 11, 9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
- Broadway House Thursday, June 11, 12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.
- + Rain date Friday, June 12

Please note, students will be assigned staggered times to report at thirty minute intervals. The assigned times to report will be provided to each student at a later date. IMPORTANT: Students must report during their scheduled time only. Graduates arriving by car must enter the parking lot entrance on the Medford side of the stadium. Graduates and their family members must arrive in one car, must remain in their car, and will be directed on how to proceed to the staging area. Graduates arriving on foot will line up at socially responsible distances along the walkway on the Medford side of the stadium. Graduates should arrive at Dilboy wearing their Cap & Gown and ready to have their photo taken.

## **CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUATES!**

We invite community members and families to make posters/signs to put in windows or yards (or use chalk on your driveways or sidewalks) to congratulate our 2020 graduates. Feel free to start putting up signs as soon as you like, and share on social media. Thank you for helping celebrate this important milestone for our students.

— Somerville Public Schools

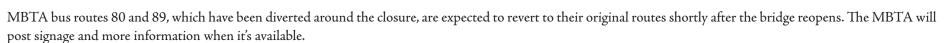
## Green Line Extension to reopens Broadway and Washington Street bridges

The Green Line Extension (GLX) project announced last that the Washington Street Bridge / Underpass near McGrath Highway in East Somerville would permanently reopen on May 31. The Broadway Bridge in Ball Square is expected to reopen shortly thereafter during the first week of June. Both bridges were closed in the spring of 2019 and completely reconstructed to advance the GLX project.

At Washington Street, the roadway underpass will reopen with one travel lane in each direction. A temporary pedestrian sidewalk will be open on one side of the roadway until final surface restoration is complete. Work will continue overhead on the elevated track level during this phase. Permanent pavement, finished sidewalks on both sides, lighting, and street markings will be completed this summer.

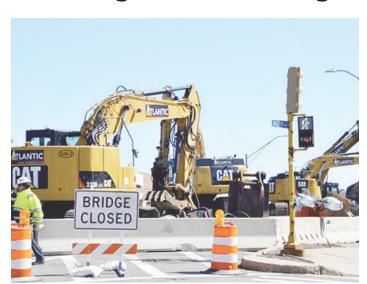
MBTA bus routes 86, 91, and CT2, which have been diverted around the closure, are expected to revert to their original routes soon after the underpass reopens. The MBTA will post signage and more information when it's available.

At Broadway, the bridge will initially reopen with one travel lane in each direction. During this early stage, temporary accessible sidewalks and bike lanes will be installed on one side of the bridge allowing bike/pedestrian travel in both directions at all times.



Final surface restorations are expected to be completed this summer. At that time, the bridge will include permanent pavement markings with two travel lanes in each direction, in addition to finished sidewalks and bike lanes on each side of the bridge. When the future Ball Square Station (now under construction) is complete, the bridge will feature a fully accessible entrance to the station platform from the bridge sidewalk via an elevator and staircase. A second at-grade entrance will be constructed from Boston Ave.

The city recognizes these long-term closures were disruptive for many in the community and is grateful to all for their patience and perseverance during construction. The long-awaited GLX will bring seven new T stations to the region and extend the Somerville Community Path to North Point Park, near the Charles River in Cambridge. It will put 85% of Somerville residents within a half-mile of a subway stop and add almost 11 miles of new drainage infrastructure. It's expected to reduce traffic, improve air quality, and foster economic development. For more information, visit www.Mass.gov/GLX.

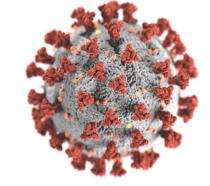


## **COVID-19 update for 5/28/20**

Case Counts: As of 3:00 p.m., May 28, a total of 880 Somerville residents have tested positive for COVID-19, 645 have since recovered, and sadly there have been 26 deaths. See more Somerville case data on the City's COVID-19 Dashboard.

Flags at half-staff in Somerville: The nation reached a painful milestone this week: we've now had 100,000 known deaths in the United States due to COVID-19. Among them are the 26 souls we've lost right here at home. To solemnly observe this heartbreaking loss of life within Somerville and the country, as well as to pay respects to all in the world who have been taken by the virus, the flags in Somerville were lowered to half-staff today.

Additional \$1.5 million coming for rental assistance: The City recently became eligible for \$2 million in U.S. CARES Act funding, \$1.5 million of which the City earmarked for rental assistance for those who need it most, and one-half million will be used for other COVID-19 relief efforts, including healthcare services and food security programs. Residents seeking rental assistance will be able to access the funds through partner nonprofit organizations. Further details about that process will be announced soon. More info here. (Find more information on housing resources below.)



Street sweeping reminder: Street sweeping began last Monday and parking enforcement will begin this coming Monday, June 1. Until June 1, we are asking for voluntary compliance. On Monday, June 1, parking officers will start issuing tickets for not observing street sweeping rules. Street sweeping removes debris off the streets so it doesn't clog storm drains, which can cause flooding. Check the signs on your street and visit somervillema.gov/sweeper to be sure you know when to move your car. Policies are being developed to account for persons ordered to isolate due to COVID-19 who are thus unable to move their car.

Free COVID-19 testing: The Somerville Board of Health strongly urges all residents to be tested for COVID-19. The more people that get tested, the safer our reopening will be. You do not need to have symptoms or a doctor's referral. To sign up for free COVID-19 testing for Somerville residents, call 617-665-2928, Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

## Mystic Cleaners and Tailors closes

An icon is leaving Winter Hill. After sixty years in business, Mystic Cleaners and Tailors is closing. In 1955 their father opened up at 273 Broadway where the Dragon Star is now. In 1980 they moved in at 282 Broadway where the business flourished.

David, his brother Anthony and their employees were kind and gentle and met their customer's needs. They had plans to retire in two years or so but the COVID19 virus pushed the business to close. Their last day was May 30.



Any clothes that are not picked up can be retrieved at Utopia Cleaners, 1370 Broadway Arlington, or email mhlow21@gmail.com.

They will be missed in our community.



1. June 18

7. Yellow

2. June 6, 1889

8. Lady Bird Johnson

3. Black Sabbath

9. Brown

4. Light and fine plain wo-

10. Welcome to Dead House

ven dress fabric

5. Linkin Park

11. Musical instrument

6. Jacqueline Kennedy

12. A Hard Day's Night

## SMC documentary on opioid crisis wins Hometown Media Award

SMC is pleased and honored to honor and promote community announce that it won Best Documentary in the Access Profesthat are distributed on Public, sional Category of the Alliance for Community Media Hometown Awards for the documentary From My Heart to Yours.

This short educational film, produced by staff member Stuart Roelke and former staff member Erica Jones, provides an intimate look at how the availability and use of opioids have impacted the lives of many individuals, in Somerville and throughout New England. It is the result of a collaboration between the City of Somerville's Health and Human Services Department and the Somerville Media Center, a non-profit community media arts organization that is the oldest media access center in Massachusetts.

The Hometown Media Awards were established by the Alliance for Community Media (of which SMC is a member) to honor and promote community media and local cable programs that are distributed on Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access channels. SMC Executive Director, Brian Zipp states, "The Hometown Awards are the pinnacle of national recognition by our community media peers, the nearly 2,000 PEG Access Centers throughout the country. This award is a testament to the caliber of content made in Somerville."

"This is such a great honor," remarked Somerville's Prevention Services Center manager, Matthew Mitchell who worked closely on the project. Mitchell, who also provided the voice-over narration for the documentary continued, "We spent a lot of time curating From My Heart to Yours and it's amazing to see the response it's received since debuting last Summer. It will continue to be utilized as an educational resource for our

community and beyond to show individuals that recovery is real. Thank you so much to everyone who supported this process. Without the support of the City of Somerville and Somerville Media Center, this would not have been possible."

This documentary was released on July 31, 2019 and is a testament to the severity of this growing issue, front line public health workers, heart-shattered families of the lives lost, and of course individuals lives stolen from opioid addiction. As part of the film's release, screenings and discussions were held through 2019 and 2020 at venues such as the Central Library, Council on Aging, Connexxion and the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery.

The documentary includes interviews with representatives of the Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery, recovering addicts who talk openly

PAIDE AND JOY
DEREK
3-7 - 3-9-16

about their experiences but also how the transformation of the opioid problem as grown into an epidemic, and family members who gather to challenge the force of Purdue Pharma who has been widely recognized as a catalyst and responsible since they introduced the drug Oxycontin to the medical field.

It has been SMC's mission for nearly forty years to share the stories often unheard or not represented in mainstream media with our community through educational videos. The opioid epidemic is one that hits home for many people and to be able to try to convey the stories of those who were at their most vulnerable state and their journey to recovery was an incredibly powerful and moving experience for those involved in the project. In addition to the production team of Stuart Roelke and Erica Jones, SMC would also like to acknowledge the

contribution of JoAnn Rivieccio (SMC member-producer) in this award-winning effort.

From My Heart to Yours is available for viewing on You-Tube at https://bit.ly/SMC\_ Heart and Somerville Media Center's Video-on-Demand service on its website.

About Somerville Media Center

Somerville Media Center is a membership based non-profit community media arts organization based in Somerville, MA. Founded in 1983, SMC operates SCATV Public Access Channel 3, an Internet radio station called Boston Free Radio, a Podcast Studio, a robust Youth Media Program and serves the community through the production of PSA's, various staff-facilitated programs, including the community journalism program, Somerville Neighborhood News, and coverage of community events, meetings, and political forums.



## Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

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## On This Day in History June 3

1539 – Hernando De Soto claims Florida for Spain.

1864 – Some 7,000 Union troops are killed within 30 minutes during the Battle of Cold Harbor in Virginia.

1888 – The classic baseball poem "Casey at the Bat," written by Ernest L. Thayer, is published in the San Francisco Examiner.

1923 - In Italy, dictator Benito Mussolini grants women the right to vote.

1938 - The German Third Reich votes to confiscate so-called "degenerate art."

1965 – Astronaut Edward White becomes the first American to walk in space when he exits the Gemini 4 space capsule.

1974 - Charles Colson, an aide to President Richard Nixon, pleads guilty to obstruction of justice.

1989 – The Chinese government begins its crackdown on pro-democracy activists in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

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## SCATV | Channel 3 Schedule

SCATV is part of Somerville Media Center, home to Boston Free Radio, Somerville Neighborhood News and SMC Youth Media! Join SMC today to make your own TV or Radio Production, learn skills like editing and field production and sign up for special media making workshops and classes for youth and adults! somervillemedia.org

	, ,		<u> </u>	J 1	1 3 1		3
Wednesd	ay, June 3	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	12:00am	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
12:00am	Free Speech TV	4:00pm	VOX POP: Somerville Connects	9:00am	SMC Youth Media	5:00am	Free Speech TV
6:00am	NASA TV	4:30pm	The Struggle	9:30am	Science 360	6:00am	NASA TV
7:00am	Community Bulletin Board	5:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	10:00am	Dead Air Live	7:00am	Somerville Storytellers
7:30am	DW In Good Shape	6:00pm	#AFAD	11:00am	TeleGalaxie	7:30am	Going Postal
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	6:30pm	#AFAD	12:00pm	Somerville Storytellers	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
9:00am	DW Global 3000	7:00pm	Community Lens: SHC 5K Race	1:00pm	Tele Magazine	9:00am	Science 360
9:30am	Both Sides of the Bars	8:00pm	LIVE - Our View	2:00pm	Reeling Review	10:00am	Somerville Neighborhood News
10:00am	Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer	9:00pm	PABFONE Closing Day Ceremony		1A House of Representatives Formal Session	11:00am	Our View
10:30am	Somerville Neighborhood News	10:00pm	Community Bulletin Board	4:00pm	Tele Kreyol	12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show
11:00am	SNN Neighborhood Update	10:30pm	The World Fusion Show	5:00pm	Henry Parker Presents	1:00pm	SOM ARTS
11:30am	From My Heart to Yours	11:00pm	VOX POP Comedy Night	5:30pm	Henry Parker Presents	1:30pm	Somerville Storytellers
12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show	Friday, June	5	6:00pm	Somerville Pundits	2:00pm	NASA TV
1:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	12:00am	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	6:30pm	The Somerville Labor Show	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)
1:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	1:00am	SCATV Secret Stash	7:00pm	BLOWW Show a Go Go	4:00pm	African Television Network
2:00pm	Colores Latinos	1:30am	SCATV Secret Stash	7:30pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	5:00pm	Community Lens: SHC 5K Race
3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	2:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm	#AFAD	6:00pm	LIVE from VOX POP
4:00pm	DW Conflict Zone	6:00am	NASA TV	9:00pm	Nossa Gente e Costumes	6:30pm	Fur, Fins and Feathers
4:30pm Au	utumn Reads with Somerville Public Library	7:00am	The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV)	10:00pm	Heavy Leather Music Video Show	7:00pm	Tele Galaxie
5:00pm	Hello Neighbor	8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	11:00pm	SCATV Secret Stash	8:00pm	LIVE -Somerville Overcoming Addiction
5:30pm	From My Heart to Yours	9:00am	DW Euromaxx	11:30pm	Queer Cats	9:00pm	Dedilhando au Saudade
6:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News	9:30am	Strata	Sunday, J	une 7	10:00pm	Colores Latinos
6:30pm	VOX POP: Somerville Connects	10:00am	NASA TV	12:00am	Flotilla	11:00pm	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party
7:00pm	"The Cask of Amontillado" at VOX POP	11:00am	SOM ARTS	1:00am	NASA TV		, , ,
7:30pm	Sidewalks Entertainment	11:30am	Cambridge Calendar	1:30am	NASA TV	Tuesday, J	
8:00pm	LIVE - Somerville Pundits	12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show	2:00am	NASA TV	12:00am	Public Safety/Homeland Security Hearing
8:30pm	DW Euromaxx	1:00pm	Community Benefits Agreement	3:00am	Free Speech TV	6:00am	NASA TV
9:00pm	Revolution Awakening at VOX POP	2:00pm	Somerville Pundits	6:00am	Bate Papo com Shirley	7:00am	NASA TV
10:00pm	LIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	2:30pm Autu	mn Reads with Somerville Public Library	7:00am	Nossa Gentes e Costumes	8:00am	Democracy Now!
11:00pm	Flotilla	3:00pm	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	8:00am	Effort Pour Christ	9:00am	The Chef's Table Series
Thursday	. lune 4	4:00pm	Gay USA	9:00am	NASA TV	10:00am	Strata
12:30am	SCATV Secret Stash	5:00pm	DW Global 3000	10:00am	Tele Kreyol	11:00am	Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals
1:00am	Free Speech TV	5:30pm	What's New Massachusetts?		1A House of Representatives Formal Session	12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show
1:30am	Free Speech TV	6:00pm	Grandstanders	12:00pm	Sidewalks Entertainment	1:00pm	Revolution Awakening at VOX POP
2:00am	Free Speech TV	7:00pm	Emergency Preparedness	1:00pm	SOM ARTS	2:00pm	Somerville Overcoming Addiction
3:00am	Free Speech TV	7:30pm	The Somerville Labor Show	1:30pm	SNN Neighborhood Update	3:00pm	Democracy Now!
6:00am	Bate Papo com Shirley	8:00pm	LIVE - Greater Somerville	2:00pm	Chico and B-Man	4:00pm	SMC Youth Media
7:00am	DW Conflict Zone	8:30pm	Greater Somerville	3:00pm	African Television Network	4:30pm	Going Postal
7:30am	DW Euromaxx	9:00pm	Fur, Fins and Feathers	4:00pm	Dedilhando a Saudade	5:00pm	LIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer
8:00am	Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)	10:00pm	Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party	5:00pm	Gay USA	5:30pm	What's New Massachusetts?
9:00am	DW Tomorrow Today	11:00pm	Heavy Leather Music Video Show	6:00pm	VOX POP: Somerville Connects	6:00pm	Somerville Neighborhood News
9:30am	Hello Neighbor	Saturday, Ju		6:30pm	DW Tomorrow Today	6:30pm	From My Heart to Yours
10:00am	The Chef's Table Series	12:00am	VOX POP Comedy Night	7:00pm	Emergency Preparedness	7:00pm	The Somerville Labor Show
10:30am	The Chef's Table Series	1:00am	Free Speech TV	8:00pm	Dead Air Live	7:30pm	LIVE - Greater Somerville
11:00am	Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals	2:00am	Free Speech TV	9:00pm	Tele Magazine	8:00pm	LIVE - Dead Air Live
11:30am	Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals	3:00am	Free Speech TV	10:00pm	Community Lens: Somerville 5K Detour TUTV	9:00pm	The World Fusion Show
12:00pm	The Thom Hartman Show	5:00am	Free Speech TV	11:00pm		10:00pm	Totally Working Out
1:00pm	The Somerville Line	6:00am	DW Focus on Europe	11:30pm	SCATV Secret Stash	11:00pm	Box House Productions Presents
1.30nm	The Somerville Line	7.00am	Effort Pour Christ	Monday	lune 8	11:30pm	SCATV Secret Stash

## 22 (Comcast) (RCN) Schedule

9:15am

9:20am

9:30am

Monday, June 8

Effort Pour Christ

Senior Circuit

## Wednesday, June 3 7:00am Chair Yoga w/Janine Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers 7:30am 8:20am SPD Mask-Wearing Enforcement Discussion 8:30am Raising Families Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz 9:00am City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne SPD Ride Along 10:00am 10:30am Health & Hygiene PSA 2020 Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 10:45am 11:00am COVID19 Olderamericans Prevention PSA 11:21am 11:30am City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne 12:00pm School Committee Meeting 5.18.20 2:35pm Atualizacoes em Tempos de Coronavirus 2:45pm 3:00pm SPD Mask-Wearing Enforcement Discussion Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz 4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #3 5:00pm 7:03pm Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone Cooking w/Ellen: Fried Lemon Pasta SPD Ride Along 7:15pm Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers 7:30pm 8:20pm City Alert 6.2.20 8:30pm City Council Meeting 5.28.20 11:05pm Atualizações em Tempos de Coronavirus Cooking w/Ellen: Fried Lemon Pasta 11:10pm City Alert 6.2.20 11:22pm City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne 11:30pm Thursday, June 4 12:00am Senior Circuit 12:30am Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone 2:07am Cooking w/Ellen: Fried Lemon Pasta 2:30am Atualizações em Tempos de Coronavirus 7:00am Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz 7:45am Chair Yoga w/Janine

Cooking w/Ellen: Fried Lemon Pasta

Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers

Memorial Day Remembrance 2020

SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen

SHS Boys Soccer vs N. Andover

SHS Boys' Basketball @ Billerica

SHS Boys Basketball vs Billerica

SHS Girls' Basketball vs Charlestown

Thank You from Mayor loe Curtatone

Senior Circuit

7:27am

8:00am

7:30pm

8:00pm

10:00pm

Friday, June 5

City Alert 6.2.20

Fit 4 Life 2020 #1

The Somerville Line

7:00am

11:30am

12:00pm

1:30pm

8:15am

8:30am

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City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne

Raising Families
Fit 4 Life 2020 #3
Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz
Atualizacoes em Tempos de Coronavirus
City's COVID-19 Testing Program
SPD Ride Along
CC-Housing & Community Development
Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers
June 6
CC-Finance Committee Meeting 6.1.20
Chair Yoga w/Janine
COVID19 Olderamericans Prevention PSA
City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne
Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers
Memorial Day Remembrance 2020
•

Jef Czekaj's Sequestered Storytime

Jef Czekaj's Sequestered Storytime

SHS Girls' Basketball vs Charlestown

SHS Girls Basketball vs Methuen

12:30am	Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers
12:00am	Senior Circuit
Monday,	June 8
11:00pm	City's COVID-19 Testing Program
7:30pm	CC-Legislative Matters 6.4.20
7:00pm	Senior Circuit
6:30pm	City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne
6:00pm	Raising Families
4:30pm	The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism
4:00pm	Fit-4-Life #5
1:30pm	Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Joe Curtatone
1:20pm	Health & Human Services Update
12:30pm	Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers
12:00pm	Senior Circuit
11:30am	Chair Yoga w/Janine
11:21am	COVID19 Olderamericans Prevention PSA
11:00am	Fit 4 Life 2020 #1
9:15am	Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone
9:00am	Cooking w/Ellen: Fried Lemon Pasta
8:31am	Raising Families
7:00am	Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone
2:35am	Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz
12:00am	School Committee Meeting 5.18.20
Sunday,	June 7
11:30pm	City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne
8:00pm	CC-Finance Committee Meeting 6.1.20
7:30pm	Raising Families
7:20pm	SPD Mask-Wearing Enforcement Discussion
6:31pm	Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers
5:00pm	Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone
4:45pm	Thank You from Mayor Joe Curtatone
4:30pm	Memorial Day Remembrance 2020
4:26pm	COVID19 Olderamericans Prevention PSA
4:00pm	Fit 4 Life 2020 #2
2:03pm	Public Health & Public Safety Committee
12:00pm	Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone
11:00am 11:30am	Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne
11.00	Fit 4 Life 2020 #1

Thank You from Mayor Joe Curtatone

CC-Traffic & Parking Meeting 5.13.20

Atualizações em Tempos de Coronavirus

1:30am Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone 7:00am Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone 8:40am Cooking w/Ellen: Fried Lemon Pasta 8:55am Thank You from Mayor Joe Curtatone 9:00am The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism 11:00am Fit 4 Life 2020 #3 Memorial Day Remembrance 2020 11:30am 11:45am Thank You from Mayor Joe Curtatone 12:00pm City Council Meeting 5.28.20 2:35pm Raising Families 4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #2 Letters of World War II at Council on Aging 4:30pm CC-Legislative Matters 6.4.20 6:00pm 9:00pm Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone 10:31pm City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne 11:00pm Atualizacoes em Tempos de Coronavirus 11:05pm SomerViva em Português - March 2020 11:35pm Memorial Day Remembrance 2020 Thank You from Mayor Joe Curtatone 11:50pm Tuesday, June 9 12:00am City Council Meeting 5.28.20 Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone 2:35am Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone 7:00am 9:03am Raising Families The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism Fit-4-Life #4 2017 9:30am 11:00am COVID19 Olderamericans Prevention PSA 11:20am City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne CC-Legislative Matters 6.4.20 11:30am 12:00pm 4:00pm Fit 4 Life 2020 #3 Chair Yoga w/Janine 4:30pm Letters of World War II at Council on Aging 5:00pm 6:15pm Memorial Day Remembrance 2020 Cooking w/Ellen: Fried Lemon Pasta 6:30pm 7:00pm Senior Circuit Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone 7:30pm 9:10pm CC-Finance Committee Meeting 6.1.20 Wednesday, June 10 12:00am Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers 1:00am East Somerville Walking Tour - 6.16.19

SCATV Secret Stash

## **Educational TV 15 Schedule**

Wednesda	ay, June 3
8:00am	SPL Storytime with Miss Ann [4.1.20]
9:00am	SPL Storytime with Miss Ann [4/16]
10:00am	Class Day 2019
12:30pm	SHS Football 2000 -Revisited
1:00pm	SHS Graduation 2019
3:00pm	SHS Baseball vs Pope John
4:30pm	Brown School Spring Concert [5.28.19]
6:00pm	SPL Storytime with Miss Ann [4.1.20]
7:00pm	SPL Storytime with Miss Ann [4/16]
7:30pm	SHS Boys Basketball 2009-10
8:00pm	Class Day 2019
10:30pm	SHS Football 2000 -Revisited
11:00pm	SHS Graduation 2019
Thursday,	June 4
1:00am	SHS Baseball vs Pope John
2:30am	Brown School Spring Concert [5.28.19]
8:00am	Jef Czekaj's Sequestered Storytime
9:00am	SPL Storvtime w/Miss Alison [5.5.20]

12:00am SHS Boys' Basketball @ Billerica 1:30am 8:00am 9:00am 11:00am 1:05pm 3:30pm 6:00pm 7:00pm 9:00pm SHS Football vs Everett [10.13.01] 11:05pm

SHS Boys Basketball vs Billerica SPL Storytime w/Miss Ann [5.7.20] SHS Boys Basketball vs MC [12.14.10] SHS Football vs Revere SHS Football vs Everett [10.13.01] Class Day 2019 Night Owl Storytime w/Miss Meghan SHS Boys Basketball vs MC [12.14.10] SHS Football vs Revere

Saturday, June 6 1:30am

Class Day 2019 8:00am Jef Czekaj's Sequestered Storytime 8:30am SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge [1.19.10] El Sistema Spring Concert 10:00am 11:00am String Fest & Summer HONK Concert MIAA Playoff: SHS Boys Soccer v Revere 12:00pm Girls Intramural Basketball Championship

3:00pm Boys Intramural Basketball Championship Girls' Middle School Soccer Championships 4:00pm Boys' Middle School Soccer Championship 5:00pm 6:00pm lef Czekai's Sequestered Storytime SHS Girls Basketball Highlights 2016-17 6:30pm 7:00pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge [1.19.10] String Fest & Summer HONK Concert 9:00pm 10:00pm MIAA Playoff: SHS Boys Soccer v Revere

Sunday, June 7 12:00am

12:00am SHS Boys Basketball vs MC [12.14.10] 2:00am SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge [1.19.10] CTE Senior Awards Night 2015 8:00am 9:30am SHS Boys Soccer v Cambridge - 10/25/14 SHS Football v N. Reading 9/25/15 11:30am MIAA Playoff: SHS Boys Soccer v Everett 1:30pm 3:30pm SHS Football @ Boston Latin 6:00pm CTE Senior Awards Night 2015 SHS Boys Soccer v Cambridge - 10/25/14 7:30pm 9:30pm SHS Football v N. Reading 9/25/15 MIAA Playoff: SHS Boys Soccer v Everett 11:30pm

Monday, June 8 1:30am

3:30am

MIAA Playoff: SHS Boys Soccer v Everett SHS Football @ Boston Latin SPL Storytime w/Miss Meghan [5.6.20]

SPL Storytime w/Miss Ann [5.7.20] 9:00am 10:00am SHS Football vs Everett [10.13.01] SHS Boys Soccer v Everett [9.29.14] 12:30pm 2:00pm SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett SHS Football 2000 -Revisited 3:30pm SHS Football vs Lawrence [11.11.01] 4:00pm 6:00pm SPL Storytime w/Miss Meghan [5.6.20] 7:00pmNight Owl Storytime w/Miss Meghan [5.6.20] SHS Football 2000 -Revisited 7:34pm SHS Football vs Everett [10.13.01] 8:00pm SHS Boys Soccer v Everett [9.29.14] 10:30pm

Tuesday, June 9 12:00am SHS Football vs Lawrence [11.11.01] 2:00am SHS Boys Basketball vs MC [12.14.10] 8:00am Sunsetters 2019! 8:35am SING! Somerville 10:00am SHS Football vs CRLS SHS Football vs Medford [9.28.18] 12:30pm 3:00pm SHS Football vs Cambridge SHS Football 2000 -Revisited 5:05 pm 6:00pm Sunsetters 2019! SING! Somerville 6:35pm SHS Football vs CRLS 8:00pm SHS Football vs Medford [9.28.18] 10:30pm

## A COMERVILLE edited by Doug Holder

Lindy Conroe has taught college English for eighteen years and holds an MSW in social work from Boston University. She has worked in hospital and community social work and had her own practice in psychotherapy for many years. She has written two children's books, Rockafella Jones and the Hidden Treasure and Rockafella Jones and the Journey Home (published by Blue Mustang Press), and has just finished an adult novel, Clearly Hidden.



## Reprieve

Then, surrounded by anxiety and we took a walk, stopping along the edge of a fenced-in marsh. Sitting on a boulder, we watched and listened, lamenting that the red winged blackbirds had made such a brief appearance this year, perhaps anxious to take themselves to distant marshes. A small tree, which I could not name, glimmered and rustled just inside the chain link fence, its rounded leaves twisting and shining with shades of Spring green. Overhead the chartreuse of newly opened oak leaves made yellow lace against the sky. Two tiny birds swooped in tandem over the cattails, dancing. A lone bird flew across the open marsh into the lace-leafed oak. As it perched, almost hidden, the barest flash of red: there, then gone. A swoop back across the marsh named him, red stripes open to

— Lindy Conroe

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

the wind

## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## 'High Tide'

## by Somerville poet Ed Meek

High Tide
By Ed Meek
Aubade Publishing
Aubadepublishing.com
Ashburn, VA
ISBN: 978-1-951547-99-8
80 Pages

Review by Off the Shelf correspondent Dennis Daly

Holding court in his realm by the sea, Ed Meek mines the details from every corner of his kingdom for poetic nuggets that teach and transform. The raw materials include mushrooms and ethnic sensibilities, a mythological crossing guard, family memories, meatballs pertaining to human nature, and barbarian children. Meek is a veritable Everyman (in the medieval, morality play sense). His upwardly mobile progress, as he negotiates around or through annoying obstacles, is toward goodness and evolution's steady continuity.

Nor does Meek avoid intellectual confrontation. He seems to welcome it. In Meek's world, understanding must precede judgment. But judge he certainly does. Even time bends to his moral percipience as he retrospectively determines when and where childhood happiness reaches its pinnacle.

Meek's poem *Hunting Mushrooms with Mina* delights with a tour de force of description and mystery. Mina is Sioux and knows what she is doing. The poet's persona is along for the ride. As the two seekers uncover and collect their savory dinner of morels, they seem to exchange wordless tension back and forth with a bit of playfulness. The poet's keen senses and black humor flirt with fantasies of danger and historical fact. Here is the descriptive heart of the poem,

... She lifted leaves and poked through thatch to find them crouching in damp quarters, secreted in moss and duff. They were long-dead shrunken dwarfs buried in their hats, their bodies a stump beneath their shaggy, fetid heads. They'd wept for years and moist riverbeds Coursed down their spongy faces.

"What about these?" I asked
Pointing to a yellow disk, speckled with white freckles.
"Death cap," she said. "I can poison you with that."
Her long black hair reflected light and my eye caught the tip of the blade
she kept on her hip.

Meek has a knack for hiding horror in the comfort of everyday images. In his piece entitled *The Crossing Guard*, the poet unveils the mythological Charon, known for his transportation of the newly dead across the River Styx, in his training role as Crossing Guard guiding children across a neighborhood street. Here is the lead-in stanza to the metamorphosis,

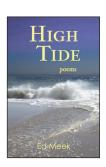
With hands as old as vines twisted by time he holds the divine red lollypop—its simple command in four black letters.

When he raises his arm, bikes cars, and trucks like well-trained soldiers grind to a halt as he ferries the children across the dangerous divide.

High Tide, the title poem of Meek's collection, portrays his younger self set in an idyllic family composition. His father doubles as Elvis Presley. His mother looks the part of majorette marching down a football field. It's perfect! Well, not exactly. Meek uses omniscience and irony to convey a prelude to the coming change of fortune. Snapshots of life are momentary and often deceiv-

ing, that is, until connected with context. The word play is quite clever. Consider the heart of the poem,

My father held me up in the water and my mother waved from her beach blanket on the sand. This was before the brothers and sisters, those uninvited guests, crashed the party, back when my mother was fun to be around and my father was glad to be home from the war, working the only job he would ever have.



While reading the above lines it also occurred to me that high tide temporarily protects a whole swathe of shore and water creatures that live on the edge. When the tide ebbs weaknesses and vulnerabilities appear for all to see. Predators, of course, know this. Meek also knows this and ponders the fragility of family life.

Expectations play a significant part in the way we read literature. Perhaps poetry especially. A remembered tone may pull us in. Perhaps a hardscrabble story of working stiffs grabs us. Next the details may enchant our sensitivities with their unexpected simplicity. Finally, we look for the denouement and uplifting catchall. Meek slyly removes this last element in his poem *How to Make Meatballs* and substitutes a more diabolical and witty ending that smacks of life's true realities. The poet concludes his poem,

The meatballs baked while I fried eggs, bacon, and home fries for the working girls and drunks who stumbled in.

This was before Tony went away for printing twenties in his basement, before Joey broke in and stole our TV, and the bank took their house.

Sometimes goodness can only be defined against a background of its opposite inclination. In his poem *Miss Maloney*, Meek's persona teases out a moralistic outrage from his readers using memories of welled up juvenile cruelty. Meek's classmates perpetrate this meanness against their inexperienced but well-meaning fifth grade teacher. The poet joins the classroom festivities with gusto. His over the top description signals his own disgust at his collaboration. The piece opens by setting the stage,

A doll, my mother proclaimed, after meeting Miss Maloney the new fifth grade teacher.

Just out of Bridgewater State Teacher's College, an eraser over five feet tall, natural blond hair in a bun, blue eyes in a field of freckles.

Smiling, she invited us to set goals for the year.

At recess, our war council convened.

We aimed to make her cry for being so pretty and perky.

Throughout these well-structured poems, Meek champions an almost Aristotelian sense of goodness and moral rectitude. His unabashed didactic bent seems unforced and infused with humility and a happiness born of intellectual truths. The word "organic" comes to mind. Refreshing. Very refreshing.

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