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City officials, educators deal with fallout from Winter Hill School damage



A piece of fallen concrete found on a stairwell at Winter Hill Community School last week prompted an immediate shutdown of the building to students and staff.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Jim Clark

Somerville Schools officials and city administrators have been hard at work over the past week, looking for ways to safely and efficiently reassign students at Winter Hill Community School to alternative classrooms to finish out the school year after a piece of concrete fell onto a stairwell inside of the school last week.

While no one was inside the building at the time of the incident, the alarming event became a cause for immediate concern and the school was closed down permanently for the duration of the school term while structural engineering crews began the process of inspecting the building to assess the extent of the damage and deterioration present. Somerville Department of Public *Continued on page 4*

'Above and Beyond' exhibit to highlight work of Phil Reavis

The *Above and Beyond* exhibit at the Somerville Museum, will showcase the life of Phil Reavis, a Somerville native, Olympic athlete, long-time educator, and one of the first people of color in Somerville with a public space named in his honor.

Reavis broke records as a high jumper, appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated* magazine, coached Vietnam's 1964 Olympic track and field team, and enjoyed a long career as a teacher, coach, and musician. A world traveler, Reavis now divides his time between Somerville and Macau, China. The Somerville High School's athletic field will be named The Philip Reavis, Sr. Field.

This exhibition is a collaboration between the Somerville Museum and students from the Somerville High School Local History Club, led by teacher Adda Santos. In 2020, History *Continued on page 12*



The *Above and Beyond* exhibit at The Somerville Museum will be on display from June 8 to July 8.

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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.

Congratulations to the **class of 2023!** We wish them the best in the next exciting chapter of their lives.

The **Winter Hill Community School** has closed for the **remainder of the school year** due to concrete falling from the ceiling of a stairwell. Everyone is grateful that no students were in that stairwell at the time and hoping the city will be assessing all the schools during the summer to look for any other issues before the next school year begins. For updates on the Winter Hill School visit <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/alert>.

The **Welcome Project** is excited to announce the **14th Annual YUM: A Taste of Immigrant City** on **Wednesday, June 7** at 6:30 pm. The event will be virtual. Please join in to celebrate the work of immigrants across the Boston area and highlight local restaurants that reflect the diverse and beautiful community Somerville has become. If you would like to purchase tickets, please use this link: <https://bit.ly/YUM2023>.

Don't miss the **All City Middle School Musical** this week: **Newsies, Jr!** When powerful newspaper publishers raise prices at the newsboys' expense, the charismatic Jack Kelly rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions. Together, the newsies learn that they are stronger united and create a movement to fight for what's right. **Thursday, June 8** at 7:00 *Continued on page 7*

The Somerville Times

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday








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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of June 7 – June 13 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>June 7</i>	Rain	67°/52°	37%	29%	NW 11 mph
 Thursday <i>June 8</i>	Partly Cloudy	63°/54°	22%	17%	NE 8 mph
 Friday <i>June 9</i>	Partly Cloudy	65°/52°	21%	15%	NE 11 mph
 Saturday <i>June 10</i>	Partly Cloudy	72°/56°	22%	16%	SW 11 mph
 Sunday <i>June 11</i>	Partly Cloudy	79°/69°	21%	17%	SW 12 mph
 Monday <i>June 12</i>	Thunderstorms	77°/58°	41%	36%	SW 13 mph
 Tuesday <i>June 13</i>	Rain	72°/57°	38%	32%	NW 11 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Bike Plan has merit, but not for Highland

Slaw says:

There is a geometry problem with adding more cars to the city, see the work of Jarrett Walker/Human Transit for more on this. There simply is not space to store even more private vehicles in public space (which are stationary 95+ percent of the time according to several studies). Space is limited in the city and If the city wants to grow in a sustainable way we simply cannot do so by prioritize adding more space for cars. Public transit and bikes both move people in far more space efficient ways than cars. Cars will only end their dominance in our lives and infrastructure if we create alternatives that make it possible, which is a good reason why we need more bike lanes. If we keep prioritizing infrastructure for cars over everything else it is a self fulfilling prophecy that they will remain dominant, but that is a choice. If you were actually interested in “good faith debate” you would listen when common anti-bike talking points are refuted with facts, especially when it is done by people who live in this city and rely on bikes to get around. Refuting suggestions that young families don’t bike in somerville, that poor people don’t use bikes, that the elderly and disabled don’t use bikes is not bad faith, if anything the suggestion that they don’t is, given how common all of that actually is in this city. likewise for refuting that preserving parking is “conservation” or the idea that bike lanes hurt businesses. This article makes claims that simply are not true and saying so isn’t dismissing “residents and businesses” it is dismissing nonsense that poisons debate. Residents who bike have concerns about are safety on the existing infrastructure (residents and people who bike are not actually two separate groups as you suggest) but since we don’t drive, by choice sometimes but often by necessity, we clearly don’t count to you.

Response to: PTAC discusses parking enforcement and a budget letter to the mayor

Tyler says:

This is amazing. I hope we can expand this program to target all the speeding cars cutting through our neighborhoods. I’m not sure how people make the leap from “a camera takes a picture of a license plate on an illegally parked car” to “I will be sent to a labor camp if I criticize the government”. What you do in public with your car is not covered by any right to privacy.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

Memory Lane



We often take a trip down memory lane in this column, but this time it's the real Memory Lane. We are taking a look back at the restaurant/bar/meeting spot that used to be where the 99 was on Middlesex Avenue in Somerville.

The tables were big, and so were the bloody marys. As a matter of fact, all the drinks were big. They always had a delicious special, and many people remember the Lane for its awesome prime ribs. "My uncle and aunt lived for that place! They worked at First National Warehouse (very close), so that was their stomping ground! When my cousin and I were old enough, we would join them for a cocktail or two. We loved the place!"

Do you remember the old photos that hung on the walls? Me neither! But some do. Here's a memory: "When the bell rings, it's time for wings! I remember they gave out free chicken wings all night, every night. They would ring a bell when the wings were hot in the chaffing dish." The French onion soup was nothing short of fabulous, too.

Some of my friends were waitresses and some of my friends' parents bartended there also. When I worked at Kiss 108 in

the '80s, the sales staff would give us free food vouchers for Memory Lane because they advertised on the station.

I heard that one of the former bartenders at Memory Lane now owns his own bar in Somerville. It was a good place for the after-wedding rehearsal party and the after-work gathering. It was a favorite meeting spot for Somerville teachers on a Friday afternoon. A few waitresses from Dapper Dan's used to head over to Memory Lane after their shifts.

If you worked at Somerville Lumber back in the day, a liquid lunch may have been enjoyed at Memory Lane. No wonder the sales people were always so cheerful! Those piled-high skinny onion rings went great with a nice cold beer. My friend (with a very good memory) took his wife there on their first date 27 years ago. So, from that we can assume that Memory Lane was around until at least 1987 or so (some say it was closed by 1993). By the way, the marriage is still going strong.

Others recall watching boxing matches in the back room and having a few cocktails before and after the movies at Assembly Square. A friend tells me that the first time he ever had nachos was at ML. An anonymous contributor says, "I wound up under a table at Memory Lane once, but the funny thing was that I started out at Club 3!" We understand that there was a



fire there on March 12, 1992.

We all have memories of those old stomping grounds that we had so much fun at in the old days. Lots of the memories associated with Memory Lane include large-sized margaritas, stingers, bloody marys and mudslides, which may

have actually dulled the memory. Nevertheless, I thank those who contributed to this story. It's our recollections of the past that keep us in touch with our younger selves, but it's our continued good health and wisdom that allows us to keep creating more memories.



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Jokester with a mask taken to jail

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to CVS Pharmacy at 1 Davis Square on reports that it had just been robbed.

Upon arrival, CVS employees provided their account to the officers, stating that a tall male wearing a black hoodie and a plastic Halloween mask entered the store carrying a bag and demanded money. The suspect then showed a firearm after opening the bag. An employee told him to go to the register and take what he wanted. The suspect then fled the store.

While conducting their interview at CVS, dispatch informed the officers that they had received

a call reporting a robbery in progress at Chipotle at Elm St., which is in close proximity to CVS, and that the suspect matched the same description. The officers immediately left CVS and proceeded to Chipotle.

Upon entering Chipotle, the officers reportedly saw a man matching the description provided by dispatch and CVS staff. They noticed that the individual was wearing a Halloween mask and had his hands inside a backpack.

The officers drew their department-issued firearms and ordered the suspect to show them his hands. He then fled through a side exit, and officers gave chase

through Davis Sq. plaza.

During the pursuit, the suspect discarded his bag, which was later recovered by police. Officers then apprehended the suspect in the parking lot on Herbert St., and he was placed under arrest.

The suspect, later identified as Jibril Noor, was still wearing the mask at the time of his apprehension. He claimed that it was merely a joke and intended as a prank, expressing concern that his parents would be furious and that his life was ruined.

Following the arrest, officers returned to Chipotle to conduct a follow-up interview. They retrieved the discarded bag, which

contained a fake gun and one kitchen silver kitchen knife and another knife with a green handle.

A Chipotle employee stated that he was working as the cashier when a tall male wearing a black hoodie and a mask approached the counter with his hands in his bag, giving the impression of concealing a weapon. The suspect demanded money, and the employee informed him that he was experiencing difficulties unlocking the register. The suspect then instructed him to find someone who could.

The employee subsequently went to the back office to alert his manager that they were be-

ing robbed and requested her assistance in opening the safe. The manager promptly dialed 911, and officers arrived shortly thereafter.

In addition to interviewing witnesses, the officers reviewed surveillance footage at both Chipotle and CVS. The video evidence revealed a masked male wearing a black hoodie and sunglasses over the mask approaching the counter with his hands in a bag. The cashier raised his hands and attempted to open the register.

Noor was subsequently placed under arrest on charges of attempt to commit a crime and resisting arrest.

City officials, educators deal with fallout from Winter Hill School damage

CONT. FROM PG 1

Works staff was also called in to make temporary repairs for the safety of those working at the site.

Parents of students were immediately informed of the school's closure and the plans for relocating students to various off-site classrooms beginning immediately this week.

According to the latest information, the relocation sites are arranged as follows:

All current AIM classes will move from the Winter Hill to the first floor of the Edgerly Building, located at 8 Bonair Street (on the corner of Cross Street). Officials have said that they selected this site because the AIM summer program will also be held at the Edgerly Building, and this will minimize transitions for students in the program.

Also, the Edgerly Building has enough space on the accessible first floor to accommodate all of the current AIM classrooms, meaning that no classrooms will be split up.

Additionally, SPS schools cannot accommodate the number of

classrooms needed in one location. As it stands, the classroom spaces that are being offered by Tufts University do not fully meet the needs of the AIM program, nor are there enough available classrooms to accommodate all of the Winter Hill classes.

As for transportation, the existing buses that bring AIM students to and from the Winter Hill will be rerouted to the Edgerly Building for drop off and pick up. No other change to students' or families' transportation plans is required.

In addition, teachers and staff will pack up and bring students' belongings, communication devices, and other needed materials to continue through the end of the school year and into the summer.

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten will be relocating to existing classroom space at the Capuano Early Childhood Center, located at 150 Glen Street.

The Center has available space to accommodate all Winter Hill Prekindergarten and Kindergarten classrooms, which also means

that there will be no need to split up any classes into other buildings. The Center is focused on early childhood and provides easy transition for younger students.

As of this time, no specific bus-ing or transportation is planned for students between the Winter Hill and Capuano.

Teachers and staff will pack up and bring students' belongings, communication devices, and other needed materials to continue through the end of the school year and into the summer.

Grades 1-8 will be moving to Tufts University's Olin Hall, located at 180 Packard Ave. in Medford.

The SPS preference was to keep as many classrooms together in one location as possible. Given the existing space constraints within the city and SPS, moving 20 classrooms into one location was a significant challenge. The partners at Tufts University worked made changes to their existing programs and operations to accommodate The Winter Hill Community School's students.

Students in grades 1-8 will be transported by school bus from Winter Hill to Olin Hall at Tufts. Buses will depart from Winter Hill at 7:45 a.m. each morning. Winter Hill staff will be on site to facilitate transportation. Students will be picked up from Olin Hall at 2:00 p.m. each afternoon and will travel by school bus to Winter Hill.

Families will not be able to drive students to and from Olin Hall. Families who choose to drive should plan to park in surrounding Somerville neighborhoods and walk to Olin Hall.

A statement released by the Somerville Educators Union read in part:

"The Winter Hill Community Innovation School in Somerville was closed to students and staff on Friday, June 2nd due to unsafe conditions that required closer assessment by city structural engineers. Serious infrastructure issues at Winter Hill are not new: the school community has dealt with floods, leaks, falling ceiling tiles, rodent infestations, broken windows,

a broken HVAC system, a broken elevator, and much more. For the last three years, educators and school community members have been raising these concerns, but the city's response has been slow. To date, the response has been to fund a school building feasibility study and to submit a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority to request financial support in addressing the building's repairs."

The statement went on to further criticize what they describe as a pattern of neglect concerning the upkeep of the school building and called for a specific long-term plan for the building including funding sources, timelines, or swing space for students during construction.

A virtual meeting was held Tuesday evening in which the mayor and school officials assured the public that they are committed to ensuring safe learning environments for the city's student population. They also promised daily updates on actions to be planned and put into action.

Somerville residents and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Division imagine a more accessible city

By Maile Blume

Somerville residents gathered over Zoom to share their concerns about the accessibility of the city, at a focus group held by the city’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Division last Thursday.

Every year, the ADA Division creates opportunities for the community to provide feedback, as an integral step towards updating Somerville’s ADA Transition Plan. ADA Coordinator Adrienne Pomeroy said in an informational video [1] produced by Somerville GovTV, “The plan provides a roadmap for increasing access to all city buildings,

roadways, sidewalks, programs, and services, and it also serves as a framework for future improvements in accessibility.”

The ADA Division’s annual revision of the plan involves reviewing the progress the city has made towards compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as reassessing the city’s most pressing goals for the coming year based on the needs voiced by the Somerville community.

There will be another focus group [2] held this Thursday, June 8, at 6:00 p.m. The focus groups are confidential spaces for Somerville residents to share their experiences, and



The new Somerville High School includes a wheelchair-accessible entrance built during the building’s construction from 2018 to 2021. — Photos by Maile Blume



Accessibility of the city’s buildings and programs are some of the concerns raised in the ADA Transition Plan.

require residents to register before each event.

The ADA Division also encourages the public to participate in a brief survey [3] that will additionally inform updates to the ADA Transition Plan. The ADA Community Survey (3), which became publicly available on February 6, will be open until June 30, 2023, and can be found online [3] or at the Somerville City

Hall front desk.

“We hope you’ll share your thoughts on areas covered by the ADA plan and your experience with accessibility in Somerville,” Pomeroy added in the informational video.

“Your survey responses will inform priorities for the plan and will help the ADA Division staff learn more about community accessibility priorities and shape

future community training opportunities.”

Links:

- [1] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRA0sZ4h1zw>
- [2] <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0kdO6srTovH9Q0P5bl2o5FcA-plW-edXN3y#/registration>
- [3] <https://form.jotform.com/230194761561153>

Somerville Police Firearm Safety Warning

Possible firearm sought near Somerville High School; if found report to 911, do not handle

On Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at approximately 1:18 PM, the Somerville Police Department responded to the area of Edward Leathers Park and the Somerville High School for a report of two males armed with firearms. The reporting party stated they encountered two males on bicycles who displayed firearms. The males proceeded to ride the bicycles in the direction of Somerville High School. This incident prompted a shelter-in-place order by school officials and a brief closure of the Central Library.

Soon after the emergency call was received, a person fitting the description of one of the suspects was located by Police Officers and briefly detained. This person was unarmed at that time. A search of the area was conducted by Somerville Police and National Park Services Police K-9 units. No firearm was located.

The Somerville Police Department asks all members of the community to remain vigilant and call 911 immediately if a firearm is found anywhere in the City. Citizens should not touch a suspected firearm. If a suspected firearm is found, call 911 right away, and wait for Officers to arrive.

The incident is currently under investigation. Anyone with relevant information on this incident is encouraged to please call 617-625-1600 ext. 7250.

You can also text a tip anonymously to TIP-411 (that’s 847-411) and put 617spd at the start of the message.



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators’ votes on roll calls from the recent debate on the Senate’s version of a \$55.9 billion fiscal 2024 state budget.

SEND 90 PERCENT OF CAPITAL GAINS TAX REVENUE ABOVE \$1 BILLION TO THE RAINY DAY FUND (S 3)

Senate 3-36, rejected an amendment that would maintain the current 90/5/5 law under which 90 percent of the capital gains tax collections exceeding \$1 billion goes to the Rainy Day Fund, 5 percent to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund and 5 percent to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund. The amendment would replace a pending 60/20/20 proposal that would send, in fiscal 2024 only, 60 percent of the \$1 billion excess to the Rainy Day Fund while sending 20 percent to the State Retiree Benefits Trust Fund and 20 percent to the State Pension Liability Fund.

Amendment supporters said it is essential to provide 90 percent to the Rainy Day Fund which helps bail out the state during slow economic times when tax revenues shrink.

Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester), the sponsor of the amendment, did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on his amendment.

Amendment opponents said the Rainy Day Fund is flush with \$7 billion and argued these retiree and pension funds are currently underfunded and need some additional money for just one year.

Senate Ways and Means Chair Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* asking him to comment on his opposition to the amendment.

(A “Yes” vote is for maintaining the current 90/5/5 formula. A “No” vote is for the 60/20/20 formula.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

\$1 MILLION FIGHT HUNGER ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would provide \$1 million to support a hunger-free campus initiative to address food insecurity at public colleges and junior colleges.

“Unfortunately, too many students at our state 2- and 4-year colleges are food insecure,” said sponsor Sen. Joan Lovely (D-Salem). “This \$1 million will support on-campus programming to address food insecurity, like mobile

markets, SNAP enrollment assistance and more. I am grateful that the Senate recognizes the critical importance of addressing this issue. No one should have to learn on an empty stomach.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$1 million.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

\$300,000 FOR DRINK SPIKING CRISIS (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would provide \$300,000 for the state to develop, research and recommend strategies to address the rising incidence of reported drink spiking in the Bay State. The funds could also be used for a public awareness campaign about drink spiking and the bulk purchase of drink spiking test kits to be distributed at bars, restaurants and other nightlife establishments across the state.

Drink spiking is when a person adds alcohol or other drugs to someone’s drink without their knowledge. This can lead to many things including sexual assault or the intent to hurt or steal from the person.

“Over the last year alone the commonwealth has seen an alarming increase in the number of reported drink spiking incidents at bars, nightclubs, concert venues and even house parties across the commonwealth,” said sponsor Sen. Paul Feeney (D-Foxborough). “These incidents are all too common and we’ve seen countless warnings from law enforcement: ‘use the buddy system, cover your drink and don’t leave your drink unattended.’ Yet reports of these incidents persist and the commonwealth’s response is still catching up to the onslaught of these reports.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the \$300,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ADDITIONAL \$400,000 FOR THE PREVENTION OF HATE CRIMES (S 3)

Senate 39-0, approved an amendment that would increase funding by \$400,000 (from \$400,000 to \$800,000) for grants to schools for the prevention of hate crimes and incidences of bias in public schools. The grants would be used for education, professional development, prevention or community outreach, prioritizing schools that have experienced hate crimes or incidences of bias within the last two years.

“With skyrocketing incidences of hate crimes and bias against people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, Jewish people and other minority groups, these programs are now more important than ever,” said sponsor Sen. Mike Moore (D-Millbury). “Addressing misinformed beliefs during children and teens’ formative years is the best strategy for

preventing discriminatory behavior down the road, Hate has no home here in Massachusetts – I’m pleased to have received my colleagues’ support on this critical funding.”

(A “Yes” vote is for the additional \$400,000.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

PURCHASE ALCOHOL (H 369) – The Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee held a hearing on a bill that would allow liquor and retail store clerks to accept a valid photographic, non-duplicate motor vehicle license issued by other states as a valid form of ID to purchase liquor in the Bay State.

“The commonwealth invites people from across the country to our sporting and live events, as well as to vacation and tour our historical sites,” said sponsor Rep. Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham). “It only makes sense that we allow our licensees to be able to serve these individuals using their state identification. In addition, this will give our businesses and restaurants additional sales and help them recover from losses during the pandemic.”

HIGHER EDUCATION HEARING – The Higher Education Committee held a hearing on several bills including:

PROTECT STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD (S 820) – Would require high schools and colleges with programs that allow students to study abroad to prioritize health, safety and security in program development, implementation and management of study abroad programs. These programs would be required to conduct risk assessments for different portions of the program; establish protocols in case of an emergency; and provide statistics on any assaults, injuries or deaths that occur in these programs. Parents would be able to access this information to better understand whether a program is right for their child.

“Study abroad programs provide valuable lessons and lifelong memories for students across our state, but we must ensure schools are responsible and care for our children’s safety,” said sponsor Sen. Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett). “By establishing safety and transparency protocols, I am confident that passing this legislation will help protect Massachusetts students learning abroad.”

REQUIRE NARCAN IN COLLEGE DORMS AND HOUSING (S 849) – Would require all state universities that have dormitories or other housing for students to have Narcan or similar opioid antagonists in each college-operated housing building. Narcan *Continued on page 15*

COMMENTARY

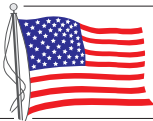
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Congratulations to our graduates of 2023!

Our View Of The Times



Another year passes and we pause at this time to congratulate and honor the hard-working students who achieved their goal of successfully completing their courses of studies at their respective high schools and colleges.

It takes a lot of dedication and commitment to follow through to completion in this world, which is filled with so many challenges and distractions. It is no small

feat to take one’s education to the limit, and these moments represent important milestones along the path to success in life.

We should lavish these kids with praise for their accomplishments and encourage them to take it to the next level. To constantly strive to better themselves, be it moving on to college or grad school, professional or vocational schooling. Going yet another step further shows ambition

and a sense of belief in oneself that can propel one to success unimagined by those who fall short of the mark.

It can be said that one’s life is a never-ending process of discovery and learning. That we are always in school, in fact. Still, achieving the goal of completing a set course of study is especially satisfying and sets the stage for even bigger accomplishments.

With so many social and political divisions to contend with these days, it’s nice to know that a new generation of clear thinking, well-intentioned young people are readying themselves for the challenges ahead of them in the years to come.

And so we applaud the achievements of the class of 2023. May they go on to know great success in their professional and personal lives. They so clearly deserve it.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

p.m., Friday, June 9 at 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, June 10 at 2:00 p.m. At the Centennial Auditorium, Somerville High School, 81 Highland Ave., Somerville. To learn more and find out about tickets: www.highlandertheatre.org.

Due to inclement weather, SomerStreets: Carnaval was postponed until this Sunday, June 11. For this free event, bring the family for many activities and entertainment including: Let's Get Truckin', Esh Circus, Dunk Tank and get to know your local non-profits and community organizations. Shop 30+ artisan vendors and dance along with Grooversity and

many more live acts. Thanks to partners East Somerville Main Streets for organizing this event. And a warm shoutout to Dave Ortega for the vibrant poster design. Sunday, June 11, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.) between McGrath and Franklin St.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to Carolyn Pedersen, we wish Carolyn a great day. Happy birthday to Suzanne Bremer, of Prospect Hill. Happy birthday to Beth Chamberlain, we hope Beth has a great day. To former Councilor At-Large Stephanie Hirsch, we hope she has a great day as well. A while back we missed a birthday and we

would like to wish Michael Sullivan of Worcester, formally of Somerville, a very happy belated birthday. We hope he enjoyed his day. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Lori DePippo, Nicole Alves Bairos, Chris Argeropoulos, Elizabeth Rodrigues Fula, Charlie McCarthy, Betty Casazza, Gavin House, Len Tower, Kevin Tortorella, Rand Wilson, Al Sharpe, Amanda Esteves and Donna Amenta 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.

On Friday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m., The Arts

at the Armory will be hosting the Awakening Annual Showcase presented by Mosaic Dance Inc. Showcasing the diversity and creativity of Mosaic Dance Inc., Awakening is their first annual showcase and will span across genres such as hip hop, jazz, and contemporary to highlight their unique company members. More info here: <https://www.mosaicedanceinc.org/events-2-1/event-one-lfn92>.

The Somerville Arts Council and Somerville Health and Human Services Department’s Big Gay Dance Party will take in Union Square Plaza on Saturday, June 17, from 5:00

Continued on page 23

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#876

1. What is the common name for dried plums?

2. Where did Bob Dylan grow up?

3. Which Muppet uses the catchphrase "Wocka wocka!"?

4. Which Beatles song has the refrain "You were only waiting for this moment to arise"?

5. What is the earliest known device for recording sound?

6. The Piranha can be found in the rivers of what continent?

7. What was baseball pitcher Satchel Paige
- real first name?

8. Where is the only place you can find alligators and crocodiles together in the wild?

9. What does the hobo expression "caught the west-bound" mean?

10. Who plays the lead male character in the film *Once Bitten*?

11. What is the technical term for tear glands?

12. What Michael Jackson song was parodied by Weird Al Yankovic?
- Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A snail can sleep for three years.
2. Women have more tastebuds than men.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

TV DADS

- ACROSS
1. Necklace lock

6. Blue

9. Mr. Micelli in "Who's the Boss"

13. "The Tortoise and the Hare," e.g.

14. Beer acronym

15. Check recipient

16. Angler's basket

17. Circle part

18. "Orange" warning

19. Mr. Keaton in "Family Ties"

21. Mr. Cunningham in "Happy Days"

23. Dad's offspring

24. "Jack and the Beanstalk" instrument

25. General Post Office

28. Plural of cecum

30. Pompous windbag

35. Not written

37. Scotch ingredient

39. Complain

40. Spanish surrealist Joan

41. Formed #17 Across

43. Press back arrow key

44. Not odds

46. "Musical" constellation

47. Backgammon predecessor

48. Louisiana music genre

50. Aware of

52. Jeans brand

53. In a little while, old-fashioned

55. Old age, old-fashioned

57. Mr. White "Breaking Bad"

60. Mr. Stark "Game of Thrones"

63. Ruffle on a blouse

64. Determine the sum

66. Feline sound

68. Bronze, e.g.

69. Chasing game

70. "All joking ____"

71. Big Bang's original matter

72. Compass bearing

73. Type of stocking

- DOWN
1. Olden-day aerosol can propellant, acr.

2. Lawrence, for short

3. Aid and ____

4. Like gelled hair

5. Relating to pelvis

6. a.k.a. Xi'an

7. Credit card rate, acr.

8. Putin's country house, e.g.

9. Samoan money

10. Deed hearing

11. Egghead

12. Up to the present time

15. a.k.a. melon tree

20. Organ swelling

22. What organza and forgiveness have in common

24. Calm and peaceful

25. Mr. Addams "The Addams Family"

26. Outhouse

27. Propelled like Argo

29. Mr. Winslow in "Family Matters"

31. Give the cold shoulder

32. Twofold

33. Mr. Johnson in "Black-ish"

34. Glittery stone

36. Like certain Ranger

38. Seaside bird

42. Old hat

45. Scatterbrained, in U.K.

49. Top seed

51. Nickname for dad (2 words)

54. Speak like Cicero

56. ____ Buchanan of "The Great Gatsby"

57. China's Great one

58. Often goes with "willing"

59. Rumpelstiltskin's weaver

60. Upper hand

61. Not top-shelf

62. Popular symbol of extinction

63. Mr. Pritchett in "Modern Family"

65. Mr. Conner in "Roseanne"

67. Skin cyst

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Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

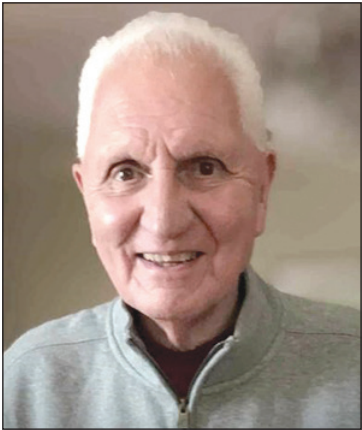
G	A	I	A			B	B	L				P	A	Y		
L	U	L	L			D	O	R	Y			E	P	O	D	E
I	T	E	M			E	X	A	M			W	O	L	D	S
B	O	X	O	F	F	I	C	E				E	P	O	S	
			S	L	A	N	T			O	R	C				
C	R	I	T	I	C			I	N	S	O	F	A	R		
H	O	D		R	E	G	I	M	E			R	A	T	E	
A	D	E	P	T		E	R	A			E	N	D	O	N	
R	E	A	R			F	L	A	X	E	N		E	N	E	
M	O	S	E	Y	E	D				A	N	D	R	E	W	
			V	E	E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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

Albert F. Argenziano Retired Superintendent of Somerville Public Schools

1941 – 2023



Albert F. Argenziano passed away on June 3, 2023 at the age of 82. Professionally, he was a School Superintendent, principal, teacher, coach, forklift operator, driving instructor, butcher and grocery delivery boy. Personally, he was a husband, father, friend, mentor and all-around good guy. Whether you knew him as Chip, Al, Dr. A. or Dr. Al, you were always met with attention and kindness. An avid reader,

devout New York Yankees and the University of Alabama football fan, he'll be remembered for his love of family traditions and holiday celebrations. His unique dancing style, storytelling and quick wit were a huge part of his engaging personality. For a kid from the streets of Lawrence, Al had world-wide adventures during his career and in his private life. He was educated at Central Catholic High School, Suffolk University and Salem State University. He received his Doctorate in Education from the University of Alabama. Al began his career in education as a teacher in the Methuen and Masconomet Regional School Districts. Next, he took his family to Solen, North Dakota on Standing Rock Indian Reservation as a K-12 Principal. He then returned to Massachusetts to serve in various capacities in the Silver Lake Regional School District: Assistant High School Principal, Principal and Assistant Superintendent. Al later broadened the family's horizons as the Director General/Superintendent of the Department of State affiliated American School Foundation of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. Returning from abroad, he served the Lawrence Public Schools as Assistant Superintendent. Then, until his retirement, he was Superintendent of the Somerville Public Schools, where you now find the Dr. Albert F. Argenziano School at Lincoln Park named in his honor. After retirement, Al continued in both teaching and administrative capacities as an adjunct professor at Endicott College, preparing more than 800 future school administrators for licensure. Marblehead Charter

School had him on board, as did Beverly Public Schools as their interim Superintendent. Additionally, he served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability as Director of District Services, advising school districts on improving educational outcomes. All his work and personal travels took him to Europe and Latin America. He mentored and touched the hearts of thousands of educators, students, parents and dear friends. Predeceased by his parents, Albert and Angelina (Morgani) Argenziano, he leaves behind his wife, Dorothy "Dot" (Kobos) Argenziano, with whom he shared 58 years of marriage and four years of dating as high school sweethearts. He also leaves their four sons, Jon, Mark, Gregg (deceased) and

Jeff; as well as his brother-in-law, Fr. Martin J. Kobos, OFM Conv.. Additionally, he'll be missed by his cousins and so many dear friends. A Celebration of Life will be held for Al on October 14, 2023, at Sons of Italy Lodge, #902 at 459 Merrimack St., Methuen, MA 01844, from 1 to 4pm. RSVP to dralcelebration@gmail.com as space is limited. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Somerville High School Scholarship Foundation: SHSSF, PO Box 440275, Somerville, MA 02144. For more information visit shssscholarship.org. Please specify, "In Memory of Dr. Albert F. Argenziano." To send an online condolence, visit www.pollardfuneralhome.com. The Kenneth H. Pollard Funeral Home is honored to serve the Argenziano Family.

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Cucumber & Tomato Salad

I remember this salad from my childhood. A lot of people had gardens in the neighborhood and used to share their cucumbers and tomatoes with each other. This quick and easy salad is a fantastic addition to the summer salad repertoire since these ingredients are pretty much staples. So, if you're looking for another recipe to use up your tomatoes and cucumbers that are ready for picking in your garden, give this a try.

1 Large Cucumber, Peeled, Seeded and Sliced 1/4"
2-3 Small Tomatoes, Chopped
1/4 Red Onion, Thinly Sliced or 1/4-1/2 Cup Pickled Red Onions

3/4 Teaspoon Dried Oregano
3 Teaspoons Red Wine Vinegar
1 Tablespoon Olive Oil
1/2 Teaspoon Kosher Salt
Freshly Ground Black Pepper, 4 Turns

The first thing I like to do is slice the red onion and soak the slices in iced water. This takes the harsh bite out of the raw onion. If you would like to use pickled onions for this recipe, check out this link on how to make quick pickled onions here, <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/90242>. Continue by peeling the cucumber, cutting lengthwise and removing the seeds. Slice the cucumber in 1/4" thick slices. Add to a medium bowl along with the chopped tomatoes. I like to use different colors if available. Add the oregano, vinegar, olive oil, salt and pepper. Once the onions have soaked, drain well and



add the remaining mixture. Toss, check the seasoning and adjust if needed. Serve right away. Serves 3-4.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Lord Mansoor LLC to Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust, dated February 14, 2023 and recorded with the Middlesex (Southern District) County Registry of Deeds in Book 81250, Page 91 of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, and in which the mortgaged premises consist of a certain parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon located in Somerville known as 41 Derby Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold collectively commencing at Public Auction at 11:00AM on the 27th day of June 2023, at the mortgaged premises located at 41 Derby Street, Middlesex County, Somerville, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage.

To wit:
A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon in Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, shown as lot "E" on a plan recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds at the end of Book 2028, being a sub-division of lots thirty-three (33), thirty-four (34), and thirty-five (35) on a plan of land recorded with said Deeds and Book of Plans 54, plan 39, and bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHWESTERLY by Derby Street, Forty (40) feet;
NORTHWESTERLY by lot F on said sub-division plan, one hundred (100) feet;
NORTHEASTERLY by lot 49, recorded in said Book of Plans 54, plan 39, forty (40) feet; and
SOUTHEASTERLY by lot thirty-two (32) on said last mentioned plan, one hundred (100) feet.

For Grantor's title see Deed dated July 7, 2022, and recorded on February 14, 2023 with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 81250, Page 79.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid condominium fees, taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. No representations express or implied are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises, which will be sold "as-is".

TERMS OF SALE:

Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00) shall be paid in certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of said sale, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid by certified or bank cashier's check at the offices of Erik T. Potter, Esq., Potter MacLellan LLP, 113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. The successful bidder of the sale of the premises shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the Auction Sale. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale.
Present Holder of Said Mortgage:
Steven A. Ross, Trustee of QS Lending Three Trust - c/o Erik T. Potter, Esq. Potter MacLellan, LLP
113 Ripley Road, Cohasset, MA 02025 – 617-257-7050
Dated: May 30, 202

6/7/23 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICE - Vehicle Sale 06/18/2023

Pro Tech Towing notice to owners. The following abandoned motor vehicles will be privately sold unless claimed:

Car information	VIN#	Last registered owner	Address
2008 Mercedes E Class	WDBUF87X48B244279	Alex Rosa Rodrigues	65 Garden Cir. # 4 Waltham, MA 02452
2006 GMC C6500	1GDJ6C1396F411282	BKK Trucking Inc.	132 Pleasant St. Suite A Woburn, MA 01801
2008 Nissan Rogue	JN8AS58V58W132180	Angeleka Mae King	771 N. Gardenvue Ter. Crystal River FL 34429
2009 Toyota Camry	4T4BE46K39R092271	Iouri Kapoustine	52 Troy Lane Waban, MA 02468
2015 Dodge Dart	1C3CDFBB1FD422609	Paul E. Nelson	133 Pine St. Waltham, MA 02453

Date of Sale 06/18//2023. A 5-day notice to the Waltham Police Department Chief will be provided before sale.
Location: Pro Tech Towing, 205 Willow St. Waltham, MA, Phone: 781-894-5058

5/24/23, 5/31/23, 6/7/23 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, June 14, 2023**, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9146126278834338389>
Webinar ID: 292-126-171

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422
Access code: 644-577-258

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

14 Clyde Street Rajiv and Anupama Raman propose modifications to a nonconforming building type and the creation of a new nonconforming building type in the Neighborhood Residential (NR) zoning district, which requires two (2) Hardship Variances.

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.

5/31/23, 6/7/23 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



POPLAR STREET PUMP STATION PROJECT: 10 POPLAR STREET,
SOMERVILLE, MA

S-05 Furnish and Install Rock Anchors
for 4MG D115 Water Storage Tank

CITY OF SOMERVILLE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CONTRACTOR

City of Somerville and its CMAR, MWH Constructors RFP for Contractor services procured in accordance with current MGL Chapter 30, § 39M for Public Works (Non-Building) Construction Contracts with Labor over \$50,000 inclusive of all amendments. Includes all equipment, labor and materials to F&I rock anchors for a 4MG CIP storm water storage tank. Project subject to Mass Prevailing Wage Laws. A MANDATORY pre-bid meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 10:00AM**. Meet at MWH on-site trailer, 10 Poplar St.

RFP will be available on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023**. Project to be electronically bid via www.projectdog.com, Projectdog Code/Project #856239. Contractor RFP submissions will be due **Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 2PM**. Project contact: David Rogers, email: david.rogers@mwhconstructors.com, Cell: 978-618-0177.

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PHONE: 857-488-5138

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com
and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

Ms. Cam's
Olio
Answers

From on page 8

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Prunes | 7. Leroy |
| 2. Hibbing, Minnesota | 8. South Florida |
| 3. Fozzie Bear | 9. Someone has died |
| 4. Blackbird | 10. Jim Carrey |
| 5. The phonograph | 11. Lacrimal glands |
| 6. South America | 12. Beat It |

LEGAL NOTICES

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



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB 23-75

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites bids for:

On-Call Elevator Maintenance & Repairs

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at <http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, June 7, 2023**. Sealed responses will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **2:00 pm, June 22, 2023**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the IFB process, and accept the bid deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email jremy@somervillema.gov for more information.

Jordan Remy
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

6/7/23 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFQ #23-74

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement and Contracting Services Department, invites sealed bids for:

Design Services for 217 Somerville Avenue Pocket Park

An RFQ may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement>, or PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **06/07/2023**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **06/28/2023 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Felisa Garate at fgarate@somervillema.gov for more information.

Felisa Garate
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x3406

6/7/23 The Somerville Times

Docent Tour of Prospect Hill Tower

Thursday, June 8, 6:00 p.m. at Prospect Hill Monument, 68 Munroe St., Somerville, MA 02143.

Sponsored by the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission & the Somerville Museum
www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation &
<http://somervillemuseum.org>.

Inclement weather cancels any event. Call 311 (617-666-3311) for updates and check the City's calendar: <https://www.somervillema.gov/events>.

OPENAIR Circus Summer Classes

For 38 years, children, teens and adults have learned circus skills from the OPENAIR Circus of Greater Somerville. Everyone is welcome to learn new skills and join the circus community.

Classes include Acro-Yoga, Baton Twirling*, Devil Sticks*, Diabolo*, Juggling*, Poi*, Stilting*, Unicycling and Yo-yo. New this year: Miming! Classes with asterisks are offered at beginning and intermediate levels.

Classes start June 18 and run through August 3. Wednesday afternoon classes are at Nunziato Field, approximately at 14 Vinal Ave., Somerville, near Union Sq., and on Thursdays at Lou Ann David Park, 1060 Broadway, Somerville, near Teele Sq. from 4:30-7:30. Each class is an hour.

Classes will run June 28 through August 3 with mini-performances on August 2 and 3.

Registration is free. A donation of \$30 per child, \$50 per family is suggested but not required and includes as many classes as the student wants.

Wednesdays at Nunziato Field:

- 4:30 to 5:25 p.m. – Diabolo - Intermediate (7+); Yo-Yo (8+)
- 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. – Acro-Yoga (5-12); Juggling - Intermediate (8+)
- 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. – Juggling - Beginner (7+); Stilting - Beginner (6+); Stilting - Int/Adv (7+)

Thursdays at Lou Ann David Park:

- 4:30 to 5:25 p.m. – Diabolo - Beginner (6+); Poi - Intermediate (7+)
- 5:30 to 6:25 p.m. – Baton Twirling - Intermediate (8+); Devil Sticks - Beginner (8+); Miming (8+)
- 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. – Baton Twirling - Beginner (5+); Devil Sticks - Intermediate (9+); Poi - Beginner (6+); Unicycling (7+)

Equipment loans can be requested during registration.

For more information, including COVID restrictions, and registration, go to www.openaircircus.org.



Ballantyne announcement attendees



Former City Councilor Bob McWatters, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Avery, and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll attended Mayor Katjana Ballantyne's announcement for reelection on Wednesday, May 31, at The Burren in Davis Sq.

Women Legislators working together to support women across the Commonwealth

**By State Representative
Christine Barber**

We are facing many challenges in Massachusetts. I continually hear from families and individuals around Somerville and Medford who are having trouble affording basic needs, worry about health care, and fear their rights for themselves or their children.

One of the ways that I focus on solutions to the urgent needs of our communities is by serving in leadership of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators. By working with other women leaders in the House and Senate, the Women's Caucus provides a place in the State House where we support each other and find new ways to work together to solve problems.

As Vice Chair of the Caucus of Women Legislators this session, I work with a group of 63 State Representatives and Senators who identify as women from both parties. We set priorities together to support women as we navigate out of the pandemic and seek to meet needs, including: Elevating Women's Economic Opportunity & Eliminating Barriers; Addressing Racial and Gender Disparities in Health Care; and Empowering Women in Government. While we do not always agree, as a group, we find common ground to work on each

of these larger issues to address the major challenges we face in Massachusetts.

Women continue to face limitations in economic stability, and we know the pandemic disproportionately affected women's economic well-being and ability to remain in the workforce. Our priority Elevating Women's Economic Opportunity & Eliminating Barriers builds on the Caucus's work of last session that mainly focused on child care, particularly ensuring the child care workforce - primarily women - has wages and supports to remain and grow in that career. This legislative session, the Women's Caucus is supporting a bill to increase rates for human service workers, who care for elders and people with disabilities, critical workforces often staffed by BI-POC women, which are in need of better pay and greater protections. These jobs employ mainly women, and also help women to work outside of the home.

Despite work in this area, women continue to earn less than men for the same positions. The Women's Caucus has endorsed a bill I filed on pay equity, H.1940 An Act relative to transparency in the workplace. This bill requires certain employers to submit wage data reports to the state Office of Labor and Workforce Development that include infor-

mation on employees' job title, ethnicity, gender identity, and compensation - with the ultimate goal of advancing transparency in pay in the workplace. This is an important step to addressing pay inequity in Massachusetts.

Women of color continue to face disparities in access to affordable health care, the focus of the Women's Caucus priority to Address Racial and Gender Disparities in Health Care. For example, the maternal mortality rate for Black women is over two-times higher than for white women. The Caucus is prioritizing a number of bills to support maternal health, including An Act enhancing post-pregnancy mental health care and An Act relative to Medicaid coverage for doula services.

In addition, one of the Women's Caucus top bills is one I filed, An Act to increase access to disposable menstrual products in prisons, homeless shelters, and public schools (H.534) to provide equitable access to menstrual products. Inspired by organizing by Somerville and Medford students to push for free menstrual products in their schools, this bill would ensure menstrual products are free and accessible in all schools, prisons and jails, and homeless shelters.

Finally, we have made historic gains in electing women in Mas-

sachusetts, electing the first female Governor and Lt. Governor in the country. But despite these wins, women remain a minority in elected office nationally, in Massachusetts, and at the local level. Our priority Empowering Women in Government seeks to continue to build support for women's leadership opportunities and ability to run for office at all levels of government. Last session, we passed a Caucus bill to create a Women's Rights History Trail, to highlight women across the Commonwealth who have contributed to our shared history through women's rights and suffrage, and continue to inspire new leaders. This year, we continue to prioritize a bill that would enable people running for office to use their campaign funds to pay for child care.

Women have made gains, but there is still much more to do. The Caucus of Women Legislators was founded in 1975 by the 14 women who served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. I was the 188th woman ever elected to the legislature in Massachusetts. There have now been a total of 234 women elected, as we have continued to make gains over the last decade. But when you consider that over 20,000 men have served in the Massachusetts State House over the years, it illustrates the slow trajectory of our progress.



When the US Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v Wade threatened women's health access and economic opportunity last year, women in the State House loudly pushed back to ensure that Massachusetts continues to provide access to needed health care and reproductive freedoms. Even as we comprise just over 31% of members of the House and Senate, we are continuing to lead on the most critical issues facing our communities.

Despite the challenges we face, we continue to make progress - both in electing more women and seeing women in leadership positions, and also in tackling major issues in economic equality and health care. Working together alongside other members of the Caucus of Women Legislators, I am hopeful we can make the strides necessary to continue enhancing the lives of women and girls in our Commonwealth.

'Above and Beyond' exhibit to highlight work of Phil Reavis

CONT. FROM PG 1

Club students, Museum staff, and volunteers collaborated to create an exhibition called The Basement Project: Not Your Usual Basement Junk, where each student selected an item from the Museum's collection and wrote about its history and significance.

This project was nationally recognized with a 2021 Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Nominated by the Museum, Adda Santos was awarded

the 2020 William Spratt Award for Excellence in Teaching Secondary Social Studies from the Massachusetts Council for Social Studies.

This program was supported in part by a grant from the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency supported by Mass Cultural Council.

Opening reception event: Thursday, June 8, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, Somerville, MA 02143. Museum open hours*: Thursdays, 2:00 - 7:00

p.m.; Fridays, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Admission: \$5; free to Somerville Museum members and visitors 18 years of age and under*.

Accessibility: The Somerville Museum is now handicapped accessible. The ADA entrance can be found on the ground level at 1 Westwood Road. *Valid for this exhibition only.

*The Museum is only open to the public while there is an exhibition installed, please check the website calendar for more information: www.somervillemuseum.org.



Somerville residents express concerns about the implementation of the city's Bike Network Plan

By Cassidy Beek

Somerville community members shared a mix of concerns and appreciation for the city's Bike Network Plan during a public hearing held by The Somerville City Council Traffic and Parking Committee on Wednesday, May 31.

The finalized plan was published in April and proposes an 88-mile citywide network of protected bicycle lanes and Neighborways for prioritized streets. The plan was developed through a public engagement, research, and analysis process over a one-and-a-half-year period, meeting the city's Vision Zero, Climate Forward and SomerVision goals.

While focusing on the need to provide safe biking infrastructure and improved connectivity, the goal is to install 40.2 miles by the year 2030 and the completed network to be finished by 2050.

Proceeding the council's short presentation on the plan, Beatriz Gomez Mouakad, Chair and Ward 5 City Councilor, welcomed the public's opinions. Many residents of Somerville and current members of the Bicycle Advisory Committee raised concerns about accessibility, public process and implementation.

Adam Nash, a Somerville resident, was the first to speak and strongly urged the committee to rethink their methodology for analysis. He believed the participants involved in the surveying process were heavily slanted to-

wards cyclists, omitting a substantial number of stakeholders involved as according to him, only 3% of Somerville's population was surveyed.

Susan Jacobucci, a Somerville resident, agreed with Nash and further expressed how the majority of residents are not being heard. She was surprised to find her street is included on the plan as a Neighborway, and claimed that the committee overstepped boundaries by reassigning a private road without gaining any input from the property owners.

Many called for an increase in transparency and public hearings, including Howard Horton, Co-chair of SomerVision 2040 and member of the Board of Directors of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce. "We are talking about 90% of the public ways in the city, and I do think that we need to have public hearings on each and every public way that's going to be changed. We need to bring this process into the sunlight, and we need to notify abutters of every street and get them involved," said Horton.

Stephen Mackey, a resident of the city and former member of the Chamber of Commerce, also urged the traffic commission to hold public hearings. He claimed there is currently no genuine involvement within the community, and public hearings are critical as a way to bring people together to work through the issues within the plan.



— Photo courtesy of Somerville Neighborways

Agreeing with Mackey, Brett Sillari, a Highland Ave. resident, expressed the need for meetings about the bike plan to be held in person and advised public outreach to be done by mail to avoid leaving property owners uninformed. Sillari also outlined that the removal of parking in Davis Sq. will detour visitors, hurt businesses and increase the difficulty of travel for the aging population. "A lot of people are leaving the city because of the lack of parking already. I know right now some people won't even visit Somerville because Davis Sq. is too difficult to park in," said Sillari.

Some hoped for handicapped parking to be preserved after implementing more bike lanes, including Katie Talmo, a property owner on Highland Ave. Her biggest concern was for people who have protections under The Americans Disability Act, as she claimed the plan would take away the limited handicapped parking spots in Somerville.

Concerns about the quick-build infrastructure were also raised. C.J. Asserto, a Somerville resident, wants to see the city more focused on permanent infrastructure that is safer for cyclists. "Anyone who rides a bike will tell you a flex post doesn't do

much when there's a 600-pound truck next to you," he said.

Asserto, among many, expressed his appreciation for the plan, saying it offers a better traveling experience to drivers as cyclists will have their own space on the road. Others shared their excitement for a future in Somerville where their children can get around independently by utilizing alternative forms of travel.

Mouakad closed the public process and announced that the hearing will remain open until June 14 for written comment. Public comments can be made to the city clerk at cityclerk@somerville.gov.

Housing and Community Development Committee updated on community programs waitlist process

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

The Housing and Community Development committee met on Tuesday, May 30, to listen to Susan Yerkes, the Director of Parks and Recreation for Somerville,

discuss the waitlist process for programs currently being offered and the future of more community programs.

Yerkes explained that there is a capacity for any of the programs currently offered by parks and

recreation, whether it be free or at a cost. Once capacity is met, all further applications are sent to a waitlist system within the MyRec program. The manner to be moved off the waitlist is a first come, first serve system.

Regarding community inquiries into expanding swim lesson opportunities and engaging an outside vendor to provide more community services, Yerkes noted that swim lessons are offered for all students in the

Somerville school system and added that they are in the process of hiring lifeguards and swim instructors in order to be able to match the staffing needs required to have more programs offered.

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

COMMENTARY

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Senator Jehlen on the Senate's budget for FY24

Senator Patricia Jehlen (D- Somerville) is happy to announce that the Senate recently approved a FY24 budget of \$55.9 billion. It includes expansion of childcare funding, first steps toward free community college, and increased funding for the MBTA, thanks to \$1 billion in revenue from the Fair Share Amendment. The most spirited debate in the Senate was on a Republican amendment to strike the plan to allow Massachusetts high school graduates without documents to pay in-state tuition at state colleges and universities. Senator Jehlen was pleased that this amendment was defeated 3-37, although it had previously been controversial.

Senator Jehlen's Priorities

Senator Jehlen was successful in advocacy for many of her top priorities in education, elder services, criminal justice reform, and housing and homelessness supports. The filed budget included a sustained increase in Chapter 70 school funding and maintained the implementation of the Student Opportunity Act. In addition, it included a long-time priority for Senator Jehlen, the Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment, funded with \$550K again this year. The Consortium is a growing group of school districts creating and implementing project-based assessment pilots as an alternative to standardized testing regimens.

Senator Jehlen was also successful in including \$250K for the New England Innocence Project to continue the work of the Exonerate Network. This program has been extremely successful in its first year by helping exonerated individuals, who spend decades in prison, find homes, jobs, and the necessities of life.

"We recently held an event at the statehouse with a group of exonerees who spoke of the work done by the Exonerate Network," said Senator Jehlen. "We learned that in just the first year in 2022, the Network helped one exoneree find access to a Senior Care Options plan."

Implementing Fair Share Revenue

The Senate also included provisions to transparently spend revenue for the voter approved surtax on millionaires, splitting the revenue evenly between new education and transportation spending.

Senator Jehlen said, "It's important that

the Senate's budget includes \$1 billion generated from the Fair Share ballot initiative voters approved in November 2022. The Senate budget clearly invests these new public dollars in education and transportation, keeping our promise to the voters."

Notable Fair Share Education investments include:

- **\$100 million** for Massachusetts School Building Authority Capital Supports for cities, towns and school districts experiencing extraordinary school project costs impacted by post-COVID inflationary pressures

- **\$100 million** for Financial Aid Expansion to expand financial aid programs for in-state students attending state universities through MASSGrant Plus, bringing the total proposal for this program to \$275 million, more than doubling the amount of scholarship funding provided by the state just two fiscal years prior

- **\$25 million** to reduce the waiting list for the income-eligible childcare assistance program, which will create approximately 2,200 new slots for children

- **\$25 million** for capital investments in early education and care programs to build capacity and ensure the ability of programs to safely accommodate additional slots

- **\$20 million** for a Free Community College Program for nursing students as a pilot to support a high-need workforce area and build toward universal free community college in the fall of 2024

- **\$15 million** for Free Community College Implementation Supports to collect necessary data, develop best practices, and build capacity for free community college in the fall of 2024

Notable Fair Share Transportation investments include:

- **\$190 million** for MBTA Capital Investments for critical capital resources for both the subway and commuter rail systems

- **\$100 million** for Regional Transit Funding and Grants, which will exclusively be used to support the work of the Regional Transit Authorities that serve the Commonwealth, more than doubling the total funding for RTAs to \$194 million, including:

- **\$15 million** for fare-free pilot program grants to provide six months of fare-free

RTA service across the Commonwealth

- **\$4 million** through the Community Transit Grant Program to support expanded mobility options for older adults, people with disabilities and low-income individuals

- **\$5 million** for MBTA Means-Tested Fares, which will cover initial exploration of the feasibility of implementing a means-tested fare program at the MBTA

Senator Jehlen's Amendments

Senator Jehlen was successful in advocacy for many of her top priorities in education, elder services, criminal justice reform, and housing and homelessness supports. Through the amendment process, Senator Jehlen was able to secure funding for homeless outreach programs and local parks in Somerville. This includes:

- **\$75,000** for Community Action Agency Somerville whose mission is to help local families and individuals achieve financial security while working to eliminate the root causes of economic injustice

- **\$100,000** for the implementation of safety and access improvement at the intersection of Alewife Brook Parkways and Broadway in Somerville

- **\$75,000** for the Center for Teen Empowerment, Inc which creates teen leadership jobs in Somerville and Boston

- **\$75,000** for trails at Blessing of the Bay Park featuring an accessible trail along the Mystic River

Senator Jehlen also offered other successful amendments including:

- **\$300,000** to reduce hospitalizations, emergency department visits and delay long-term care placements of those diagnosed with dementia

- **\$50,000** to support LGBTQ Aging Commission

- **\$500,000** for the first step toward creating universal long-term care insurance

- **\$450,000** to support paraprofessionals in obtaining teaching degrees, providing career ladder, diversifying the teaching workforce and addressing teacher shortages

- **\$450,000** for Jumpstart, which hires college students to assist in early childhood programs, giving children more adult attention and encouraging young people to consider teaching as a profession

- **\$100,000** for the Building Pathways



non-profit organization that is dedicated to the recruitment, retention, and advancement of under-represented groups in the building trades, including women, people of color, people with disabilities, and other under-served groups

- Amendment clarifying that 75% of home care agency rates go to direct care workers

- Amendment establishing a task force to place geriatric patients now stuck in hospital psychiatric units

Senator Jehlen will continue to pursue other new proposals that weren't successful this time:

- Fare free bus pilots for the MBTA, making fare free pilots available across city lines, increasing ridership, cutting time at stops

- Funds to acquire small properties and make them permanently affordable

- Rental bridge subsidies for older people on waitlists for public housing or vouchers, preventing elder homelessness

Education

The Senate Ways and Means FY24 budget proposal takes the first step toward implementing the Senate's Student Opportunity Plan by making high-quality education more accessible and by making record investments to support students across the full breadth of the Commonwealth's education system, from Massachusetts' youngest learners to adults re-entering higher education.

Recognizing that investments in our early education and care system support the underlying economic competitiveness of the Commonwealth, the Senate's budget makes a historic \$1.5 *Continued on page 15*

Senator Jehlen on the Senate's budget for FY24

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billion investment in early education and care. This is the largest-ever proposed annual appropriation for early education and care in Massachusetts history. The FY24 budget will maintain operational support for providers, support the early education and care workforce, and prioritize accessibility and affordability throughout our early education and care system.

- Notable funding includes:
- ♦ **\$475 million** for a full year of funding for C3 grants which are received by 88% of early education and care programs in the Commonwealth
 - ♦ **\$45 million** for the center-based childcare rate reserve for reimbursement rates for subsidized care, including:
 - ♦ **\$30 million** for the Commonwealth Preschool Partnership Initiative, which empowers school districts to expand pre-kindergarten and preschool opportunities through public-private partnerships. This is double the amount that was appropriated for this initiative in FY23
 - ♦ **\$25 million** in new funding to reduce the waiting list for income-eligible childcare assistance program, which will create approximately 2,200 new slots for children
 - ♦ **\$25 million** in new funding for capital investments in early education and care programs to build capacity and ensure the ability of programs to safely accommodate additional slots
 - ♦ **\$17.5 million** for grants to Head Start programs, which provide crucial early education and childcare services to low-income families
 - ♦ **\$10 million** for professional development and higher education opportunities for early educators, to assist with recruitment and retention challenges in the workforce
- In addition to these appropriations, the Fiscal Year 2024 budget includes a policy section that will allow subsidized early

- education and care programs to provide childcare discounts to their own staff members.
- For K-12 education, the Senate commits once again to fully funding and implementing the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) by FY 2027, investing \$6.59 billion in Chapter 70 funding, an increase of \$604 million over FY 2023.
- The Senate’s budget also welcomes students regardless of their race, national origin, citizenship, or immigration status, making clear that all high school students who attend for three years and graduate from a Massachusetts high school are eligible to receive in-state tuition at our public institutions of higher education. While this has been a major debate in the past, the Senate roundly rejected an amendment to remove the in-state tuition change by a vote of 3-37.
- “This vote represents over a decade of advocacy work that changed the minds of senators and told the stories of students in Massachusetts looking to get an education,” said Senator Jehlen. “I’m proud to stand with my colleagues and the students who will not be more able to afford college with in-state tuition rates after attending Massachusetts high-schools.”
- Health, Mental Health & Family Care
- The Senate budget funds MassHealth at a total of \$19.93 billion, providing more than 2.3 million people with continued access to affordable, accessible, and comprehensive health care services. Other health investments include:
- ♦ **\$26.3 million** for grants to local Councils on Aging to increase assistance per elder to \$14 from \$12 in FY 2023
 - ♦ **\$12.8 million** for Elder Nutrition Meals on Wheels, after an increase of \$1 million through the amendment process
 - ♦ **\$1 million**, adopted through the amendment process, for the development,

- expansion, and operation of freestanding birth centers and support for community based maternal health services
- The Senate’s FY24 budget codifies into law the federal Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) provisions that protect access to preventive services. By enshrining the ACA protections into state law, insurance carriers across the Commonwealth will be required to provide coverage for preventive services without imposing cost-sharing such as co-pays and deductibles. With this vital step, the Senate is protecting access to preventive health care services for millions of our residents, including screenings for cancer, diabetes, HIV, and depression, as well as preventive medications such as statins, immunizations, and PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV), and further protecting the rights and freedoms of residents to make their own health care choices without federal interference.
- Homelessness Prevention**
- As the Senate puts in motion plans to make the Commonwealth more inclusive, housing affordability remains on the top of residents’ minds. To that end, the Senate’s FY24 budget makes a historic \$1.05 billion investment in housing supports, dedicating resources to programs that support housing stability, residential assistance, and homelessness assistance.
- The budget prioritizes relief for families and individuals who continue to face challenges brought on by the pandemic and financial insecurity, including \$324 million for Emergency Assistance Family Shelters and \$195 million for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), which will provide rental assistance that a household can receive at \$7,000. Other housing investments include:
- ♦ **\$200 million** for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP), in-

- cluding \$20.4 million in funds carried forward from FY 2023, creating more than 750 new vouchers and allowing the program to move to a payment standard with a benefit of 110% of the federal small-area fair market rental price, significantly broadening housing options for those served by the program
- ♦ **\$110.8 million** for assistance for homeless individuals
 - ♦ **\$39.6 million** for the HomeBASE diversion and rapid re-housing programs, bolstering assistance under this program to two years with a per household maximum benefit of \$20,000
 - ♦ **\$26 million** for the Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP), including \$9.1 million in funds carried forward from FY 2023. This funding increase will create 250 new vouchers and will pair with \$2.5 million for grants to improve or create accessible housing units. Both programs will also benefit from the inclusion of project-based vouchers in AHVP, which will stimulate the building of new deeply affordable and accessible homes
 - ♦ **\$6.4 million** for the Home and Healthy for Good re-housing and supportive services program, including:
 - ♦ **\$250,000** for homeless LGBTQ youth
- In addition to these record supports, the budget makes permanent a COVID-era renter protection that slows down the court process in eviction proceedings when the tenant has a pending rental assistance application.
- The FY24 Senate Budget is available on the Massachusetts legislature’s website: <https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2024/SenateBudget>.
- A conference committee will now reconcile differences between the versions of the budget passed by the Senate and House of Representatives.

Beacon Hill Roll Call

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is an emergency treatment used for the complete or partial reversal of opioid overdose.

The bill would also require that all resident assistants (Ras) employed by the school be trained in the administration of Narcan.

"Massachusetts set a new record high for overdose deaths in 2021, with 2,290 lives tragically lost," said sponsor Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield). "Opioid antagonists like Narcan continue to be our best tool to reverse overdoses when they occur and this legislation would help expand access to this critical medication on college campuses throughout our state."

COLLEGES MUST MAINTAIN CERTAIN STANDARDS TO RECEIVE ANY STATE FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS OR FINANCIAL AID (S 830)

– Would make colleges with undergraduate graduation rates of less than 30 percent or with an above average rate of students who default on student loans ineligible to receive state scholarship and financial aid funds.”

“I filed [the bill] because there are no safeguards in place to prevent state financial aid from being diverted to underperforming institutions, representing a significant disservice to taxpayers and to our students,” said sponsor Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Lowell).

QUOTABLE QUOTES – DAIRY FARMS BY THE NUMBERS EDITION

The Massachusetts Dairy Promotion Board in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources announced dairy promotion grants to fund projects that will advance the image, sale of and demand for local dairy products.

These projects include education initiatives to Massachusetts communities on the importance and nutritional benefits of dairy products. In addition, the projects are designed to make greater awareness of the contributions of the state’s dairy farmers and provide

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ESCA Park opening ribbon cutting ceremony

By Denise Provost

On Monday, June 5, under cloudy skies, Somerville city officials cut a ribbon to open ESCA Park. ESCA stands for East Somerville Citizens for Action, a grassroots organization that led the fight against construction of elevated I-93. That State Highway Department project involved the taking and demolition of many East Somerville homes and today exposes the neighborhood to toxic near-highway air pollution and noise.

Ward One Councilor Matt McLaughlin praised the efforts of ESCA. He said that ESCA pro-

vided inspiration for his ongoing efforts to persuade the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to build sound walls along I-93, to mitigate noise and air toxins. He stressed the importance of parks in promoting public health and environmental justice.

ESCA Park is landscaped with over 100 trees, and has grassy areas and benches. It is located at the northern end of Cross Street, where it ends at Mystic Avenue and I-93. While it is a city park, it will be maintained by the developer of the residential buildings that face the park

— Photos by Denise Provost



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more resources to schools to support the consumption of Massachusetts dairy products.

“For generations, Massachusetts dairy farmers have prided themselves on producing the finest dairy products,” said Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner Ashley Randle. “As someone who grew up on a fifth-generation dairy farm in Western Massachusetts, I’ve seen the challenges that our dairy producers face. These promotional grant awards will go a long way to help educate and inform consumers about the environmental, economic, and nutritional qualities of dairy products and highlight how Massachusetts dairy farmers are continuing to lead by example with respect to climate change adaptations and clean energy solutions.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$70,000. — The total of grant money to fund projects.

108. — Number of dairy farms in Massachusetts.

49,744. — Total acres of farmland on which dairy farms

are situated.

188 million. — Total pounds of fresh wholesome milk a year, used to make many value-added products like cheese, yogurt, ice cream and butter.

\$45 million. — Amount that dairy farmers contribute to the state’s local economy.

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 29-June 2, the House met for a total of one hour and 55 minutes while the Senate met for a total of one hour and 39 minutes.

Mon. May 29	No House session No Senate session
Tues. May 30	House 11:00 a.m. to 12:07 p.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 12:09 p.m.
Wed. May 31	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. June 1	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. Senate 11:13 a.m. to 11:52 a.m.
Fri. June 2	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

COMMENTARY

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Transparency and Community Engagement in Planning and Zoning



By Wilfred Mbah
Candidate for Somerville
City Councilor at Large

The City Council held a lively public hearing last week at which residents and workers from neighborhoods around the city called on the council to correct a variety of procedural problems and a pro-developer bias in planning and zoning.

Representatives of neighborhood and advocacy groups related many instances when community members have felt excluded and ignored in the processes of plan formulation and project reviews. Their experiences seemed to contradict the work we tried to do in 2017 to support the first neighborhood council at Union Square and in 2019, to adopting the new Zoning Ordinance. We expected that these new instruments of public engagement and open deliberations and record-keeping would insure a community-oriented process and outcomes.

It was disappointing to hear that so many citizens now perceive these processes to be a false front, hiding the “real” decision-making between developers and city staff and officers behind closed doors.

Clarifying the fundamental problems

The testimony revealed that the problems and shortcomings are occurring in all aspects types of the zoning and planning processes:

- in broad area-wide planning and detailed neighborhood planning;
- in comprehensive spatial and urban design, and in detailed street, traffic and infrastructure and public facilities planning;
- in the reviews of multi-building master plans, individual building projects, small-scale variances, special permits and site plans;
- in the transformation zones where large-scale redevelopment is underway; in the squares and main street corridors getting infill projects; and in the residence zones where the housing stock needs improvement, but gentrification and displacement often result.

Given this variety of problem areas, there was not a clear focus on what remedies will be most effective.

Could we pinpoint sections or clauses in the Zoning Ordinance that need to be re-written? Did the main problems lie in the structures of process – the sequence of stages in a typical zoning application, starting with the “pre-submittal” stage when a developer is supposed to meet with city staff and hold a neighborhood meeting? Maybe citizen engagement at this early stage is ineffective because a project is still too abstract for meaningful evaluation?

Perhaps the main problems lie in the legal instruments that are expected to define mitigations, protections and community benefits? These restrictive covenants, Mobility Management Plans and other documents may or may not appear in the public record and often they are often written after decisions are made. Similar to the community benefits agreements, they are written in quasi-contractual language. The promises made are often contingent and aspirational and later cannot be enforced.

Is there a pro-developer bias?

Some of speakers implied that a pro-developer or anti-community bias is inherent in the “culture” of the city agencies, the Planning Board and ZBA. Some of their practices seem to be dismissive of the citizens. These include the frequent failure to send or post required notices and the issuance of studies and reports at the last minute, giving citizens too little time to read and understand their content. Most annoying are the times when residents come to a hearing and the board chair announces that the date has been postponed at the request of the applicant.

It likely that rather than a bias or bad motivation with city personnel, the problem lies instead in the artificial structure and format of their hearings and meetings and in the rote content of their decisions and reports. The Planning Board, ZBA and UDC meetings rarely involve any direct and frank discussion of the important planning issues – instead, applicants make their exaggerated presentations with pretty pictures, members of the public speak for two minutes each, and then the board members say very little to reveal their thinking.

The formal decisions make superficial and abstract findings with rote language and with no substantive explanations. Dozens of conditions are added, most of which

require a developer to subsequently finalize and submit the key environmental, traffic and design reports, and the legal covenants and agreements to the pertinent agency directors. Thus, even though these documents embody the substance of the project, the Boards act without them and the public never learns whether they have later been properly completed and complied with.

What should happen next?

The job of the City Council should now be to look systematically at all of zoning and planning process – its structure and sequence of stages, timetables, meeting and hearing formats, and the content and legal status of the instruments, prepared by the planning and legal staff.

We know from our neighbor Boston, that even with hundreds of planners and a generous budget, the BPDA encounters many of the same problems that we are seeing in Somerville. Similar to Mayor Wu’s review of the BPDA, the Council should undertake a thorough review.

First, it should look closely at the Zoning Ordinance. It now contains almost a dozen different procedures with varying numbers of stages and steps, with different documents and instruments and with differently defined roles for the parties – developers, staff, community representatives, and elected officials. It should be possible to simplify these in ways that eliminate distractions and better focus on planning issues in plain language.

Second, the Council should review the practical capabilities of OPSCD. Does the staff have too little time and too few resources to handle all the types of applications, reviews, planning initiatives and monitoring jobs that are assigned to it?

Third, the Council should review of the recent planning and zoning applications to judge whether these is pro-developer or anti-community bias evident in the records? If so, some staff guidelines for communications, office operations and protocols should be prepared.

Finally, the Council should consider whether the limitations of the zoning and planning powers themselves are at the core of the problems. It may be more important to strengthen our advocacy at the state legislature to gain new direct powers of housing support, rent control, anti-displacement legislation, fair wage and local hiring programs rather than trying to “leverage” zoning.

Confirmation of Appointments and Personal Matters Committee addresses city appointments

By Ana Celerier Salcedo

On the evening of Friday, May 31, the Confirmation of Appointments and Personal Matters Committee met to discuss a number of candidates for

city appointments.

First was candidate Daniel Coughlin, who was recommended to be approved for appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission. Candidates Denise Price and

Colin Curzi were also recommended to be appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission.

The Committee also discussed the appointment of candidate Doris Jenkins,

which was recommended to be approved by the Council later on.

Finally, the discussion of candidate James E. Torres for promotion to position of police sergeant was briefly dis-

cussed by the Committee, and then sent to be discussed in executive session.

All recommendations for approval we’re not final and will be finalized at the next council meeting.

Somerville opens new ARPA funding round to support general operations for local nonprofits

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne is announcing \$2 million in City funding support for area nonprofits, leveraging funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The online program portal is now open and will accept applications until July 31, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

"I know firsthand how challenging it can be for nonprofit organizations to create innovative, impactful programming, while simultaneously paying the day-to-day bills all organizations face," said Mayor Ballantyne. "Which is why I'm thrilled to announce the

City's \$2 million funding round specifically to help our nonprofit community pay for those behind-the-scenes expenses. By giving our nonprofit community help with operations, we can allow them to continue to grow and build on their invaluable work, making a tangible difference in the lives of our residents."

The current round of funding will provide awards of up to \$25,000 to support general operations for 501(c)3 nonprofits serving the Somerville community. Nonprofits located within the City of Somerville will receive

preference, but all organizations serving Somerville residents are invited to apply. Funding awards will be based on gross income and the scope of COVID-19's financial impact on the organization. Organizations will be notified of their award on a rolling basis.

Funds may be used for the following:

- Payroll
- Mortgages
- Rent
- Other operating expenses

Costs associated with mitigation or prevention of COVID-19 (example: en-

hanced cleaning expenses, barriers or partitions, or COVID-19 vaccination, testing, masks, hand sanitizer and other covid-19 related expenses)

Interested nonprofits can review the ARPA website for more information: somerville-ma.gov/arpa or contact Erica Satin-Hernandez, ARPA Specialist for the City of Somerville, via email at eshernandez@somervillema.gov.

The City of Somerville has been allocated \$77,504,170 from the federal American Res-

cue Plan Act (ARPA) to aid in local pandemic recovery efforts. Informed by input from nearly 2,000 survey responses, dozens of focus groups, two public forums, and a 14-member advisory committee, the City has been designating ARPA funds for a wide range of recovery purposes. The complete allocation has been committed to wide-ranging pandemic recovery efforts including from direct aid for households to critical infrastructure investments. Of those allocations, \$21,576,030 has been granted to Somerville nonprofits.

Join the City of Somerville's Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne and the Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ) today invite the Somerville community to attend the City's Juneteenth flag-raising event from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Somerville City Hall concourse on Monday, June 12, 2023.

"The Juneteenth flag is a powerful symbol of equality, justice, and the enduring spirit of freedom. It is an honor to join the Somerville community to fly it proudly above City Hall," said Mayor Ballantyne. "It serves to remind all of us of our shared responsibility to confront the leg-

acy of slavery and continue the work of building a more inclusive and equitable society."

U.S. Army Veteran Kevin Dickinson will conduct the flag-raising ceremony with live speeches and performances from North Shore Juneteenth Association representatives, including Ogor Winnie Okoye, Andre Bennett, Eva Davenport, and Michelle La Poetica Richardson.

"I look forward to sharing this meaningful day with the Somerville community to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved African Americans on this day in 1865," said RSJ Director Denise

Molina Capers. "But this is not only a celebration – it's an important reminder of the hardship that brought us to this point and an opportunity to recommit ourselves fully to pursuing and progressing opportunity, access, and equity to all."

Black-owned and Somerville-based Tipping Cow Ice Cream will provide ice cream during the flag-raising ceremony. The Somerville Department of Racial and Social Justice is also sponsoring 50 tickets to an upcoming exhibit at the Somerville Museum:

Above and Beyond: The Re-

markable Life of Somerville Olympian Phil Reavis

"Above and Beyond showcases the life of Phil Reavis – a Somerville native, Olympic athlete, long-time educator and one of the first people of color in Somerville with a public space named in his honor."

\$5 admission fee for the exhibit running from June 8 - July 8, to be covered with a valid ticket from the RSJ Department.

Tickets valid for admission to the "Above and Beyond" exhibit will be available at the flag-raising ceremony and after the event, while supplies last, by emailing

RSJ Community Engagement Specialist Leonor Galindo at lgalindo@somervillema.gov.

The flag-raising will also be recorded and made available for later viewing by the City's Gov-TV team. Watch on-demand with optional closed-captioning (select the CC icon) on YouTube.com/SomervilleCityTV. Or watch on cable TV at Gov-TV Comcast Ch. 22 and Gov-TV Astound (RCN) Ch. 13 & 613. Videos generally post within one to two business days of recording. Live ASL Interpretation will be provided at the event.

New Somerville Firefighters



On Friday, June 2, three new Somerville Firefighters graduated from the MA Firefighting Academy in Stow.

(L to R) Firefighter Brian Langton, Firefighter Christopher Tirrell, Chief Charles Breen and Firefighter Alex Artinian.

They were given their new assignments and will report to fire stations on June 8.

— Photo courtesy of Somerville FD

Free Beginner English/Civics Class

Tuesday, June 13, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the East Branch Library, 115 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02145

Pathways to Citizenship is a beginner ESOL/civics class for adults who are interested in improving their English skills in order to apply for US citizenship.

ESOL Workbooks will be provided.

Requirements: Must have a green card or in the process of getting one in order to attend. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/pathwaystocitizenship> or on the first day of class

Somerville High School Class Day 2023

Somerville High class day is full of traditions. All seniors are recognized for what they are most proud of and their plans for next year. The class from 50 years prior, class of 1973 this year, is invited and acknowledged. Music, the passing of colors and even a more than 100-year-old spade play a part. This year there seems to be more variety in plans including at least ten students who said they are taking a gap year to work and travel before starting further schooling. Cheers to the SHS class of 2023!



Somerville Kiwanis Club present scholarship awards to 12 Somerville High School seniors

On Thursday, June 1, The Kiwanis Club of Somerville held its annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Mount Vernon Restaurant to recognize twelve Somerville High School Seniors. The recipients competed for this scholarship by writing an essay which was reviewed by the Somerville Scholarship Committee, who selected the twelve recipients. Nine of the twelve students were able to attend the luncheon meeting. Each of the students named below received a \$1000 check to be used for their college expenses.



Attending the luncheon:
Mia Rivera Asmen received Gerry Donahoe Memorial Scholarship
David Ou received The Larry Post Memorial Scholarship
Reanna Roy received The Pauline D'Aurora Memorial Scholarship
Samuel Buckley
Marie Christine Denis
Hashem El-Saudi
Jaslene Jean-Francois
Bee Milhous
Caden Yarberry

Other recipients who were unable to attend:
Kayala Nayak received The Paul O. Kelly Memorial Scholarship
Lara Jean Gordon
Samira Nur

The annual scholarships are funded by the Somerville Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Somerville.

Pictured above on the far left are Distinguished Past President David O'Brien, Kiwanis President Haley Adams, the nine student recipients attending are in the center and Scholarship Committee members Eugene Brune, Past President Frank Wright, Past President and Committee Chairman Anthony Cicciariello and Past President Isaac Machado on the far right.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



View of Boston from (unopened) Bike Path...
— Photo by Denise Provost

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BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why did the tomato blush?
It saw the salad dressing.

On This Day in History June 7

- 1498 – Christopher Columbus leaves on his third voyage of exploration.
- 1712 – The Pennsylvania Assembly bans the importation of slaves.
- 1775 – The United Colonies change their name to the United States.
- 1903 – Professor Pierre Curie reveals the discovery of Polonium.
- 1914 – The first vessel passes through the Panama Canal.
- 1932 – Over 7,000 war veterans march on Washington, D.C., demanding their bonus pay for service in World War I.
- 1942 – The Japanese invade Attu and Kiska in the Aleutian Islands.
- 1968 – In Operation Swift Saber, U.S. Marines sweep an area 10 miles northwest of Da Nang in South Vietnam.
- 1981 – Israeli F-16 fighter-bombers destroy Iraq's only nuclear reactor.
- 1994 – The Organization of African Unity formally admits South Africa as its fifty-third member.

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Conceptual Artist J T Bullitt evaporates the novel Moby-Dick

While at Open Studios in Somerville I came across conceptual artist JT Bullitt. According to his website: "My studio work is an ongoing series of conceptual listening experiments that investigate the invisible, inaudible, intangible forces surrounding us and underlying human experience. I am particularly fascinated by questions of identity & name, language & symbol, and the fluidity of our perception of time & space. I work primarily in sound — both large and small — and in mark-making."

I was also fascinated to see he evaporated the novel Moby Dick. We will explain later.

Doug Holder: What made you move from Maine? How do you like working along with the community of artists at the Joy Street Studios?

JT Bullitt: I'm originally from the Boston area but I lived in rural Maine for about 12 years. I loved the wildness of the coast and the deep silence of the night sky. It was really the perfect spot for a studio. But I eventually missed the stimulation of Boston's art and science scene, as well as my two young granddaughters down in Massachusetts. So I moved back to the area and found a studio at Joy Street, where I've been working on a variety of projects involving sound and making marks on paper.

I'm primarily a conceptual artist, which is a rather peculiar niche, so it's been wonderfully refreshing to meet outstanding artists here at Joy Street who are grounded in more traditional art practices. We're an eclectic group, but there's a good sense of community here. Lately we've been organizing ourselves to respond to the threat of displacement by high-end real estate development in the neighborhood. It's a challenge for artist communities all across the city, but we're doing our part. It feels good to be a part of that.

DH: Your main work seems to be conceptual listening projects. Can you explain this endeavor and how it is presented to the public?

JTB: Listening is all about making deep connections with the world. Because sound is so intimately tied to the flow of time, those connections shift and change from moment to moment. It's a very mysteri-



ous thing! My projects in sound and in other media are all "experiments" that explore these mysteries and try to get to the heart of things.

Over the years I've shared my work in many different ways: by publishing CD's, presenting recordings at galleries and museums, and sharing them with dance choreographers, composers, musicians, and film makers. In my multichannel sound installations I invite listeners to walk around my studio and explore the shifting soundscapes, to give them a chance to tune in to the act of listening itself. It can be a powerful inward-looking experience.

In some of my sound experiments I translate seismic recordings of the Earth's slow vibrations into audible sound. In others I've recorded the sounds of snails eating, the sound of the tides, or the "sound" of the grooves that the glaciers carved like a phonograph into bedrock 12,000 years ago. It's a way to experience the world at different scales of time and space and to contemplate where we fit within it all. I've also enjoyed streaming the sounds of the Earth online and broadcasting them into the air via FM radio. There's nothing quite like turning on your car radio and hearing the Earth speak!

It's always fun to see how people respond to these sounds. Sometimes when young

Continued on page 23

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Lynn Fitzgerald is a Chicago native and citizen of the world. She is member of Poets and Patrons, Illinois State Poetry Society. Currently, an adjunct professor of English for the City Colleges of Chicago, where she teaches research, poetry, and film. Her chapbook, *Closer to the Earth*, was awarded a CAAP grant and was published by Moon Journal Press.



Subtraction

"An artist creates not by adding, but by taking away."
Robert Bresson

First, the gold and diamonds disappeared:
my grandmother's gift of a wedding ring,
your onyx ring initialed in 24 K gold

The dresser drawers upturned
door ajar, ghostly so
someone took away the sofa, threw away the bed

Left behind the sheets and drapes
the porcelain from an antique land
tarnished teacups, the scattering of plates

The ashtray gone
along with the cigarette's flame
the matches in a pocket we stashed away.

Yet the love story,
the bodies twined into one remained,
youth had one direction and that was us

We kept our beating hearts, gave
away the car, kept to our daily walks
gave away money or spent it as we pleased

We gave away paintings and photographs
you abandoned your blue suit, left the closet door
open
I left my wedding dress draped across the floor

We walked away, you in your tweed
overcoat black shoes polished, me in my suede

jacket, fur cuffs and velvet boots

The hats, scarves, and gloves we left on the mantel
the carpet and the chairs tossed into space
we were holding on to us before we vanished into air.

— Lynn Fitzgerald

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

to 8:00 p.m. (Rain Date: June 18). Enjoy music, comedy, drag performances, craft vendors, and more. All are welcome to attend.

Don't forget to visit Somerville's farmers markets. Every Wednesday through November 22, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. visit the Davis Square Farmers Market, across from American Flatbread at 44 Day St. Visit: www.massfarmersmarkets.org/davis. Every Saturday through October 28, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., the Union Square Farmers Market takes place at 66-70 Union Sq. visit: www.unionsquare-main.org/2023-fmseason.

Join SomerViva for a library tour for Chinese speakers on June 17. Learn about the resources the Somerville Public Library has for Chinese-speaking community members, including their Chinese collection in the foreign languages section. Interested persons can register at <https://forms.gle/JQNmA2hKW7r1YYho8>.

Medford St. behind the High School is one-way in order to accommodate a temporary Community Path detour. Westbound vehicle traffic on Medford St. between Walnut St. and Pearl St. will be detoured to facilitate installation and use of these temporary bike lanes. Westbound traffic will be directed north on Walnut St. and west on Pearl St. before reconnecting with Medford St. Eastbound

travel on Medford St. will be maintained as usual. The detour will be in place 24/7. <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/green-line-extension>.

The 2023 Taste of Somerville takes place on Wednesday, June 14, outside at Assembly Row, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Produced by the Somerville Chamber of Commerce Dining and Nightlife Group, the Taste of Somerville is a unique way to experience our dining and nightlife scene. For tickets and more information visit <http://tasteofsomerville.org>.

The City of Somerville's annual Water System Flushing Program has begun and will continue through late October. This annual program flushes pipes at high velocities to clean water mains and maintain the highest possible water quality. Flushing will take place Mondays and Thursdays between 6:00 p.m. and midnight to minimize potential disruptions to water service. In most cases, residents will not notice any changes to their water service. However, some homes may experience a temporary, slight drop in water pressure and/or discolored water. In these cases, though the water may be discolored, it is safe to drink. Until the water runs clear, it is advisable to avoid washing laundry, especially white fabrics. If any rust stains appear on wet laundry, it should not be dried in a dryer machine, and residents can call 311 (or 617-666-3311 from cell

phones or outside the city) for a free bottle of rust remover. Residents will be notified via signage when their neighborhood will be affected by the flushing program. For more information, please contact the Water Department at water@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 5850.

The Somerville YMCA has announced their upcoming annual golf fundraiser event. Join in on Monday, June 12, at the Wayland Country Club for a day filled with friendly competition, networking, and supporting a great cause. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to combine your passion for golf with philanthropy. Register now to secure your spot and be part of this exciting event. Visit <https://lnkd.in/eJ8Af7fb> for more details and to reserve your place on the green.

The Free Lockboxes for Seniors Program is intended to provide police, fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) access to your residence in the event of an emergency where you are unable to open the door. A key to your residence will be stored in a secure metal storage device, like a realtor's lockbox, at your residence. The access code to the lockbox will only be available to police, fire or EMS personnel and used only during an emergency. The program is targeted towards Somerville residents who live alone and are aged 65+, or those

who are disabled and/or suffer from major medical issues at any age. Individuals living in apartment complexes or other facilities with maintenance staff are not eligible for this program. For more information, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

Bad artists welcome! Join the Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave. on Wednesday, June 21 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. for an Adult's Cursed Cards craft night and create haunted, horror-filled and delightfully unhinged cards to your twisted heart's content. Presented by Summer Scares! Registration required: <https://tinyurl.com/5cwhnmk6>; with questions contact Bethany, bdoane@somervillema.gov.

Musicians, where do you rehearse and perform? As part of their ongoing art space initiatives, the Somerville Arts Council (SAC) is interested in understanding where musicians rehearse and perform. If you are a Somerville musician, please fill out this short questionnaire: <https://forms.office.com/g/0iMCFX5fUR>.

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.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

children hear the seismic background “noise” of the Earth, they will curl up in their parent’s lap and settle into a very relaxed state. At the Joy Street open studios events I’ve had some really fun conversations with artists, mathematicians, philosophers, and people who are just plain curious about what I’m trying to do. It’s a great opportunity for me to learn from others.

DH: Were you influenced by such minimalist music composer such as John Cage, etc.

JTB: My background is in science, so I feel some camaraderie with artists who borrow techniques from the world of science and technology to explore the nature of sound and silence. Cage himself was a master of silence, but he also did some brilliant compositions that used randomly tuned radios. His compositions raised deep questions about our assumptions about “noise” and “silence”. Sometimes it takes just a little bit of technology to make a profound esthetic discovery. When conceptual artist Juan Geuer shone a thin laser beam into a suspended drop of water, it filled the walls of a dimly lit museum gallery with a spectacular world of shimmering light and color. Who knew that the humble water drop contained such beauty!

Seeing technology applied this way has had a huge influence on me. It expands the idea of what “art” can be. At the other extreme, I also enjoy the use of maximal technology when it can reveal fresh minimalist ideas. For example, Janet Cardiff famously used forty loudspeakers to create a sonic sculpture from a choir of forty individual singers, while Tristan Perich built a wall of 1,500 loudspeakers, each softly playing a different tone. All of these artists who use technology to various degrees have made an impact on my approach to art. But I’ve also found inspiration from painters like Mark Tobey, Lee Krasner, and Hossein Zenderouti, among others. And of course, sometimes the best inspiration comes from simply listening to a field cricket on a summer evening.

DH: Although your interest is in sound, you published a version of Melville's *Moby-Dick*, entitled *The Evaporated Moby-Dick*. Your conceit was never to use the same word twice from the original novel – after a word appears it disappears, never to be seen again. What is the germ behind this idea?

JTB: I seem to be one of those strange people who actually loved reading *Moby-Dick*. I’ve read it three or four

times. There’s something deliciously compelling about Ahab’s inevitable doom that’s foreshadowed beautifully in Melville’s story-telling and use of language. I was fascinated by the idea that something as concrete as language can propel a reader’s imagination towards an imaginary event as dramatic as (spoiler alert!) a shipwreck, where it seems that the entire world disintegrates into a floating pile of debris. The story’s crescendo is really the point where language itself breaks down.

I wondered what would happen if language were allowed literally to disintegrate, until all that’s left is a sea of broken bits and pieces of punctuation? So I wrote some software to sift through the text, eliminating words one by one, but leaving the punctuation intact. I think that when the text “evaporates” this way, it reveals the ultimate fallibility of language itself. Evaporating Moby Dick also surprised me because it revealed Melville’s impressive vocabulary. Even in the last chapters of the book, where the text consists mostly of white space sprinkled with punctuation, he’s still introducing new words. I think today’s best-sellers would probably run out of new words after the first few pages!

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