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The Somerville Times

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SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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ArtBeat is back at Davis Sq.

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Somerville holds citywide Vaccine Day



Three COVID-19 vaccine clinics were put into operation last Sunday, providing vaccination opportunities for the entire city. — Photos by Fernando Cervantes Jr.

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

On Sunday, July 11, the Somerville Vaccine Day was held in three churches around the city.

Organized by the Somerville Health and Human Services Department and the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Vaccine Day looked to reach many immigrant communities which have largely not yet received the vaccine.

According to Director of Health and Human Services for Somerville Doug Kress, events like this aim to make COVID-19 vaccinations more accessible for Somerville residents.

"Today what we are doing is that we are trying to continue to get people vaccinated here in Somerville. We have realized that there are some who have been having challenges getting to sites. It just hasn't fit into their schedules. We want to make sure that everybody has the opportunity to get vaccinated," Kress said.

Furthermore, Jamila Xible, Director of Health Education and Access at Cambridge Health Alliance, spoke about the

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Somerville Museum receives AASLH Award for 'The Basement Project'

The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that Somerville High School history teacher Adda Maria Santos, the students of Somerville High School's Local History Club, the Somerville Museum and museum professional Jodie Smith are the recipients of an Award of Excellence for "The Basement Project."

The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 76th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

Inspired by teacher Adda Maria Santos' curiosity about the Somerville Museum's historic collections, stored in the Museum's basement, students from the High School Local History Club curated an exhibit called "The Basement Project: Not Your Usual Basement Junk."

Each student was empowered to select items from the Museum's collections, to write about the history of these objects, and to share their thoughts about what they

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History Teacher Adda Maria Santos, Students of Somerville High School's Local History Club and the Somerville Museum Win 2021 AASLH Award of Excellence.



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

The newly renovated and restored **Somerville Public Library West Branch** at 40 College Avenue will open for indoor services **Tuesday, July 13**, welcoming visitors into the historic site for the first time since it closed for construction in early 2019. A ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration will be held at a later date. The Central and East branch buildings reopened July 12. All staff and visitors are required to wear face coverings while inside the libraries. Library programs will continue to be held either outside or virtually until further notice. Public access to library meeting, conference, and programming spaces is also limited until further notice. For more information, please contact the library at 617-623-5000 or visit somervillepubliclibrary.org.

Put on your Parisian best and come picnic in celebration of **Bastille Day** on **Wednesday, July 14**, at **Bow Market**, 1 Bow Market Way. Pre-order a cute tote on Bow Market's Facebook page which includes a fresh baguette, cheese, two glasses, and either a bottle of rosé from **Rebel Rebel** or a crowler of French inspired beer from **Remnant Brewing**. Celebrations will also include a mime, a pétanque court, and cotton candy. Pick up your tote of treats and enjoy them in our courtyard or in the Remnant courtyard from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m. that evening.

Groundwork Somerville is excited to announce their **2021 South St. Farm Open Hours**. Stop by any **Saturday** between **July and September**, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 138 South St., and check out Somerville's very own urban farm. This time is set aside for our community to tour the farm, enjoy the green space, volunteer, or have a picnic. No registration is required, just come by. <http://www.groundworksomerville.org>.

Celebrating their birthdays this week: Happy birthday to a lifelong resident **Judy Podymaitis**, who celebrates this week. We wish her well, with many more to come. Happy birthday to **Cheryl Chaille Horan**, of **Green Cab**. *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 14 – July 20 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday July 14	Cloudy	79°/70°	25%	12%	SSE 9 mph
Thursday July 15	Partly Cloudy	87°/70°	18%	9%	W 8 mph
Friday July 16	Partly Cloudy	88°/71°	26%	11%	SW 11 mph
Saturday July 17	Rain	87°/69°	35%	18%	SW 12 mph
Sunday July 18	Rain	82°/68°	31%	16%	WSW 8 mph
Monday July 19	Rain	82°/71°	36%	19%	WNW 10 mph
Tuesday July 20	Rain	79°/65°	30%	13%	W 9 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: Somerville's Annual Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration

Eric says:

We were very disappointed that despite assurances on the website and the city's Twitter account that the fireworks would start at 9:45pm, they actually started at 8:45 or so! It means we missed them. Just a quick note on Twitter or anywhere once the plan was changed would have been enough!

Response to: Hoodsies for everyone!

BMac says:

We A few years ago I stopped in a Market Basket to grab lunch. Passing the freezers, I saw a sleeve of Hoodsies. The team I was managing at the time was about 2/3 Somerville, Revere natives. First thing they all asked was "where's the wooden spoons?"

Response to: Representative Barber testifies alongside advocates and supporters for driver's license bill

Henry says:

It's too bad the this article has no balance and makes no mention of opposing viewpoints. Here are some obvious points, as presented at the public hearing — 1) the bill would encourage further illegal immigration, 2) it's unfair to those in the process of immigrating to Massachusetts legally, 3) illegal immigration is a financial drain on Massachusetts taxpayers, and 4) the bill subverts the enforcement of Federal immigration laws.

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Henry's "balancing" act is nothing more than your typical right wing alarmist horse hockey. Relax, pal. The grownups are just trying to make the roadways safer for everybody. That includes you, in case you're wondering.

Response to: Somerville Police respond to commercial breaking and entering

Monty Crisco says:

Hey! I know those guys! LOL

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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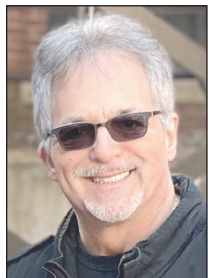
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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

The Broadway Theater



This article was first published on October 22, 2014.

The beautification of lower Broadway in East Somerville is ... beautiful. I passed by the old Broadway Theater building and started thinking about its history. The following is reprinted from The East Somerville Main Streets webpage. "...it used to be a magnificent theater which at one time was a great attraction for East Somerville. It was built in 1915 as part of an elaborate stock scheme but went bankrupt and was quickly sold to Arthur Viano in 1929. The Viano fam-

ily ran the theater, which sat 1040 people, for the next fifty years until they closed its doors in 1982."

Flat top Ice cream cones, cheap matinees, popcorn and a drink for 25 cents on a Saturday afternoon. A young couple sneaking a kiss in the balcony. A little girl's first movie with her dad to see *The Lady and The Tramp* in 1955. These are some of the memories shared by the people who attended The Broadway Theater in its heyday.

We never said, "We're going to the movie theater!" We said, "We're going to the show." Or simply "The movies." It was the place to go on a Saturday. A lot of kids also had jobs at the Broadway Theater cleaning up after a movie, selling tickets,



or working the concessions stand. Some one recalls a boss nicknamed "Joe the Show." Do you remember playing a game called "Banko" in between movies?

Don shares this gem: "I remember Monsignor Hogan telling us at church we couldn't see this movie or that movie because it wasn't good for us. Later after Mass it seemed like all the kids from church went to the forbidden movie just to see why we shouldn't go. It was a great place to have 25c for the movies and candy, and on Saturday you could stay there all afternoon watching several movies and cartoons. Once in a while Major Mudd would come out." Major Mudd had a kids show on Boston TV. I bet there are still some of those free dishes around your house that they gave away each week at the theater.

Rick recalls: "*Hells Angels on Wheels*, 1967, with Jack Nicholson. I wasn't supposed to see it but I snuck in and never got caught! The 1930's Batman serial ran there too."

Jody tells us: "One of the ice creams was called Tabbies." Another memory: "I saw *A Hard Day's Night* (1964) there and I remember paying for it with a fairly new Franklin half dollar piece that I wanted to save, but the Beatles were worth it!"

Here are some of the movies some former Broadway Theater patrons remember seeing: *Godzilla*, 1954, *The Blob*, 1958, *The Pirates of Blood River*, 1962, *The Cardinal*, 1963, *Beach Blanket Bingo*, 1964, *Wait Until Dark*, 1967, *Bonnie and Clyde*, 1967, *The Love Bug*,

1968, *Love Story*, 1970, *The Exorcist*, 1973, *The Towering Inferno*, 1974, *Jaws*, 1975, *Rocky*, 1976, *Carrie*, 1976, *Saturday Night Fever*, 1977, *Smoky and the Bandit*, 1977, *Clash of The Titans*, 1978, and *Grease* in 1978.

Shirley: "I remember going there to see *Blazing Saddles* (1974) and *The Groove Tube*, also '74. It cost 32 cents for the matinee. I remember the large man who always had a cigarette hanging out of his mouth and the guy who looked like Alan Funt (*Candid Camera*) with a cigar, who worked there (Joe the Show?)"

An unknown patron says, "Near the time it was closing they started playing questionable movies. It was a double feature of *The Van* and *The Pom Pom Girls*."

It's hard to drive by the site of the old Broadway Theater and not be bombarded with those marvelous old movie memories. Saturdays were sure special when you got to spend the afternoon with the smell of fresh popped popcorn, a wide variety of candy, and throngs of your excited friends waiting for the coming attractions. We loved the cartoon of the singing, dancing refreshments advertising the concession stand. "Let's all go to the lobby..."

Many present and past Somerville people have great stories to share about the enjoyable times spent at The Broadway Theater. Another past patron recalls walking outside after spending an afternoon in the theater and having to shield her eyes from the blinding sun. Remember that? I do.



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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Intruder just wanted to get some rest

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Pitman St. location last week on reports of an unwanted party.

Upon arrival, the officers spotted a man, later identified as Laurence Scudder, walking around in the first-floor apartment.

When the officers entered the apartment, Scudder walked past them and left the residence. A tenant of one of the apartments said that Scudder was an intruder and broke into his home.

The victim said he was woken up by the sound of snoring com-

ing from his living room. When he checked what was making the noise, he saw Scudder sleeping on his couch. He then asked Scudder to leave several times, but would not comply. He responded by asking if he could stay because he was tired.

Another resident of the apartment building said that she heard a noise coming from her front hallway. When she opened the door, she saw Scudder standing on the other side of the door. She screamed and slammed the door in his face. At this point,

she called police for assistance. Officers went outside to speak with Scudder, but he refused to cooperate and tell us why he was in the victim's apartment. Scudder was placed under arrested on a charge of misdemeanor breaking and entering.

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Do your part - Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine – All calls are confidential – Your Privacy is Assured. If you choose, you can leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned (not required). Also, if you prefer you may e-mail directly with your crime tip. We will follow up on all information provided to the best of our ability.

Thank you for your assistance.

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SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Laurence Scudder, July 7, 3:40 a.m., arrested at Pitman St. on a charge of misdemeanor breaking and

entering. Colette Olcot, of Boston, July 10, 4:52 p.m., arrested at Assembly Row on warrant charges of trespassing,

resisting arrest, receiving stolen property under \$1200, misdemeanor breaking and entering, and disorderly conduct.

Brian Navarro, July 10, 6:43 p.m., arrested at Washington St. on a warrant charge of threat to commit a crime.

Aarash Navabi, July 10, 8:35 p.m., arrested at Yorktown St. on warrant charges of carrying a dangerous weapon and speeding.

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Somerville holds citywide Vaccine Day CONT. FROM PG 1

importance of vaccination for non-English speakers in Somerville.

"This is the type of disease that we cannot leave anybody behind, because if one of us is not safe, we're all not safe," Xible said.

Xible also spoke on the different struggles the Cambridge Health Alliance has faced trying to get people vaccinated, especially the lack of confidence in vaccines.

"In the beginning, everybody that was eager to get vaccinated, everybody who had access to the vaccines, the easy part is done. Now we're coming to folks that sometimes don't trust the vaccine. Building that trust is a very important thing,"

Xible said.

In addition, Kress talked about the importance of getting the public vaccinated at this stage in the pandemic.

"We all do better when we do better. That means that if we all get vaccinated we can slow the spread of this virus and we can get back to more normalcy," Kress said.

This same spirit was shared by people vaccinated at the sites. One of the people vaccinated in Sunday's event, Jesse LeFebvre, expressed his reaction to receiving his first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

"I'm excited at the freedom that is coming with having the vaccine," LeFebvre said.



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City Council and administration debate access to confidential information

By Joe Creason

The City Council's Legislative Matters Committee held a meeting on July 6 in order to discuss several matters on the business on the city agenda.

The Council voted to renew authorization under Massachusetts General Law which allows Somerville Fire Department to provide mutual aid to any city, town, fire district or area under federal jurisdiction.

The Council also amended the Veterans Commission Ordinance, which will now permit the Hero Square dedications for both living and deceased service members who served during war time.

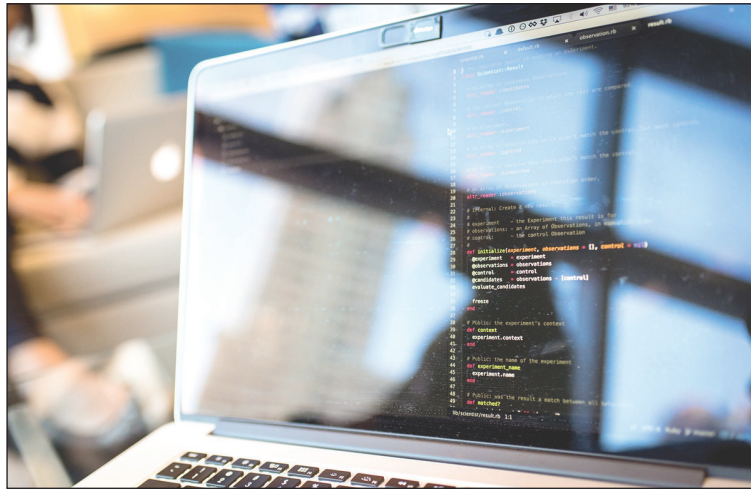
"It's really about the veterans community and boosting how these families participate with our city as well as recognizing the military heroes who are still living," said Director of the Veteran's Commission Ted Louis-Jacques.

An amendment was proposed by the Council which would require the City Solicitor to notify the Council of any suite filed against the city and any claims against the city filed at the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). The Solicitor's Office had opinions which reflected reservations with the proposed amendment.

"The position of the law department would be to add language to the amendment that would share MCAD complaints with the Council once those complaints become public record," said Chief Labor Counsel and Assistant City Solicitor Julie McKenzie.

McKenzie says that MCAD believes that information around investigations have a certain degree of confidentiality and sensitivity with regards to public knowledge.

"I absolutely understand the need to protect the privacy of those, especially in the case of those who brought claims against discrimination and those who claims are brought against, so I'm in full agreement there. However, I'm having a hard time reconciling some viewpoints," said Legislative Committee Chair and Ward 6



Councilor Lance Davis.

Davis said that the City Council had access to confidential information across several other contexts and that the Solicitor Office's legal opinion implies that there is no distinction between members of the City Council and the general public when it comes to privileged information.

"In the context of employment, the City Council has some authority, but not investigative or disciplinary powers. When you're talking about complaints that arise under unfair employment, I think it's distinct from other complaints," McKenzie said.

Councilor Davis would go on to point out that the Solicitor's Office had previously advised a committee of the City Council that the city administration and the Council were one and the same in matters of hiring.

"The City Council doesn't have a statutory or regulatory role over that sort of day-to-day management of the work place which is where these MCAD complaints arise out of," McKenzie said. "I do see some differences between the Civil Service confirmation which the City Council has oversight of, and the day-to-day functioning."

Davis said that while he wishes to remain respectful in all capacities of discussion and not draw out the debate into a fight, he believes that the expressed opinions were a prime example of a pattern which the Solicitor's Office has shown a tendency to display.

"It feels to me, and I've expressed this before, that when the Solicitor's Office wants one result, things get interpreted one way and when they want another result, they interpret them an-

other way," Davis said.

Davis said that while the Administration may have good reasons for their legal stance, he would like to see further arguments made.

"I think this discussion is informative and enlightening. As Councilor Davis has said before, I don't think we are going to get anywhere with the legal argument tonight," said Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. "For the record I do think it is important to recognize that for us as City Councilors to recognize that when we feel we are being asked to take votes and make decisions without the appropriate information before us, I think it is up to us to make those decisions or refuse to make those decisions if we are not getting that information"

According to McKenzie, all complaints filed at the MCAD make it on to the public record.

In other business, a request was submitted to adopt a Rental Registration and Energy Disclosure Ordinance. "This Ordinance would grant the city the authority to create Somerville's first rental registry and what we believe to be the first rental energy disclosure of its kind in the Commonwealth," said Housing Environment Program Coordinator Christine Andrews.

According to Andrews, the ordinance was prompted by an order from Councilor At-Large Wilfred N. Mbah to create a rental licensing that would mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in Somerville.

Andrews said this ordinance can help not only climate goes, but housing, health and city management goals all at once.

The proposed ordinance was left in committee.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #233

Four of a Kind

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Gothic architecture has been popular since the early European twelfth century. In Europe, this design took root with fortresses, strong holds and castles. Centuries later with the early development of America, the historic trend swept here. As time passed, Gothic-style armories, churches and municipal buildings sprouted across the country. Gothic-designed fire houses gained popularity in the late 1800's.



In 1872, the same year that Somerville became a city, Boston experienced its worst conflagration. It destroyed 776 buildings across 65 acres. Thirty lives were lost including twelve firefighters, and the financial loss in those days was nearly one billion dollars in today's terms. Twenty years later in 1892, the city opened its first fire-training tower and fire headquarters on the ashes of that fire. This 156-foot yellow fire-brick Gothic Tower and building can still be seen just off the Southeast Expressway. It is the Pine Street Inn, Boston's largest homeless shelter, which is still doing its job saving lives.

Pilgrim Monument



For over a half century, it reared its ancient and honorable head far above the Broadway and Cross Street Fire House and its East Somerville community. It was this old Gothic Tower where fire hose was hung and dried, fire watch was provided, and citizens were alerted by its 2,000-pound bell hanging aloft. Built in 1895, the building still stands as a community center, but the venerated Gothic Tower and its battlements were dismantled long ago.

In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of the Provincetown Monument. It commemorated the landing of the Pilgrims at that site on November 11, 1620, five weeks before the Plymouth

Continued on page 11

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Gene Brune: a retrospective

By Lynne Doncaster

When I ran a recording of my interview with Gene Brune through a transcription app, it gave me a summary of the most-used words in our conversation. The top result was "people," followed by "Somerville."

If you have ever talked to him or read his 2005 memoir, *The Spirit of Somerville*, you know that when you ask the Mayor Emeritus about himself and his work, he tells you about other people. He frequently interrupts his stories with a list of names.

Whether it's residents who served on a neighborhood committee, colleagues who aided his efforts, an activist who brought an idea to his office, or the family and neighbors who helped him manage his responsibilities when he was the primary caregiver for two young daughters following a divorce; for every credit to his legacy, Brune rushes to acknowledge those who worked alongside him and supported him. He celebrates Somerville's history and is proud of his community, but humble about himself.

As he celebrates his ninety-second birthday and Somerville gears up for elections, it seemed an apt time to reflect on Gene Brune's influence on the city, and ask about his hopes for its future.

Eugene C. Brune was born in July, 1929, in his grandfather's home at 299 Highland Ave. in Somerville. He lived at several Somerville addresses during his childhood and attended the Brown School, Northeastern Junior High, Western Junior High and Somerville High School.

His father was an Italian immigrant who worked as a plasterer for the city. Gene was the fourth of six children and grew up in a close-knit circle of extended family, neighbors, and friends. Like many, his family

was impacted by the Great Depression, and struggled financially at times. His parents put a high priority on education, hard work, honesty, and integrity. They insisted the Brune children shovel sidewalks and run errands for elderly neighbors, and not accept payment in return.

Brune recalls these values ran throughout households in the city, and that families of many ethnicities and religions lived together respectfully. Families were often large, and many were hardworking but poor. "It was a blue-collar city that had great neighborhoods. No matter what street you were on, no matter what part of the city, the neighborhoods were the same. People were kind and generous."

He paused his education during his senior year to join the Army. Basic training took him far from Somerville for the first time. He was disturbed to witness Jim Crow laws in effect when he was in Mississippi during basic training. He held an administrative role in the Occupational Forces Medical Corps, and was stationed in Japan. He saw the devastating aftermath of World War II and the country that began to rebuild.

He met and worked with Japanese people who challenged the preconceptions he'd developed based on wartime newsreels. He witnessed Japan's first election and climbed Mt. Fuji before returning to Somerville. After returning to the U.S. in 1949, he worked in construction, which led to jobs in drafting, field engineering, and project management.

In the 1960s Brune saw a need for more activities for Somerville's youth, and joined efforts to establish Somerville's first Boys Club (later to become the Boys and Girls Club). At the time, Somerville offered a few organized athletic events for

the city's youth, but little else, and many families couldn't afford fees for the YMCA or other activities. (Brune's own daughters attended the YMCA day camp - "I couldn't afford it, but I did it anyway," he notes with a wry chuckle.)

After many years and false starts, the city donated space for the club, under the condition that Brune's committee handle the renovations. Brune used his drafting skills to make the plans. He and other volunteers used grants and donated supplies to renovate the space. Even now, decades later, he recounts how individual stores each contributed enough paint for one room, emphasizing how the project came together in small pieces, a true community effort.

When I asked Brune why he got involved with the Boys Club, he said simply, "I wanted to be involved." Later, when I asked what led to his start in politics, he said, "I wanted transparency in government, and to get rid of the crooks."

The late 1960s began a challenging time for Somerville. The post-war demographic shift to the suburbs and the rise of shopping malls hurt the neighborhood Squares that had once hosted department stores and small businesses. A number of properties suffered from the neglect of absentee landlords. The city's reputation was marred by news of organized crime, and scandals involving elected officials.

Brune was serving a position on the city's Board of Health when he was elected Ward Six alderman in 1971. At the time, Ward 6 contained Davis Square, and Brune worked to rally support to bring the Red Line to the neighborhood. Some residents feared a subway stop would attract loitering and crime, and that the development would change the neighborhood's character.

Brune knew the Red Line would bring change to the area, but he was sure it could be positive change, and promised residents the T would not destroy Davis Square. He was actively involved in the planning and development of the area, and advocated for changes he thought would benefit the entire neighborhood, like having medical offices in the new buildings rather than residences, to bring more jobs and daytime traffic to the area.

Brune lost his seat on the Board of Aldermen in 1977, the same year he made his first unsuccessful bid for mayor. In



1979, he ran for mayor again, and faced a contentious election. The one-term incumbent, Tom August, had a well-funded campaign, but Brune noted that August was perceived as "neither accessible nor accountable" by the voters.

Brune ran his campaign on a shoestring budget with many small donors. He attended coffee hours at residents' homes and met with people at bus stops to hear their concerns. He built a campaign that focused on residents' everyday lives and issues like trash pick-up, public safety, and improving the city's image.

A week before the preliminary, *The Somerville Journal* ran an editorial criticizing incumbent mayor Tom August and urging voters to choose any of his three challengers. August's campaign bought and destroyed many copies of the newspaper; however, *The Journal* ran a second printing, and granted Brune and the other candidates permission to reprint the article on their own. They delivered a copy to every doorstep in the city. Brune won the preliminary and went on to win the election in November.

When Brune took office in January of 1980, the city faced many challenges, and a large financial deficit. His new administration found the city's financial records "inauditable." The outgoing administration had approved a tax cut without making accommodations to pay for promised increases in teachers' salaries or health insurance premiums for city workers.

They had also mis-reported the number of students enrolled in Somerville schools, and the State Department of Revenue was demanding re-payment of nearly three million dollars. In addition, the city was engaged in ongoing litigation with several large companies regarding property tax rates, and some of these cases resulted in the city having to make large refunds for overpayment of taxes. City services suffered from under-

funding and neglect. The Fire Department, Police Department, and Department of Public Works were all using equipment that was outdated and badly in need of repair.

These problems were compounded after Proposition 2 1/2 passed in 1980, property taxes were cut and the city's ability to raise taxes were limited. The years that followed were full of hard decisions. City workers were laid off, and some positions went unfilled. Six elementary schools and three junior high schools closed. Library hours were cut.

Throughout all of this, Brune was honest with residents about the problems the city was facing, and what he thought needed to be done to fix them. He worked with the Board of Aldermen to make changes to the city charter, to remove the influence of elected assessors.

He invested in programs to improve city storefronts and signage, and continued a long battle to remove a number of large billboards from local properties. Over 5000 trees were planted on city streets. Despite financial difficulties, a new wing was added to Somerville High School, allowing the city to modernize the vocational educational program and add it to the same building as the traditional high school. He supported the first ArtBeat festival, and helped establish the Brickbottom Artists Residence.

Brune served with an acute awareness of the real, everyday challenges residents faced. He says his priority was to help the elderly, children, and the poor. He promised to be more accessible to residents than his predecessor, and lived up to this promise, often appearing at community events and making himself available to listen to constituent concerns.

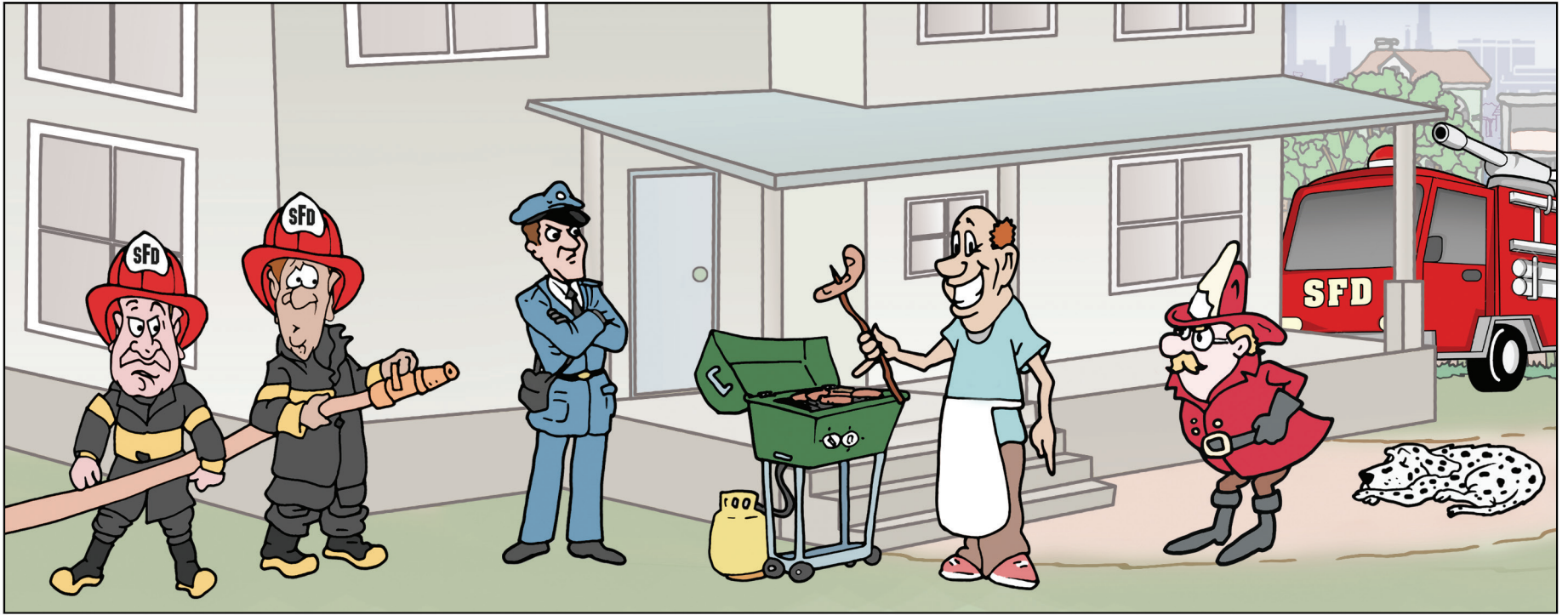
When Brune started his third term in 1986, he said, "Perhaps the most important thing we have built, we cannot even see. This is community pride and civic spirit." *Continued on page 11*



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Let's all be careful with that outdoor grilling.

Our View Of The Times



Summertime is a great time for outdoor gatherings celebrations. Part of the fun is indulging in the pleasures of grilling and sharing good food and drink with family and friends.

But certain safety measures must be followed to make sure that these grand epicurean hoedowns don't end in catastrophic property – and personal – damage caused by fire gone out of control.

It is important to remember that charcoal, wood, electric, and propane grills are not allowed on porches, balconies, fire escapes, or roofs. Also, propane tanks are not allowed to be stored in or on any residential building at any time.

Fire control professionals advise us that grills should be kept clean to prevent grease fires. Grilling should be done on ground level, ten feet from any

combustible walls or structures, and they should not be used under any overhangs.

And it goes without saying a grill should never be left burning unattended.

Also, outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, and chimineas are prohibited in the City of Somerville, which is a densely populated city, with an older housing stock predominantly constructed of wood frame dwellings which are built closely together.

With this density of the houses, it is imperative that all outside burning and fires are prohibited to prevent fires from starting and spreading to multiple houses. All fires used for cooking should be on a charcoal briquette grill or a propane gas grill.

It's very easy to do this safely without losing any of the enjoyment of cooking those burgers, hot dogs and ears of corn, making summertime the yummiest time.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

We wish her the very best. Happy birthday to well-known local Eileen Costa. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such Linda Sauer McSorley, Janeen Mobilia-Dowling, Corinne Brune Dellanno, JOanne Parziale, Michael Dunn, Joey Sainato, Christine Desrochers-Broderick, Richard Spinosa, Andre Green, Joanne Ruggiero Contaldi, Kevin Cottier and Millie Allwood 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.

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

Visit the East Somerville Market this

Sunday, July 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Deano's Pasta parking lot, 15 Garfield Ave. Shop local small businesses, pre-ordering is available. For a full list of participating vendors visit <https://www.eastsomerville-mainstreets.org>.

Venture out to the Somerville Community Growing Center Thursday, July 15, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., 22 Vinal Avenue for live music. Rain dates on alternative weeks, as predicted rain will cancel by mid-day. Experience a mix of jazz with Latin flavors, provided by professional musicians Mark Torgerson and David Rumpler, with invited musical guests throughout the summer. In addition to the carpentry and construction experience that Mark provides the Center as a volunteer, he has been part of the Boston and New England music scene for decades as lead guitar with African and Afro-Latin world music bands. David Rumpler adds his jazz and Latin keyboard talents, with a special love of Brazilian styles. Spread your blanket or grab a chair, bring your own picnic, explore the native pollinator garden or the food and herb beds – and enjoy a summer serenade.

The City of Somerville's annual SomerMovie Fest returns this year with a series of seven family-friendly films being shown in parks around Somerville. Screenings begin at sundown and the schedule is as follows: Thursday, July 15, *Mulan* (animated version), Nathan Tufts Park; Thursday, July 22, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, Nunziato Park; Thursday, July 29, *The Sandlot*, Lincoln Park; Thursday, August 5, *Coco*, East Somerville Community School; Thursday, August 12, *Black Panther*, Baxter State Park; Thursday, August 19, *Guardians of the Galaxy*, Seven Hills Park. While attendees are not required to wear masks, anyone who is not fully vaccinated is advised to wear one whenever they are in a crowd.

The City of Somerville's Licensing Commission is seeking one Somerville resident to fill a vacancy on the three-member board. Commissioners serve three-year terms and earn a stipend of \$3,600 per year. Meetings are held monthly, typically Monday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Interested residents should submit a brief statement of interest and a resume to the City Clerk's Office by

email to jljong@somervillema.gov or by mail to Attn: City Clerk, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143. Applications must be received no later than Monday, July 19, at 4:30 p.m. For more information, visit somervillema.gov/licensingcommission.

The City of Somerville's Veterans' Commission on Monuments, Memorials, and Dedications Committee is accepting applications for five positions – three to be filled by veterans. The commission will have charge and control of the construction of any memorial for a veteran and will have custody and care of the memorial after its construction. The commission, which will also develop policies and procedures to follow for dedicating memorials, will meet when needed to name these assets. Meetings are expected to begin in the fall of 2021. If you are interested in applying, please send a statement of interest to the Department of Veterans' Services at veterans@somervillema.gov by Friday, August 6. For further details or questions, call (617) 625-6600, ext. 4700.

Walk-in vaccinations are available at multiple locations: *Continued on page 13*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olivo

Olivo - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#787

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What was the first American lighthouse to use electricity in the U.S.? | show, what was Howdy's sister's name? |
| 2. What is the name for a number that looks the same right-side up and upside down? | 8. What house in England was the Queen banned from entering? |
| 3. Who became the Pillsbury mascot in 1965? | 9. What poet wrote "I have promises to keep and miles to go"? |
| 4. Who was the only U.S. President that never married? | 10. Who was the author of the autobiography <i>Times to Remember</i> ? |
| 5. What color is a Purple Finch? | 11. What is the largest of these three oceans: Atlantic, Pacific, or Indian Ocean? |
| 6. What is the world's warmest sea? | 12. What Alfred Hitchcock movie had chocolate syrup flowing for fake blood? |
| 7. On the children's <i>Howdy Doody TV</i> | |

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Certain frogs can be frozen solid, then thawed, and survive.
2. Lettuce is a member of the sunflower family.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

KIDS CLASSICS

ACROSS

1. E-wallet content
6. Pen _____
9. Rubik's _____
13. Bryan Stevenson's "Just _____"
14. _____-Wan Kenobi
15. Egyptian falcon-headed deity
16. Top of a steeple
17. "_____ -I-Am"
18. Vernacular
19. "Walking" spring toy
21. Purple dinosaur
23. Foot the bill
24. Smidgen
25. KIDZ _____
28. Like a mattress?
30. Stay clear of
35. Dumbo's were huge
37. Arnold Lobel's "Frog and _____"
39. Emotional punishment
40. At the summit of
41. Young hooter
43. Shakespeare's hometown river
44. Increase rpms (2 words)
46. Pinocchio or Baron Munchausen, e.g.
47. Retired, shortened
48. Soft palate vibrations
50. Bob of the boxing world
52. Bovine hangout
53. Give the cold shoulder
55. Unagi on sushi menu
57. Place called Sesame
60. Place for Pong and Pac-Man
63. Semolina source
64. It would
66. Mourning fabric
68. Arterial blood vessel
69. Atlantic catch
70. Partner of pains
71. Emeralds and rubies
72. One of "Little Women"
73. Haul something heavy

DOWN

1. German river
2. Large edible mushroom, pl.
3. Seed covering

CROSSWORD													
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
	19					20			21	22			
			23					24					
25	26	27		28		29			30	31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41			42		43			
44			45		46					47			
48				49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55	56			
	57	58	59					60			61	62	
63						64	65			66			67
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

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- | | |
|--|---|
| 4. Substitute for tender | 34. One of the Darling children |
| 5. Shenzi, Banzai and Ed in "Lion King" | 36. Horse prod |
| 6. One in a pocketful | 38. Letter opener |
| 7. Lawyers' league | 42. More true |
| 8. Horizontal bar dance | 45. Bygone Spanish money |
| 9. It's knee high by the Fourth of July? | 49. "He said, ___ said" |
| 10. Strong desire | 51. Place that attracts visitors, pl. |
| 11. Channel marker | 54. Ancient city in Africa |
| 12. Eastern Standard Time | 56. Cooler climate conifer |
| 15. What bullies do | 57. "One, two, buckle my ___" |
| 20. City in Japan | 58. Four years in the White House, e.g. |
| 22. Past tense of eat | 59. "___ of NIMH" |
| 24. Popular salad dressing | 60. ___ Walker, American Girl |
| 25. Winnie and Paddington | 61. "Matilda" and "The Gremlins" author |
| 26. Derived from oats | 62. "The Three Musketeers" sword |
| 27. Utah city | 63. Tail action |
| 29. Thanksgiving turkey, e.g. | 65. Huck's friend |
| 31. Burn to a crisp | 67. Sixth sense |
| 32. V-clav of Czechoslovakia | |
| 33. Be theatrical | |

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

SUDOKU

FREE DATE CHANGES ON 2021 TOURS*

BEST OF HAWAII FOUR-ISLAND TOUR 12 days, departs year-round	FROM \$2,599 \$2,349	CRIMSON CANYONS & MESAS NATIONAL PARKS TOUR 10 days, departs Jun - Sep 2021	FROM \$1,749 \$1,499
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YMT vacations promo code N7017 CALL 1-855-208-9533

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

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

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

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Solution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Solution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Senior speaks out against SomerVision 2040

By Bella Levavi

After Victor Nascimento, Outreach Coordinator for Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, presented additions to SomerVision 2040 in the Housing and Community Development virtual meeting on Tuesday, July 7, a senior citizen spoke out denouncing the plan.

Kristen Strezo, Somerville Councilor At-Large, sponsored Elaine Koury, a senior and Somerville resident, to speak at the meeting. “There is no real section in the plan dealing with senior citizens,” Cory said. “Perhaps, they assumed that our needs would be covered by covering everyone else’s needs, but this ignores the fact that seniors have needs that some others don’t. And it dismisses some very important facts.”

After Koury’s passionate speech, Strezo quickly left the meeting. She came back several minutes later announcing that she will reinstate the Senior Committee for the City Council. She said her next steps will be to research and plan for this new committee.

Nascimento explained that SomerVision does not need the approval from the City Council to move forward with their plan, but an endorsement from elected officials of Somerville adds legitimacy to this decade’s SomerVision.

Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen noted that SomerVision 2030 is often cited as a

precedent for many citywide projects, and this decade’s plan should not be rushed through approval. Ewen-Campen went on to say that another round of public comments is necessary for SomerVision 2040.

In the SomerVision presentation that sparked this discussion, Nascimento explained many edits to this decade’s plan that prioritized seniors in its language and policy ideas. The presentation noted that the plan changed its language from the vague “elderly” and “older adults” to specifically “seniors.”

The new plan also states that “the threat of displacement is particularly strong for residents who are on both a low and fixed income.” The word “fixed” directly references the income that seniors live on after retirement.

Nascimento explained that the problems Somerville experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic are not new but are the same exacerbated problems. The SomerVision project was put on hold late 2019 to focus energy on providing services during the pandemic. Now the project is back in the works with edits in context of the pandemic.

Some edits to SomerVision due to the pandemic are “expanding capacity with Racial and Social Justice departments,” an expansion of “off-street walking paths,” and “New Commercial Development tasks related to shared use, commercial space affordability, and small business support.”

The approval of SomerVision



A local senior expressed displeasure with the proposed SomerVision 2040 plan during the Housing and Community Development meeting last week.

2040 was left in Committee. The Committee for Housing and Community Development will reconvene this fall.

In addition to a discussion about SomerVision 2040, Ellen Shachter, the Director of the Office of Housing Stability updated the Committee about evictions in Somerville. According to Shachter, the office received 129 requests for rental assistance in June. She explained there are many avenues for rental support, but many of them cannot be used by undocumented residents of Somerville.

The Supreme Court declined to take a case about the eviction moratorium put in place by the CDC, so the federal moratorium will continue to be active until July 20. The Somerville mor-

atorium will be in place longer. This stops people from being physically removed from their homes but it will not stop court cases from commencing.

Shachter said the most important message to give to people facing evictions right now is that Somerville has set up a system for free attorneys during the pandemic. If a landlord brings their tenant to court, the tenant can be directed to the attorney of the day for assistance.

The Office of Housing Stability has met with four of the largest landlords in Somerville, and ensured that none of these companies have done any evictions during the pandemic, according to Shachter.

The meeting also included Luisa Oliveira, Director of Pub-

lic Space and Urban Forestry, updating the committee on the ordering of communication boards for public playgrounds. According to Oliveira, 15 communication boards have been ordered by the Parks and Recreation Department, and that placement has not been decided. She explained that if one wants to request a board be placed at a specific park for a deaf child, an email request can be sent to loliveira@somervillema.gov.

The meeting concluded with all the members of the Committee leaving the virtual meeting to attend other meetings, but one. Without a quorum, they were unable to vote to end the meeting, so Strezo ended the virtual gathering without formally ending the meeting.

Somerville Museum receives AASLH Award for ‘The Basement Project’

CONT. FROM PG 1

learned with the public. Santos saw the project as an opportunity for students to do history, not just read about it in a textbook, and to think like historians.

The wonderful student curators who shared their stories and perspectives are: Silas Booth (SHS '21), Brian Jian Chan (SHS '20), Elisa Dimagiba (SHS '20), Isaias Hernandez Rivera (SHS '21), Owen Hughes (SHS '20), Ana Kawsar (SHS '22), Alex Leite (SHS '20), Marisa Lopez (SHS '22), Ryann Mack (SHS '23), Isabella Milanowski (SHS '21), Esmay Pricejones (SHS '21), Mozn Shora (SHS '20) and Lola Vira (SHS '20).

Congratulations to all of the graduating seniors. This project was supported in part by a grant from the Somerville Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultur-

al Council. The project’s public programming was made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This year, AASLH is proud to confer thirty-eight national awards honoring people, projects, exhibits, and publications. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history.

The Somerville Museum was also recognized by the AASLH in 2020. The Museum, along with participating congregations, scholars, photographers, filmmakers, musicians, sound engineers, artists and curator Charan Devereaux, was awarded a 2020 Leadership in History Award of Excellence for the project, “Faith in a City: Exploring Religion in Somerville, Massachusetts.” “Faith in a City” was exhibited at the

Somerville Museum from November 2019 to February 2020, in conjunction with a series of related public programs.

The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievement in the field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition of the opportunities for small and large organizations, institutions, and programs to make contributions in this arena. For more information about the Leadership in History Awards, contact AASLH at 615-320-3203, or go to www.aaslh.org.

Founded in 1897, the Somerville Museum is the City of

Somerville’s mirror, playing a central role in preserving the past, reflecting the present, and helping to shape the future of this diverse urban community. Through its innovative programming, the Museum seeks to engage the city in an on-going dialogue with local artists, scholars, and educators with the larger aim of fostering cultural education and understanding.

The Somerville Public Schools is one of the top urban districts in the state of Massachusetts. The district serves a richly diverse and dynamic population of approximately 5,000 students grades Pre-Kinder through 12, including more than 1,200 students at Somerville High School. SPS is a multicultural school community dedicated to the realization of the full intellectual, physical, social, and emotional potential

of all students.

The American Association for State and Local History is a not-for-profit professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH provides leadership, service, and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all people.

AASLH publishes books, technical publications, a quarterly magazine, and maintains numerous affinity communities and committees serving a broad range of constituents across the historical community. The association also sponsors an annual meeting, regional and national training in-person workshops, and online training.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
 City of Somerville
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

TO THE OWNERS OF THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LAND AND TO ALL OTHERS CONCERNED: YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on **Thursday the 29th day of July, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.**, at the **Treasury, City Hall, 93 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143**, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes. It is my intention to take for the City of Somerville the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and an incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Linda Dubuque, Treasurer/Collector of Taxes.

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **12 ATHERTON ST**
 ASSESSED OWNER(S): MICHAEL MCKENNA & JOAN M. MCKENNA
 CURRENT OWNER(S): JOAN M MCKENNA
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **044F00004000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13415115**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 2,552 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 13726, Page: 223; Book: 70495, Page: 246.

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$89.97
Interest to Date of Taking	\$26.33
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$341.30

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **86 AVON ST**
 ASSESSED OWNER(S): DEBRA ANN MARUJO-SMITH
 CURRENT OWNER(S): DEBRA ANN MARUJO-SMITH
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **051F00001000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13445105**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 4,415 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 50487, Page: 211

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$2,043.40
Interest to Date of Taking	\$637.03
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$2,905.43

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **24R LINDEN ST**
 ASSESSED OWNER(S): GABINO PANAMENO & ARMINDA PANAMENO
 CURRENT OWNER(S): GABINO PANAMENO & ARMINDA PANAMENO
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **095B00020000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **02067020**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3167 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 31779, Page: 451

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$119.58
Interest to Date of Taking	\$31.96
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$376.54

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **72 CHURCH ST**
 ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): CLAUDIO A MELO & MARIA D. MELO FOR LIFE, REMAINDERMEN LUCIA M. DOMAL & DENNIS MELO
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **063B00005000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13453163**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3240 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 47006, Page: 578

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$1,990.00
Interest to Date of Taking	\$620.53
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$2,835.53

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **75 CONCORD AVE**
 ASSESSED OWNER(S): ADAM T & MOLLY WYLIE
 CURRENT OWNER(S): ADAM T & MOLLY WYLIE
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **075F00008000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **18581020**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 2,595 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 56857, Page: 482

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$789.50
Interest to Date of Taking	\$242.65
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$1,257.15

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **409 NORFOLK ST**
 ASSESSED OWNER(S): HUDSON SANTANA & LISA SANTANA
 CURRENT OWNER(S): HUDSON SANTANA & LISA SANTANA
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **096D00011000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **04172019**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 90 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 65303, Page: 355

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$45.71
Interest to Date of Taking	\$9.19
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$279.90

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **14 GLENWOOD RD**
 ASSESSED OWNER(S): JOEL LUIS, AVELINO LUIS AND NATALIA LUIS
 CURRENT OWNER(S): JOEL LUIS, AVELINO LUIS AND NATALIA LUIS
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **041C00021000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **14489150**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 4,460 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 44403, Page: 22

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$2,402.13
Interest to Date of Taking	\$667.51
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$3,294.64

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **40 HOWARD ST 6**
 ASSESSED OWNER(S): THOMAS J KEMPA & KRIS-STELLA TRUMP
 CURRENT OWNER(S): DAVID E & RUTH HOUSMAN
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **017A0005800040-6**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **20100910**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 0 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 70814, Page: 566; Book: 67463, Page: 179.

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$1,294.16
Interest to Date of Taking	\$401.39
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$1,920.55

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **28 MONTROSE ST**
 ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): GLORIA PITTS A/K/A GLORIA GAMACHE TRUSTEE OF GLORIA REALTY TRUST
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **050E00012000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **16547080**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3,000 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 25025, Page: 042; Book: 25025, Page: 053; Book: 28025, Page: 392.

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$2,386.87
Interest to Date of Taking	\$321.15
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$2,933.02

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **74 ELMWOOD ST**
 ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): BAILEY STUART OLIVER
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **017A00027000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **02029115**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3300 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 62962, Page: 487

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$6,067.54
Interest to Date of Taking	\$1,418.23
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$7,485.77

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **97 ROGERS AVE**
 ASSESSED OWNER(S): BRIAN O LAVELLE
 CURRENT OWNER(S): BRIAN O LAVELLE
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **027I00033000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **18570020**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3,440 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 70441, Page: 509

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$851.81
Interest to Date of Taking	\$262.25
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$1,339.06

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **14 MONDAMIN CT**
 ASSESSED OWNER(S): ALICE M. MELANSON
 CURRENT OWNER(S): ESTATE OF ALICE M. MELANSON
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **045G0010A000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **13452170**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 1,771 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 610, Page: 67; certificate # 96017; document # 934416 & 2018 046755.

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$1,964.03
Interest to Date of Taking	\$645.29
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$2,834.32

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **33 STONE AVE**
 ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): FRANCIS A. RUSSO
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **073E00039000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **18591160**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3,836 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 35127, Page: 256 & 07P2660EP1

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$46.54
Interest to Date of Taking	\$9.05
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$280.59

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **28 WALNUT RD**
 ASSESSED OWNER(S): BERNARD J DOHERTY & MAUREEN T DOHERTY
 CURRENT OWNER(S): BERNARD J DOHERTY & MAUREEN T DOHERTY
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **071B00011000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **04203191**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 3,836 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 35127, Page: 256 & 07P2660EP1

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$1,989.76
Interest to Date of Taking	\$614.10
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$2,828.86

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: **63 RAYMOND AVE**
 ASSESSED & CURRENT OWNER(S): CHARLES J SILLARI TRUSTEE OF CHARLIN REALTY NOMINEE TRUST
 DEMAND: **5/13/2019** PARCEL ID: **007I00047000000**
 ALT. PARCELS/TAX ACCOUNT: **16556198**
 DESCRIPTION OF LAND & TITLE REFERENCE: A parcel of land with any building thereon, containing approximately 5,000 square feet and being part of the premises recorded at Middlesex South Registry of Deeds Book: 1151, Page: 18; certificate # 204168; document # 992875 & 992876.

Fiscal Year 2019 Taxes Remaining Unpaid	\$1,914.57
Interest to Date of Taking	\$596.51
Incidental Expenses and Costs to Date of Taking	\$225.00
Total for which Land will be Taken	\$2,736.08

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

A-2021-10

**CITY OF MEDFORD
 MASSACHUSETTS**

The City of Medford, Board of Appeals, will hold a Public Hearing, remotely via Zoom, on **Thursday, July 29 after 7:30 p.m.**, on a petition of Simmons Realty, LLC, to construct a three-story addition and perform renovations to an existing non-conforming structure at 200 Boston Avenue to be used as a research and testing laboratory facility in an Industrial (I) Zoning District – Allowed Use, thereby requiring a finding by the Zoning Board of Appeals – Section 94-241, with insufficient:

Rear Yard Setback – Section 94-171, Table 6.3 Item #5 (e) 1,
 Off-Street Parking – Section 94-191 (b) (1)

Note: Actual number of required off-street parking to be determined based on the number of employees that will occupy this facility. This project also exceeds the maximum allowed height and number of stories – Section 94-171 – Table 6.3 Item #5 (e) 1 and is subject to Site Plan Review by the Community Development Board – Section 94-332 and Linkage Fees – Section 94-381,

Access this meeting via Zoom remote videoconferencing:
 Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91222064272>

Call in via phone:
 One tap mobile: +19292056099,, 91222064272 # US
 Dial in: +1 929 205 6099 US Meeting ID: 912 2206 4272

Access livestream:
 The meeting will also be live streamed at <https://medford.vod.castus.tv/vod/index.php/@live:ch3>.
 To participate while watching the livestream, questions and comments may be emailed during the hearing to dmacdougal@medford-ma.gov

Chapter 94-City of Medford Zoning Ordinance.

Scott Carman,
 Chairman

Call 781-393-2137 for any accommodations/aids. T.D.D. 781-393-2516

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City of Somerville
PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. c. 131 § 40, the SOMERVILLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, July 27th, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.** to review the Notice of Intent submitted by The Horsley Witten Group Inc., on behalf of applicant Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) for the installation and maintenance of new ecologically beneficial meadows in a few key locations at the Blessing of the Bay Park. Copies of the application can be viewed at the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA. Contact Malik Drayton, Conservation Agent, at 617-625-6600 x2514, or send an email to mdayton@somervillema.gov for more information.

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

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Webinar ID
224-021-643

Registration URL

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7/14/21 The Somerville Times

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

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

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

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

APN: 030-C. 00019-000000

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dated: June 24, 2021

6/30/21, 7/7/21, 7/14/21 The Somerville Times

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

landing. Three years later in 1910, President William H. Taft dedicated the 252' Gothic Tower. It is the tallest all-granite tower in America. Many of its stones were donated by Massachusetts cities and towns. Somerville was one of them.

These Gothic-topped towers were believed to be the only three in the country. They were all designed and built in Massachusetts by different architects. It appears



that all three had an influence from a fourth creator. It is said that imitation is one of the best forms of flattery. The former red-brick tower of Somerville's Engine 2, the yellow fire brick training tower of Boston, and the granite stone monument to the Pilgrims at Provincetown prove it. These three American towers were inspired by the 13th century Gothic towers of Siena and Florence. It appears that they came to Massachusetts from Italy with love.

From on page 8

Ms. Cam's Olio

Answers

1. The Statue of Liberty	7. Heidi
2. A strobogrammatic number	8. House of Commons
3. The Pillsbury Doughboy	9. Robert Frost
4. James Buchanan	10. Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy
5. Raspberry red	11. The Pacific Ocean
6. The Indian Sea	12. Psycho



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REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed proposals from registered Engineering firms to provide professional design and construction administration services to replace the roof of the SHA Administration Building located in Somerville, MA 02145.

The Award is subject to DHCD requirements and guidelines. A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00 AM on Thursday, July 22nd, 2021**, at the SHA Administration Building located at 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than **2:00PM Thursday, July 29th, 2021**.

The RFS may be obtained after **11:00AM on Thursday, July 15th, 2021**, by contacting Travis Panzini at travisp@sha-web.org or by phone at 617-625-1152 Ext.330.

Questions must be sent in writing to travisp@sha-web.org no later than **Monday, July 26th, 2021**.

7/14/21 The Somerville Times

Gene Brune: a retrospective CONT. FROM PG 6

During a time of difficulty and turbulent change, when the city was regularly the butt of jokes by radio DJs and newspaper columnists, Brune fostered a sense of community by highlighting the good things being done in Somerville. He celebrated community projects and acknowledged the work of those involved.

He admits there were things he wanted to do, but could not accomplish due to laws or regulations. He wishes he had been able to do more to slow the rush of condo conversions which rapidly changed neighborhoods and displaced many long-time residents.

Many of the things Brune did as mayor aren't counted in a city record or acknowledged in any newspaper article, but were

small, personal interactions that made a difference to an individual. I speak from personal experience – when I was six years old, I wrote to then Mayor Brune to complain about graffiti in Davis Square. He replied with a personal note to let me know the DPW would take care of it and thanked me for taking pride in my city. He also shared my letter with the local newspaper, which reprinted it with a kind editorial. It was a small act, but it had a lasting impact.

Brune served five terms as Somerville's mayor, a record at the time. In 1989 he was elected Register of Deeds for Middlesex County. Now retired, he has moved to the suburbs to be closer to his daughters, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He still visits Somerville

often, visiting friends and attending events with veterans organizations. He serves as a trustee for the Somerville Museum and plays an active role in fundraising efforts to improve the building and make the collections more accessible. When he sits in Davis Square restaurants, passers-by still knock on the window and wave hello to "Mr. Mayor."

He is watching the current election but has not offered an endorsement of any candidates. He says he may offer an endorsement after the primaries.

He was willing to share some thoughts with me about what makes a good mayor. He says an ideal candidate would "demonstrate common sense and a commitment to transparency; a transparent government for all

of their constituents. He added, "They need good management (skills), and excellent people surrounding them. Not making decisions as one, but making decisions as a team, always keeping in mind what is best for the people they serve."

I also asked what voters should keep in mind as they make their decisions. He paused thoughtfully before he answered, "Voters should beware of candidates who are offering them the world; things that they could not possibly do, things that are financially irresponsible to do, things that will help one class of people but may hurt another... (voters) should watch the candidates and let them prove their integrity, heir honesty their good judgement, their com-

monsense approach. It's your city. They can either make it a better city or destroy it."

There was another bit of advice he offered that stuck with me. It was as we were wrapping up, after I'd turned off my recorder, so I hope he'll forgive me if I don't get his quote exactly right. He was describing someone he was going to see that afternoon and described them as "nice," then interrupted himself. "Be nice," he said. "You know, it's so important. Always be nice to everyone."

While this isn't an answer he gave when I asked for advice for candidates or voters, I think it's fair to say Gene Brune would give this advice to anyone, regarding anything. It's the advice he has been offering us all these years, by the example he's set.

Rep. Barber testifies in support of bill to increase prescription drug affordability and transparency

On July 13, Representative Christine P. Barber (D-Somerville and Medford) testified in support of bill H.729, which she filed to make prescription drugs more affordable for families by creating a cost assistance program for certain medications for chronic conditions, and increasing accountability for prescription drug prices.

The rising price of prescription drugs places a significant burden on families' budgets. A 2019 study showed one in four Massachusetts residents went without medically necessary prescription drugs due to their high costs, resulting in rationing or cutting pills, and ultimately worsening health for many residents. The COVID-19 pandemic has further strained people's ability to afford their medications and treatments, even though, now more than ever, it is critical that residents statewide are able to afford their prescriptions and health care.

Prescription drugs are the fastest-growing costs in the state's health care system. In

Massachusetts, pharmaceutical spending continues to rise, outpacing other health care spending. According to the 2019 Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) report, pharmaceutical spending increased by 5.8%, while overall health care expenditures grew by only 3.1%.

Rep. Barber's bill H.729 would make prescription drugs more affordable by implementing cost assistance programs for some medications, such as insulin and asthma inhalers, used to treat chronic conditions that disproportionately impact people of color and are also risk factors for increased COVID-19 complications. The bill would also help lower the cost of unreasonably high-cost drugs by allowing the state Health Policy Commission to conduct affordability reviews of certain drugs and regulate pharmacy benefit managers, who earn revenue from rebates with the drug manufacturer, without regard for what the consumer is paying. The bill would also improve pharmacists' ability to

advise patients if purchasing a drug at retail price without insurance would be cheaper.

"Prescription drugs cure disease, manage chronic illness, and not only improve one's quality of life but are life-saving for many patients, a fact even more clearly understood since the COVID-19 pandemic," said Representative Barber. "The goal of this bill is to make prescription drugs affordable and accessible by increasing information on pricing, holding the pharmaceutical industry accountable and making sure families see the benefits."

The Joint Committee on Health Care Financing heard testimony in support of H.729 from legislators, public health professionals, health care providers, and consumers during the July 13th hearing. Several patients testified at the hearing about difficulties they had in affording their medications.

Rep. Barber's bill is supported by a growing coalition of organizations – including Health Care For All, Boston Center for Independent Living, Massachusetts



State Representative Christine P. Barber.

Medical Society, Massachusetts Senior Action Council, Disability Policy Consortium, MASS-PIRG, 1199SEIU, Health Law Advocates, Atrius Health, and Massachusetts Association for Mental Health.

Please contact Rep. Barber's

office (617-722-2220 or Christine.Barber@mahouse.gov) to get involved with the campaign or share your story about challenges affording prescription drugs.

— Office of Rep. Christine Barber

Free gardening workshops for new gardeners this summer and fall

Somerville residents have a few more free opportunities to learn gardening basics. After a successful pilot earlier this summer, the city's Health and Human Services Department will host additional Growing Gardeners workshops for residents who are brand new to gardening in July and October.

Growing Gardeners participants will learn how to plant, assemble, and maintain their own portable milk crate garden that will work well in any small outdoor space. Crates may include a variety of vegetables, herbs, and flowers. All supplies will be provided.

Participants should have no previous experience – this class is designed to grow a new group of gardeners in the city.

Sign up to attend one workshop either Friday, July 30, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., or Saturday, July 31, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Avenue.

Registration is required. Visit somervillema.gov/GrowingGardeners to reserve a spot.

Future workshops will be held Friday, October 1, and Saturday, October 2. Registration will open the first week of August. Contact Steven Flythe, Health and Human Services Case Manager, at growinggardeners@somervillema.gov or (617) 448-5347 with questions.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History July 14

1789 – The Bastille, a fortress in Paris used to hold political prisoners, is stormed by a mob.

1798 – The Sedition Act is passed by the U.S. Congress.

1900 – European Allies retake Tientsin, China, from the rebelling Boxers.

1933 – Nazi Germany promulgates the Law for the Protection of Hereditary Health--the beginning of the Euthanasia program.

1938 – Howard Hughes and crew set a new world record for an around-the-world flight.

1945 – American battleships and cruisers bombard the Japanese home islands for the first time.

1951 – The George Washington Carver National Monument in Joplin, Missouri becomes the first national park honoring an African American.

1964 – The United States sends 600 more troops to Vietnam.

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

You now can get a **COVID-19 vaccination** without having to pre-register or make an appointment. There are walk-in vaccination sites all around Somerville, and just outside it as well. **Cambridge Health Alliance** vaccine clinics have larger supplies of doses and can vaccinate kids ages 12-17. You do not need to be a CHA patient to use these clinics. They are free and open to all. **Local CVS pharmacies** and the **Stop & Shop** on McGrath Hwy. are also offering walk-in vaccines. **Local Walgreens pharmacies** require a brief pre-registration, but can process people quickly if they have

open slots and you walk in. Here are the CHA walk-in sites: **CHA Somerville Vaccine Center** at 176 Somerville Avenue in Somerville, Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Tufts University Gantcher Center** at 161 College Ave. in Medford, Wed-Thurs. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Encore Boston Harbor** at 1 Broadway Center in Everett, Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Individuals younger than 18 will need parental or guardian consent to receive the **COVID-19 vaccine**. A

parent or guardian can either accompany a minor age 16 or 17 to their vaccine appointment, or fill out a consent form that the minor can then bring with them to the appointment. Consent forms in multiple languages are available at the state's website. Parents must accompany children ages 12-15 to their vaccine appointments.

Help support your neighbors through the **Somerville Cares Fund**. If you're lucky enough to have some extra money, please consider a donation to the Somerville Cares Fund. This dona-

tion-based fund provides direct assistance to Somerville residents, workers, and parents of school children so that they can cover basic expenses like housing, food, and utility bills. If you're unable to donate you can still help by sharing information about the Somerville Cares Fund with your friends and family.

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.

ArtBeat returns to Davis Square

Somerville Arts Council's ArtBeat was back in person last Saturday to celebrate pop art. This year's theme was "Pop!" – featuring pops of color, eye-popping art installations, and a whole lot of surprises popping up all over Davis Square. — Photos by Bobbie Toner and Monica Calvo





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

The New Climate War: The Fight to Take Back Our Planet

The New Climate War:
The Fight to Take Back Our Planet
by Michael Mann.
Public Affairs, New York, 2021.
351 pages. \$29.

By Off the Shelf correspondent Ed Meek

If you've had enough of climate denials, doom-sayers, distorters and deflectors, Michael Mann's new book provides the antidote of hope with which to fight what many are now calling the war on climate change. Michael Mann is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and a distinguished professor of Atmospheric Science at Penn State. He is famous for what is referred to as the "hockey stick" diagram that outlines the rise in global temperature since the Industrial Revolution (between 1 and 1.5 degrees Centigrade).

In the effort to fight this war against climate change, Mann spends most of his book identifying the enemies of this effort in order to get us all on the same page. The first few chapters round up the usual suspects: the fossil fuel industry and the big money that is behind confusing us and sowing doubt. Mann compares the fossil fuel industry to big tobacco. "Doubt is our product," said a tobacco executive when confronted with evidence that smoking caused cancer. Mann points to the long history of corporations attacking the messenger beginning with Rachel Carson whose book *Silent Spring* "ushered in the modern environmental movement." When Carson pointed out the tragic consequences for animals of using the pesticide DDT, she was hit with character assassination by Monsanto.

As I'm sure you've heard, Exxon in the early 1980s, asked its own scientists to investigate the effects of burning fossil fuels. Internal memos predicted the rise in CO2 and global temperatures. Exxon decided to keep this information from the public and instead to engage in decades of obfuscation. Eventually however, this approach didn't work because global temperatures, along with CO2 levels, were obviously rising.

So, companies like Exxon and BP decided to take another approach. Mann refers to it as the "Crying Indian." The Crying Indian was an advertisement in the 1970s by Coca Cola in which a native American is shown shedding a tear over littering. The message of the ad was that we should all pick up after ourselves to protect our environment. The actual purpose behind this campaign was to prevent bottle bills being passed because Coke thought they would cut into their profits and to shift the responsibility for protecting the environment to us.

Mann says fossil fuel companies use this same approach to deflect the public by getting us to focus on what we, individually, should be doing. That is, if fossil fuel companies can get us to feel guilty about our role in climate change, we won't go after them. Oddly enough, as Mann points out, liberals often buy into the idea that it is our fault rather than the fault of fossil fuel companies and the politicians who support them.

This idea is a hard one for Americans to shake with our "selfie" culture in which you are the center of the universe. We are sold the idea that we are in control, and there is a lot of peer pressure to cut back on flying or become vegetarians or drive a hybrid, but as Mann points out, although it is good if we make changes as individuals that reduce our carbon imprint, it is only if fossil fuel companies stop drilling and mining and



if our politicians create laws that help us transition to clean energy that we will be able to successfully win the war on climate change.

Mann also assails those on the left and right for indulging in worst case scenarios He takes on David Wallace Wells who wrote *Uninhabitable Earth*, making the case that it doesn't help the cause to scare people out of their wits. Mann's position is that if we work together, we still have time to win the war on climate change.

Mann also calls leftists like the Sunrise Movement, Bernie Sanders and AOC to account for refusing to back a carbon tax because, according to them, it will hurt the poor. As Mann says, we need to use all the tools available and one of them is a tax on carbon.

Overall, Mann finds Greta Thunberg and the youth movement against climate change hopeful signs that we are finally beginning to deal with this problem that threatens our environment and our future. He sees us at a turning point because of the mounting evidence that something is seriously wrong with our planet. The wildfires in Australia and in California, the droughts, the floods, the warming and rising oceans and the melting ice at the poles along with the negative effects of climate change on animals, fish, birds and bees – all these factors seem to be sinking in with 63% of Americans who see that "global climate change is affecting their community" and "the federal government is not doing enough about it." The U.S. "should prioritize developing alternative energy sources" say 79% according to a poll taken last year.

In an excellent essay in this month's *Harper's Magazine*, Greg Jackson asks: "Why not address this issue (climate change) head on? Why not seize the opportunity to stimulate our economy, rebuild our nation, take meaningful action, and come together in common purpose?" Jackson claims our country is suffering from depression and an epidemic of loneliness and that the mutual effort required to fight a war on climate change is just what we need. Michael Mann's new book helps us frame a unified approach to fighting and winning that war. To do that Mann says, "We must vote out politicians who serve as handmaidens for fossil fuel interests and elect those who will champion climate action."

Lyrical SOMERVILLE edited by Doug Holder

Timothy Gager is the author of sixteen books of fiction and poetry. His latest, an Amazon #1 Best Seller, *Poems of 2020*, is his ninth of poetry. Timothy hosted the successful Dire Literary Series in Cambridge, Massachusetts from 2001 to 2018, and as a virtual series starting in 2020. Timothy was the co-founder of The Somerville News Writers Festival. He has had over 600 works of fiction and poetry published, of which seventeen have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. His work also has been nominated for a Massachusetts Book Award, The Best of the Web, The Best Small Fictions Anthology, and has been read on National Public Radio.



In The Obituary of Paul Felopulos

The hero turned a lifeboat around
As an in charge maître d's order of rowing
toward a sinking ship were unsound

At eighteen you took over, crowned
yourself captain, no experience of knowing
ship suction, commanded the rowboat around

Back at two AM alarm sounded
Rousted you up, the tasks began growing
engine on fire, the Prisdendam now unsound

Fifty people would jam a 28 seat boat, pulley downed
passenger's unruly panic continued ongoing.
Yet the calm teen captain who's not been around

25 foot waves, against a tiny boat pounded
for days and days their crests curled bowing
but no one now felt your leadership unsound

Then two days later rescue helicopters saw hope abound
Taking charge again, the survivors impatient in going
You controlled the uncontrollable rescue around

Two days after, everyone was safe aground
No less, life expectancies reduced nor slowing
Paulie the hero, neither a word here unsound
He never told me this story while he was around

— Timothy Gager

<http://www.timothygager.com>
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