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The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com



VOL. 8 NO. 29

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



All the hits at
Bernie's Music

page 3



ROOTED at
the Armory

page 5



Watching after
the trees

page 11

Phase 3 reopening delayed again, businesses express mixed feelings



Even with the scheduled Phase 3 reopening easements, some business such as entertainment venues will still not be able to operate normally.

By Isabel Sami

Last Friday, July 17, Somerville pushed the Phase 3 business reopening for a second time, now planning to enter the next phase on August 3. This step allows movie theaters, gyms, cultural centers, and performance halls to open with restrictions.

Gyms are following guidelines from the state regarding health and safety, such as allowing 40 percent occupancy inside, ordering 6-14 feet of space between equipment, installing physical partitions where social distance cannot be maintained, and requiring masks to be worn by all staff members and guests.

At the Somerville YMCA, Director William Murphy prepared for the reopening far in advance. He and his staff sanitized all spaces and equipment, and moved equipment to be spaced apart according to state regulations. *Continued on page 4*

'A Chance to Rest' mural at South Street Farm for ArtBeat Week

By Jessica Sisavath

For ArtBeat Week, Groundwork Somerville involved the community to help create a new mural at South Street Farm. With this year's ArtBeat Week theme "Chance," Groundwork Somerville sent out a survey collecting responses from the community about the meaning of urban green space, climate care, and the impact of COVID-19 in regards to nature. With the help with Board members of the Groundwork Somerville, they were able to receive supplies to sketch and paint the mural. The responses from the survey served as an artistic tool for the mural's theme, "A Chance to Rest."

Darron Fernandes-Smith, Junior at Massachusetts College of Art and Design helped sketched the outline of the mural with the help of Saldin (Sal) Islam, a Board Member of the Groundwork Somerville who received and organized the responses from the community. *Continued on page 4*



Darron Fernandes-Smith and Saladin Islam were among those who collaborated in creating a new mural at the South Street Farm as part of this year's ArtBeat event. — Photo by Jessica Sisavath

ATTN: LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

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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.

Registered voters in Somerville should have received their applications for **mail-in voting**. If you fill it out and return it, you will be able to vote in the **September 1 primary** and **November 3 general election** without having to go to a poll site. **Mayor Joe Curtatone** explains this simple process here: <https://youtu.be/k8mH7g0Z5ww>. Anyone not registered to vote or registered voters who have not received their mail-in voting application can go to <https://www.somervillema.gov/ELECTIONS> for easy registration and to download a mail-in voting application.








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

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Leeann Rollins**, the wife of **Bruce Jr.** We wish her the very best for her birthday. Happy birthday to local guy **Richard Nilsson**. We wish him a very happy birthday. Happy birthday our own special and fun guy here in Somerville, the great **Jimmy Del Ponte**, who is celebrating. Happy birthday to **Ricky Hart**, of the famous Harts. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Nancy McCarty**, **Susanne Sordillo**, **Laurie LeBlanc**, **Deborah Lawrence Ferragamo**, **George Crotty**, **Cheryl Chaille Horan**, **Alice Galvin**, **Tommy Mcdaid**, **Frank Tello Jr.**, **Erica Jones**, **Carol Powers**, **Joan Campo McKenna**, **Stephanie Ann**, **Justin Klekota**, **Peter Mcisaac**, **Joanne Tibbetts** and **Carole Anne Hannigan** 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.

A **photography exhibit** by Somerville resident, **Stan Eichner**, illustrates the dynamic relationship between landscape photography and climate activism. Beginning on *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 22 – July 28 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday July 22	Partly Cloudy	77°/70°	19%	21%	ESE 11 mph
 Thursday July 23	Thunderstorms	79°/67°	61%	29%	S 9 mph
 Friday July 24	Partly Cloudy	79°/65°	21%	19%	ENE 10 mph
 Saturday July 25	Sunny	81°/66°	11%	8%	E 10 mph
 Sunday July 26	Partly Cloudy	86°/68°	20%	13%	SW 11 mph
 Monday July 27	Thunderstorms	87°/69°	31%	24%	W 11 mph
 Tuesday July 28	Partly Cloudy	83°/66°	19%	19%	E 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 Bike Safety Committee: On a mission to help protect cyclists

Tom O. says:

“All ages, all abilities, and all neighborhoods’ is the motto of the Somerville Bike Safety Committee or SBS.” This is laughable. They clearly don’t care about elderly and disabled residents. Yet the city allows them a seat at the table to design infrastructure? Who occupies the seats for elderly and disabled residents?
“SBS intends to build a base of supporters that can be activated on certain issues, in addition to using the media to educate and persuade new supporters. They also want to demonstrate community support for protected bike infrastructures, so they ask their supporters to email elected officials and turnout to public meetings.” And the BOA falls for these social media campaigns and think that a group of organized people looking for some type of change is representative of the community. It is not. The BOA need to go back to the old-fashioned way of politicking, and speak with their constituents, rather than point to some twitter posts from anonymous people as ‘community support’.

LindaS says:

Considering we are the most densely-populated city in New England, it’s next to impossible to be able to come up with a way to make everyone safe. The Mayor has continued to bring development here, which increased our population even more, and is probably the main reason why this pandemic has caused him to hold back on reopening for longer than other cities have. This is a clear example of why there needs to be limits on development in heavily-populated cities.
We have ancient, narrow streets, and more people, more traffic to, from and through the city. The GLX may help, but not for people who need to drive through Somerville to areas not accessible by the T. When T fares go up, there are more cars and bikes. When gas prices go down, there are more cars. It’s a juggling act.
How cyclists, pedestrians and cars are all going to be able to get through a city of people crammed in like sardines will be extremely difficult to manage. In a perfect world, we would have wider streets to accomodate both cars and bikes, but unless we dig everything up and move houses farther apart, I think we may have to live with whatever we can manage to do.
Ultimately, everyone needs to use common sense and pay attention to their environment to avoid problems, but sadly, common sense is far from common these days.

Cognitive Dissonance says:

I simply can’t understand the mind set of a person arguing against infrastructure that protects a relatively small population of vulnerable people by claiming said infrastructure harms a relatively small population of vulnerable people.
I prefer to work towards a world where we try to support and protect *ALL* vulnerable people. Why pit one group against another when we should support both????

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

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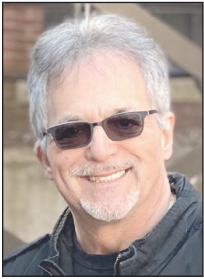


Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Bernie's Music



When my son was small we were in the cellar poking through some boxes when he pulled a record out of a dusty old album jacket. He said excitedly, "Daddy look! A big CD!" It was my old Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album from 1967.

I bought my first 45 around 1964. Not the gun or the malt liquor (FYI in case you're too young to recall), but the little round vinyl disc that magically played the music that hypnotized me on my little plastic transistor radio.

I ran down to The Record Shop in Davis Square and bought a recording of the groovy song I heard on WMEX or

WRKO. I brought the record home, stuck in the little plastic adapter, and played the ever loving heck out of it. No headphones, just me tucked away in my room, sitting on the edge of my bed, blasting my favorite tunes over and over for hours. I literally wore out my Stones record of "Satisfaction!" My mother would shout as she banged on my bedroom door, "LOWER THAT THING DOWN!"

Bernie's Music in neighboring Cambridge is the subject of this week's story. It all started when my pal Matt posted photos of Porter Square Shopping Center from 1960 on Facebook. Man, did that image bring back memories. One of the first things I noticed in the shot was Bernie's Music. I posted the photo and, as always, the memories started to ... serenade in.

Many Somerville Baby Boomers and beyond got their records at Bernie's. Here are a few of their memories.

"Loved Bernie's ... bought all my 45s there for 99¢."

"Porter Square Dodge was across the street."

"Bought my first 45 there. *Let It Be* by the Beatles."

"Bernie was priced slightly higher (than the Record Shop in Davis Sq.) 98 cents for a single (45 rpm) and \$3.98 for an album."



"I still have all my vinyl records and that brings back so many memories."

"... me too and I'm 75 so you know some are classics!"

"I bought my first 45 at Bernie's in 1969. Three Dog Night's *One*."

"I used to buy 45's with my paper route money."

"My friends and I used to pool our money together and buy a 45!"

"We used to come all the way (to Bernie's) from Marshall St. for a 45."

An old Somerville urban legend has it that the guy who owned the Record Shop in Davis Square (who followed me and my friends around the stores

and never smiled) ... and Bernie were brothers. Maybe someone out there can back this up.

Meanwhile I'm going to listen to some of those tunes I owned when they first came out in the 60's and 70's. Today, my favorite songs are on my iPod and my phone. The precious music of my youth are crystal clear and packed with memories. In the old days those same tunes eventually ended up scratched and worn out or broken from continuous playing.

Down in the cellar there is still a box of a few of my old 45 records and albums, purchased decades ago at places like Bernie's Music.

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Per the order of government restrictions in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19, we are only open for take out and delivery until further notice.

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

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

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Be safe and stay healthy – The Mount Vernon Restaurant

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'A Chance to Rest' mural at South Street Farm for ArtBeat Week CONT. FROM PG 1

Youth Program Green Team members, volunteers, and families participated in building and spray painting the mural during the ArtBeat week, making this a community effort.

With the image of the farmers with masks, Fernandes-Smith says, “We saw the perseverance, despite that everything is going on, we as a community can still help the community.” As Fernandes-Smith read the input from the community, he helped direct the mural’s message of a safe space, what’s good for the environment such as recycling, and diversity. The re-



Yairamar Oropeza and Lauren Sullivan at work on the mural.

sponses overall represented the strength and safety of South Street Farm.

“This year we wanted to honor the Black Lives Matter movement. Groundwork Somerville also wanted to highlight what we always stood for which is its immigrant farmers,” says Islam. The mural includes world crops, jilo, bitter melon, okra, maxixe, cucumbers, bird peppers, epizote, heirba mora, calaloo, lalloo, collards, Vietnamese spinach, Asian long beans, pursalme, and culantro. As kids and families helped paint the mural, they were able to learn more about these world crops that are grown at South Street Farm. The farm is actively working with the Mobile Farmers Market to help provide these world crops to Somerville and the surrounding communities.

Yairamar Oropeza, a member of the Groundwork Somerville Green Team, says “I think this is a good way to unite the community during this difficult time in the middle of a pandemic.”

Lauren Sullivan, volunteer at South Street Farm says “I have a lot of interest in sustainable living. I’m trying to learn about regenerative agriculture and ways to feed people in an environmentally



L to R: Ray Gao, Darron Fernandes-Smith, Yairamar Oropeza, Lauren Sullivan, Saladin Islam, and Yulia Bulgakova.

sound and equitable way. Learning about where the food comes from is the first step in that chain.”

In response to caring for the climate, Yulia Bulgakova from the community says, “We can try not to litter, recycle and know we are all in this together.”

In response to urban green space, Ray Gao from the community says, “An urban green space to me is a place where from all different backgrounds can get together and hangout, creating a reprieve from the corporate culture of America where there

is a peaceful space.”

On the right side of the mural, the different races of the mentor farmers are represented holding onto an image of the earth. Islam says they’re “guiding what the world is going to become.” It also embodies the active support and opportunities that the Groundwork Somerville provides to the youth and community throughout the year. This year Groundwork Somerville celebrates their 20th anniversary along and their new mural created during ArtBeat week.

Phase 3 reopening delayed again, businesses express mixed feelings CONT. FROM PG 1

“Our exercise areas are not that big but we have several of them, so it’s been difficult to maintain the distances between the equipment,” Murphy says. To keep

guests safe, they also installed shields between workout equipment and have plans in place for sanitation after guests use the facilities.

Murphy says the YMCA is adhering to the guidelines set by the CDC and local health department. The staff is being patient, but he says they are ready to be back at work after a long time separated from guests. The YMCA is limited to 40 percent occupancy, but Murphy hopes that some restrictions can be lifted if the situation improves by Phase 4.

But not all businesses are being positively affected by the reopening orders. Ian Judge, Director of Operations at the Somerville Theatre, says the theater will not be reopening at this time. The state mandates that theaters may only operate at 25 percent capacity and are not allowed to sell food or drinks to the public. These measures make reopening financially unfeasible according to Judge, who says the Somerville Theatre will be unable to open regardless of the city’s guidelines if they cannot sell concessions to guests.

“Being unable to sell food and beverage at indoor theaters is more of an issue,” Judge says via email. “We lose money being closed of course – taxes, utilities, and rent don’t magically disappear – but we’d be losing far more if we brought staff back and reopened under these conditions.”

At ONCE Somerville, the venue is also staying closed to the public, but continues to create videos of virtual performances. This “virtual venue” features collaborations with the Jungle and the Burren, and videos range from album releases to at-home karaoke by artists filming at home.

Videos of performances are wildly popular now that in-person events are canceled, such as with Porchfest and Somerville Open Studios. The city of Somerville and the Somerville Arts Council are using the venue for this year’s virtual ArtBeat, recording artists live in the ballroom and

posting videos on ONCE’s Youtube page.

To record these performances inside, organizers at ONCE are using what JJ Gonson, director of operations at ONCE and Cuisine en Locale, describes as an “obsessively strict” protocol while also following all guidelines set by the city.

Safety protocol for those recording inside the 9000 foot venue includes hand washing every 30 minutes, frequent sanitizing of shared spaces, keeping masks on unless 20 feet away from another person, and doors staying open for airflow. How many people are inside when recording? Only the handful of people working on sound and video recording, plus band members on stage.

“We can’t create a live music experience like we’d want to if there was a cure tomorrow,” Gonson says. “But what we can do is offer a small step forward from the bedroom.”

Without reopening this week, ONCE’s only form of revenue is take-out from its sister company Cuisine en Locale’s Club Mac, plus funds from its GoFundMe and a federal PPP loan to pay its five staff members. Gonson emphasizes that the city has been great at helping ONCE during the pandemic, forming groups for different industries in the community and “doing everything they can.”

Most performance spaces in Somerville are registered as restaurants or bars, and Gonson says that this creates a problem for ONCE since they have to follow guidelines for those instead of venues. Despite that, Gonson is hesitant to open the doors to the public without a vaccine for COVID-19 in effect.

“Honestly, if the governor said tomorrow that venues could open at 50 percent capacity, I wouldn’t do it because I don’t think it’s safe,” Gonson says.

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City finalizes FY21 budget

By Alberto Gilman

The Somerville City Council’s latest regular meeting took place virtually on Tuesday July 14. All eleven councilors were present. Moments of silence and approval of meeting minutes from June 11 followed shortly thereafter.

For the past several weeks, the Somerville City Council has been engaged in discussions over the proposed FY21 budget with a variety of cuts to various lines.

Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott discussed items 14 – 20 on the agenda, which covered the report of the Finance Committee meetings. “The number of people that actually tuned in, it was nearly 14,000 attendees, watched the meetings of the Finance Committee over the course of this budget season,” Scott said.

Scott also took the time to recognize his fellow councilors and colleagues who have worked on the budget through these meetings and other work. All eleven councilors approved all the minutes that were presented.

Next, Councilor At-Large Mary Jo Rossetti wanted to bring up some questions about Health and Human Services for Director David Kress. Budget Manager Mike Mastrobuoni spoke in place for Kress to Councilor Rossetti.



Councilor Rossetti expressed concerns over the Professional and Technical Services line. She wanted to know what the balance on hand was and was given an answer of a balance of \$88,000 that had not yet been spent.

Her concern was that \$127,503.26 unspent for fiscal 20 was then listed on the website. This math did not add up and wanted to know what had been spent. Rossetti wanted to propose more cuts. Mastrobuoni told Rossetti that Kress outlined where certain funds were going and due to COVID-19, and that many of the programs and other events were not able to take place.

Rossetti proposed a cut of \$50,000 to line 530000 in reaction to the following discussion over the previous miscommuni-

cation. Several councilors voiced their opposition to the cut. The motion for this cut resulted in eight against, three in favor.

Following this motion, several councilors expressed their gratitude and praise for other councilors and colleagues on the work they have done of the course of the last several weeks on the budget.

City Council President Matt McLaughlin also expressed his appreciation for his colleagues and thoughts on the whole process of this budget season. “I’m very happy to have colleagues who really get into the dirt of it,” McLaughlin said. “I know a lot of people wanted us to get it done in June, and we just kind of all knew that wasn’t going to happen. We didn’t rush it, but we also got it done in a reasonable manner.”

ROOTED: Armory Cafe & Farmstand opens

The grand reopening of ROOTED: Armory Cafe & Farmstand took place on July 21.

They are following recommended COVID-19 mitigation guidelines and allowing a maximum of eight customers into ROOTED at a time.

Customers are welcome to walk in and place an order and shop the produce/grocery items. Takeout orders can also be placed by calling 617-718-2192.

Check out ROOTED’s new menu at <https://artsatthearmory.org/rooted-cafe/rooted-menu/>. They are close to launching online ordering, so please stay tuned.

They will be open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Free parking is available in the lot behind the Armory and there is outdoor seating.



Stop in for a coffee, a breakfast biscuit, or a ROOTED sandwich or salad, and pick up provisions for your nightly dinner, choosing from options like frozen native Maine lobster ravioli from Deano’s Pasta, vegan chicken tenders from Koshari Mama, or heirloom bean soup mix from Baer’s Best Beans, or grab mesclun, fresh herbs and tomatoes from Red Fire Farm for salad prep.

They offer vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free and child-friendly options, and have highlighted products that are organic, seasonal, and house-made, and from MA, local and Somerville Winter Farmers Market vendors.

The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Ave., Somerville.

— Photo by Doug Holder

Want to write local Somerville stories?
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The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #209

The Dilboy Post

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

It was exactly one century ago in 1920 when 155 veterans from World War I returned home from France. Early on, they founded and named The George Dilboy Post 529 V.F.W. honoring one of their heroic brothers in arms, Army Private George Dilboy. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions above and beyond the call of duty and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Somerville honors him with a memorial in front of City Hall and the George Dilboy Memorial Stadium.



These founding veterans had just witnessed the horrors of World War I, the war to end all wars. Little did they know that another world war would develop in less than 20 years, followed by many other brutal conflicts. Suffering through trench warfare, poison gas attacks, and battles at sea, these World War I soldiers and sailors were thankful to be home and alive.



The Post members established the creed “protect the home – feed the hungry – comfort the sick.” Through the years, most members swore that if they returned home, they would try to improve life for themselves, their families and friends. They have done this for 100 years. Their membership increased from the original 155 to a high of 4,400 during the 1950’s, making it the largest Post in New England.

Over time, living up to its creed, the Post has sponsored hundreds of community projects. Its members created renowned junior military marching bands and decorated many veterans’ graves. The Dilboy Post was the first to formulate an Installation Team to create other VFW Posts throughout Massachusetts. They equipped and furnished veterans’ hospital wards and rooms across the state from Chelsea to Holyoke. They also contributed to many deserving charities

Continued on page 11



COMMENTARY

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

Updates on the city’s response during the COVID-19 crisis

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

Somerville’s Phase 3 Reopening to Start August 3, at the Earliest

Somerville’s Phase 3 Step 1 business reopening is on hold until at least Monday, August 3, as local officials grow increasingly concerned about potential impacts amid rising new case averages in the metro area and growing concerns about the efficacy of the State’s contact tracing program.

Prior State guidelines limiting indoor and outdoor gatherings to no more than 10 persons will also remain in effect until at least August 3 as well. In collaboration with area businesses, the City has developed provisional enhanced safety requirements and guidelines for Phase 3 businesses, but their reopening will be put on hold.

Businesses in the Phase 3 Step 1 reopening include large indoor venues and activities generally considered to be at high risk for viral spread such as movie theaters, gyms, cultural centers, performance venues, and indoor gatherings. Phase 3 Health

and Human Services categories opened in Somerville according to statewide plans on July 6. Effective immediately, newly announced State guidelines for grocery stores, which now allow for an increase in customers from 40 to 50 percent of capacity and the reintroduction of reusable bags, are in place in Somerville, with a short grace period for stores to use up existing plastic bag stock.

Resources for Anyone Facing Financial Hardship

With the \$600 supplemental unemployment benefit set to run out at the end of the month

we know there are residents who will be facing new financial hardship. Throughout the pandemic we have been compiling lists of resources at www.somervillema.gov/coronavirushelp including information on housing, food, and financial assistance, as well as information on accessing mental health and recovery services online. Please visit the website to find out more about the help that is available. If you can’t access the website, you can also call 311 to be connected to support.

Staying Informed During COVID-19

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

Here are some additional ways you can stay informed:

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

The displacement that we celebrate

By Chris Allen

I’m writing in response to your June 17th article, “Couple lovingly restores 69 Berkeley St. to bring it back to its original SF design”.

Displacement has been a key concern of Somerville over the past few years. The condo conversion ordinance was passed to provide additional rights for renters, the Office of Housing

Stability was created to provide resources to renters and homeowners facing displacement, and the City Council has increased inclusionary zoning requirements, recently considering requiring payments to the affordable housing fund for even two-unit developments.

These are all rules that apply to creating new housing or redistributing existing housing; if you remove housing

stock from the city, there are no restrictions or regulations. Conversions of multi-family homes to single-family worsen our housing crisis along every measurable axis, and should not be lauded by our city commissions.

Displacement in an area as a result of concentrated wealth and forbidding of new housing is a phenomenon we’ve already observed across the

Charles – Beacon Hill’s population from 2000 to 2010 actually decreased while the city as a whole grew by 4.8%, mainly through consolidation of multi-family residences.

Coming back to 69 Berkeley, the realtor listing for the property pre-renovation mentions that both units were leased; this is a story of two households displaced to make room for one. I’m sure it looks

pretty, though.

I’m not writing this as a call for additional regulations or legislation; I’m not sure how effective they would be in these scenarios anyway. I would like us to think on the forces that are shaping our neighborhoods that are, and will always be, independent of the physical shape of said neighborhoods. Are we hitting the brakes so hard that we end up going in reverse?

Somerville’s Cambridge Health Alliance Testing Site Moved to Assembly Square

As of Monday, July 20, the COVID-19 testing site previously located at the Somerville Hospital has moved to 133 Middlesex Avenue (near the former Kmart site) in Assembly Square. The testing site is part of a larger COVID-19 mitigation strategy by the City of Somerville in partnership with Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA). Patients can arrive at the site via vehicle, walking, or bicycle, and testing procedures will be the same as at the previous location:

- Patients must have an appointment to be tested. To make an appointment, call 617-665-2928 (Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.). CHA patients can also use their MyCHART account to set up an appointment.
- Testing is free and insurance coverage is not a requirement, although CHA may ask for insurance information for administrative purposes. You will not be turned away if you do not have insurance.
- You do not need to have symptoms to be tested.
- Immigration status will not be checked.
- Testing is available for anyone eight years of age and older.
- Please bring a photo ID.

Patients will receive a phone call with their results, which could take up to five days to come in.

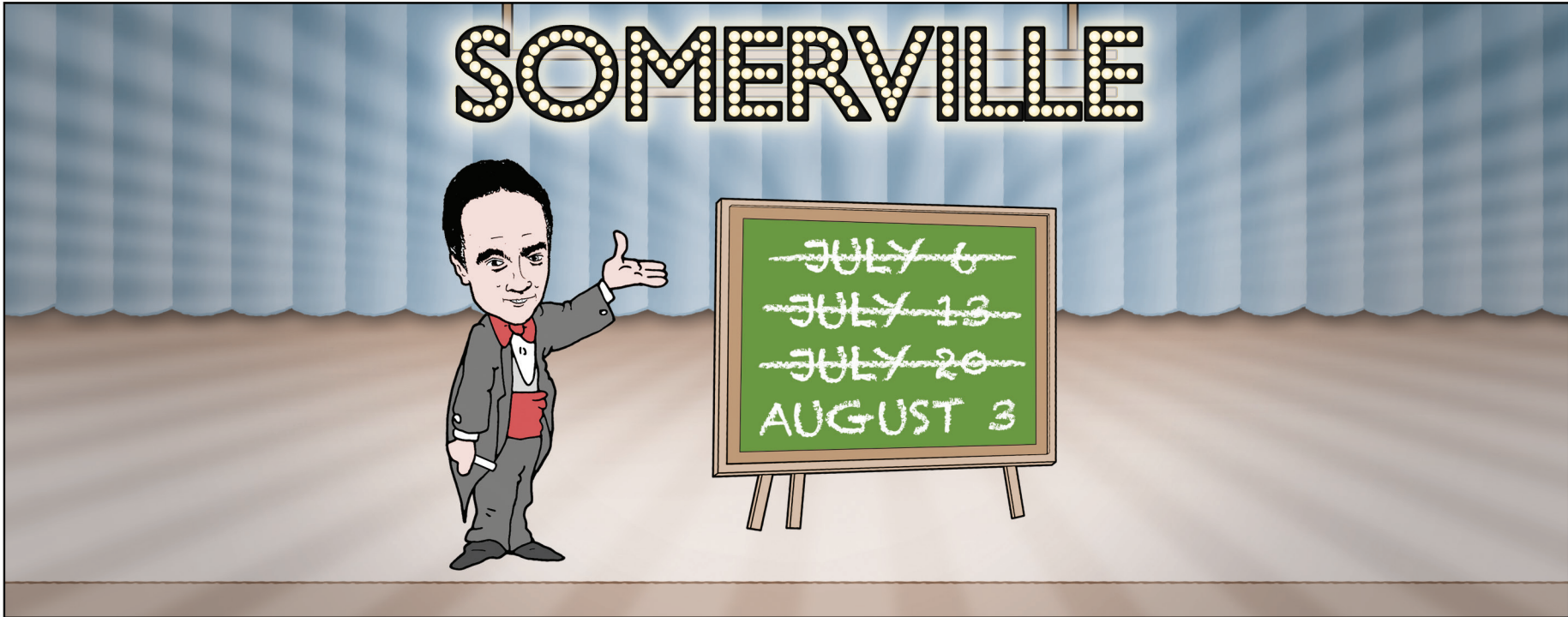
There is also a mobile testing unit that accepts patients at roaming locations throughout Somerville. To see the mobile site’s upcoming schedule, visit the “Symptoms, Testing, & Medical Info” tab on www.somervillema.gov/covid19 or call 311. To make an appointment at the mobile testing site please call 617-682-0583 (English); 617-398-7770 (Spanish); 617-684-5625 (Portuguese); 617-735-5553 (Nepali); or 617-625-6600 ext. 2622 (Haitian Creole).



COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Stand by for your next big reopening date, Somerville.

Our View Of The Times



We've all been through a lot these past few months. The social distancing, the masks, our favorite places of business and sources of entertainment temporarily shut down, etc.

It wears on the nerves and dampens our spirits, but at the end of the day we understand that these measures are necessary to mitigate the dangers that the COVID-19 epidemic has imposed

on us both globally and locally. We are behaving responsibly, and so far it looks like these sacrifices are paying off. Infection rates in the city are low, even while neighboring communities are still experiencing intermittent spikes and higher than acceptable levels of new cases recorded on a daily basis.

It is out of an abundance of caution that the city proceeds carefully with its

plans for a full reopening. Yes, it can be frustrating, getting all geared up to visit a store, an entertainment venue, or what-not, and then have the excitement deflated by yet another delay in the Phase 3 reopening date.

But let's remember what this is actually all about. Keeping us as safe as possible while the danger is still out there. Even though many businesses may be struggling to hang on until a full reopening is possible, the health of their customers is of supreme importance. Hopefully, they can survive through this trying time and still be there when the time is right.

So, frustrations delays aside, let's stay the course and keep doing what it takes to keep us all safe and healthy. This is a crucial time and all of us need to do our parts. After all, consider the alternatives.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

July 27, the exhibit, entitled *Fighting For Our Planet*, promotes an appreciation for the profound beauty of the world and underscores the critical importance of protecting our planet from thoughtless destruction – especially the current climate crisis. These images of the world's natural beauty underscores why each of us must fight harder than ever to protect our planet. At the same time, images of climate activists illustrate one of the key ways to raise people's consciousness and spark their activism. The exhibit will be at the **Inside Out Gallery**, One Davis Square in Somerville, MA, which are a series of outside display windows at the CVS there. It will run from July 27 **through August 31**. The Inside Out Gallery is a project of the Somerville Arts Council. Stan Eichner is a retired civil rights attorney committed to using his photography to further support environmental activism.

Just Us Somerville, a group of **People Of Color** living in Somerville, is looking for a couple of local POC artists to assist with the development and implementation of a **BLM mural street project**. If interested, please contact: **Nelson Salazar** at tuftsmpp@gmail.com.

Because **overcrowding and games** were observed at a number of courts, **basketball hoops** in Somerville's parks have been blocked again until further notice. Courts are still available for non-contact play. **The city** is asking everyone to please continue to use good judgement on courts, in playgrounds, and at other recreation areas. If it is not possible to maintain social distancing, be the person who does the right thing and come back later or find an alternative.

Free COVID-19 testing at Somerville Hospital: The **Somerville Board of Health** strongly urges all residents to be tested for COVID-19. The more people that get tested, the safer our reopening will be. You do not need to have symptoms or a doctor's referral. To sign up for free COVID-19 testing for Somerville residents, call 617-665-2928, **Monday to Friday** between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The mobile COVID-19 testing unit will accept patients by appointment at roaming locations. To be tested, you do not need to be symptomatic and do not need insurance or a doctor's referral. Immigration status will not be checked. But you must be a Somerville

resident and must call 617-682-0583 to set up an appointment. This number is answered during regular City Hall business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday-Wednesday; 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., Thursday; 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Friday). Please leave a voicemail if your call is not answered and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. You can find the schedule of upcoming testing times and locations under the "Symptoms, Testing, & Medical Info" tab at somervillema.gov/covid19.

Donations needed for **#NeighborhoodsHelpingNeighbors**. Would you like to donate? There are about 25-30 families at **Clarendon Hill Towers** who need extra assistance. List of needed non-perishable items: Cereal, paper towels, toilet paper, tuna in cans, mac'n'cheese, powdered juice, snacks, granola bars, diapers, baby wipes, pasta – spaghetti, elbows, lasagna, etc., toothpaste, fruit in cans, rice, beans in cans. Drop off location: **49 Russell Rd.**, front porch. Place on red Adirondack chairs. Deadline: **Saturday, July 25, 12 noon**.

Dogs like ice cream too! Come down to **The Row** on **Wednesday night** to treat

your good boy or girl to a cold treat. Wednesday nights, **starting July 22** from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Assembly Row East by Loft.

The city is reminding residents **not to set off fireworks this summer**. Along with being illegal in Massachusetts, fireworks pose public health and safety threats. Fireworks can start fires, which can spread quickly through our densely populated neighborhoods. The noise from fireworks can also be traumatizing to those with post-traumatic stress disorder and can be very upsetting to animals. Throughout the summer, everyone is being reminded to be a good neighbor and not set off fireworks.

The Somerville Public Library is now offering **contactless pickup** at **all three branches**. Patrons can request Somerville library materials online using their **Minuteman account**. Library staff will then notify patrons by either email or phone when their items are ready to be picked up. Pickup appointments will be scheduled by using the Library's online appointment system on somervillepubliclibrary.org, or by calling the Somerville Public Library at 617-623-5000.

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#740

1. How many minutes of action are in an average MLB game?

2. Who was the woman who founded and baked the first Pepperidge Farm bread?

3. What was the first satellite launched by the United States in 1958?

4. How many personal fouls does a player need to commit to be ejected from an NBA basketball game?

5. What is the national drink of Greece?

6. Where can you find The World's

Largest Baseball Bat?

7. What NFL players sang back up in Huey Lewis and the News song *Hip to Be Square*?

8. Who said the famous quote "Knowledge is Power"?

9. In what season did players go on strike, resulting in cancelling the *MLB World Series*?

10. What liquor is in a Cuba Libre cocktail?

11. What animal has the shortest pregnancy time?

12. How many parts does a brain have?

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. The Chicago Bulls have won all six NBA Finals in which they've appeared.

2. There are more donut shops in Canada per capita than any other country.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
AMERICAN LIT

- ACROSS
- 1. Popular cook-off dish
 - 6. School of thought suffix
 - 9. "The Fountainhead" author
 - 13. Example of an eclipse
 - 14. Roman road
 - 15. Red fluorescent dye
 - 16. Binary digits code
 - 17. Part of circle
 - 18. New Mexico's state flower
 - 19. "The Age of Innocence" author
 - 21. "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" author
 - 23. Not bright
 - 24. Like Roman god Janus
 - 25. Explosive network?
 - 28. Hindu wrap
 - 30. _____ and talented
 - 35. Age of Aquarius flick
 - 37. Field worker
 - 39. Olden-day marriage tradition
 - 40. Bumpkin
 - 41. Rose oil
 - 43. Not top-shelf at a bar
 - 44. Artemis' companion
 - 46. Maori war dance
 - 47. Muscovite or biotite
 - 48. "Bloodchild" author
 - 50. Bank on
 - 52. A Bobbsey twin
 - 53. Printer button
 - 55. "To Kill a Mockingbird" author
 - 57. "The Color Purple" author
 - 60. "The Crying of Lot 49" author
 - 64. Spasm of pain
 - 65. Not well
 - 67. Nary a soul
 - 68. Like Al Yankovic
 - 69. Born, in society pages
 - 70. Island off Manhattan
 - 71. "For Your Eyes _____"
 - 72. President Taft's addition to the White House
 - 73. Fare reductions
- DOWN
- 1. Old-fashioned tub foot
 - 2. Movie theater admonition
 - 3. Machu Picchu builder

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20			21	22				
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48					49		50			51		52	
				53		54			55		56		
	57	58	59					60				61	62
64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

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

© StatePoint Media

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

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

COMMENTARY

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

Bridging the chasm between law enforcement and justice

Part 4: What we know that the founders didn't



By William C. Shelton

Approaching the end of the War of Independence, Congress chose to put on the Great Seal of the United States the phrase, "Novus Ordo Seclorum," which they understood to mean, "A new order of the ages," or, "A new age now begins." They hoped that what they were accomplishing would inspire people everywhere to create governments in which humanity could live with freedom and dignity.

Although their own new government would exclude women, slaves, and natives from the full rights of citizenship, they had created the most expansive *political* democracy in history. They established principles by which subsequent liberation movements could critique and correct the founders' hypocrisies. And they succeeded in their hope, in that leaders of the French, Russian, Vietnamese, and other revolutions subsequently cited ours as inspiration.

The founders had been, in turn, inspired by Enlightenment ideas made possible by the emergence of a new form of political economy that would come to be called "capitalism." It was creating personal freedom, cognitive enlargement, and prosperity for many more people than had theretofore enjoyed them.

The founders lived in a society that consisted of farmers, tradesmen, and slaves, with a smattering of doctors, lawyers, merchants, and clergy. It "was shockingly equal at the time, in ways that seem really surprising to us today," writes legal scholar Ganesh Sitaraman.

So it's not surprising that they understood equality to be essential to freedom. In order to be free, you had to have equal standing as a decision maker in

matters that affected you.

For the same reasons, they did not understand that *political* democracy cannot sustain itself without *economic* democracy, or legal "justice," without economic justice. So they could not anticipate that long-term dynamics essential to the very economic system that had created the freedom that they cherished would ultimately undermine it by destroying the equality they cherished.

One such dynamic is that at the end of every profitable transaction, investors must reinvest their profit to gain more profit, or consume it and thereby cease to be investors. This expand-or-die competition produces winners and losers.

To remain a winner, the enterprise must not only be profitable. It must produce the highest possible rate of profit so that it can continue to attract investment. It is like a human built at a 45° angle who must run as fast as possible because slowing means falling.

Over time, fewer and fewer winners remain in any profitable industry, and less profitable industries fade away. The winners have more and more concentrated power, wealth, and relative capacity to buy the statutes, regulations, legal decisions, and memes that they want.

By the early 19th Century, growing economic inequality and wealth concentration made these dynamics more apparent. By 1861, they obligated Abraham Lincoln to oppose "the effort to place capital on an equal footing with, if not above, labor in the structure of government ... Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration."

Nevertheless, those with greater wealth maintained the greater power. As detailed in the previous column, they created police forces, not to fight crime, but to repress spontaneous and organized resistance to economic

exploitation, and to maintain an order defined by class and racial inequality. Toward this end, they used their influence to enact and enforce statutes that expanded what are considered to be punishable crimes.

It is also true that material deprivation, and economic inequality produce crime. This relationship exists across countries and across times. It enables the powerful to justify the expansion of intrusive police power.

The most exploited of us have always been those in the reserve labor force. They are mobilized during the boom period of the economic cycle that is characteristic of capitalist economies. They are expelled and economically confined to segregated communities during periods of contraction.

People of color are disproportionately represented in this group. From the beginning of American industrialization, business interests used ethnic, then racial differences to undermine labor unity.

They exploited and promoted hateful ideas and attitudes about Irish immigrants, then Italians, then African Americans, Mexican immigrants in the Southwest, and Chinese and Filipino immigrants in the far West. They also used these economically desperate workers as strike breakers.

White workers initially bought into this, fearing that these despised alien creatures would take their jobs or drive down wages. Acts of racial violence were common.

Abraham Lincoln reacted to one such incident where White workers lynched free Black workers in New York City: "The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one uniting all working people, of all nations, and tongues, and kindreds." And over time, the labor movement came to understand the necessity of such solidarity.

The period of 1914 to 1975 saw first massive destruction of global capital, and then expansion of organized labor's reach

and political influence. These changes brought steep reductions in economic inequality along with historic extensions of civil rights protections.

But they were an anomaly. As the after-tax return on capital again came to exceed the economic growth rate, neoliberal politicians and policies became ascendant, and economic inequality skyrocketed. The poor become poorer, and formerly middle-class White workers slid into the underclass, their life expectancies declining.

The poorest, and especially African Americans, remain in residentially segregated neighborhoods, cut off from work opportunities, efficient public transportation, and even healthy food options. There, the finance industry has declined to issue mortgages and make business loans. So the median American White family has 41 times more wealth than the median African-American family, and 22 times more wealth than the median Latino family.

Brutal deprivation and inequality will inevitably produce resistance, and yes, crime. Crime is used, in turn, to justify racism, implying that Black and Brown neighborhoods are higher in crime because their inhabitants are morally inferior. Consider, for example, Ronald Reagan's dog-whistle references to "welfare queens."

Maintaining "order" required greatly expanding crime definitions, mandatory sentencing, mass incarceration, and intrusive policing. Spending on criminal punishment increased by 40 percent between 1993 and 2012, while actual crime rates steadily declined.

If the U.S. model of policing were really about fighting crime, then the "war on drugs" would not be fought overwhelmingly in non-White communities, as drug use rates for Black and White Americans are almost identical.

Whites in the slave South lived in fear of slave rebellions and learned to hate and despise

those whom they feared. Today, police charged with pacifying communities of color are often exposed to individual inhabitants on the worst days of their lives. It would take exceptional character and ongoing support for those police to not develop similar attitudes.

Numerous policing reforms are now under discussion. None can end structural racism without transforming the inherent dynamics in our political economy that produce concentrated wealth and power, cementing economic and racial inequality.

Unlike America's founders, we now know that we cannot have political democracy without economic democracy, or legal justice without economic justice. Martin Luther King understood this when he wrote to his future wife that capitalism had "outlived its usefulness" because it had "brought about a system that takes necessities from the masses to give luxuries to the classes."

It would take him another sixteen years before he could say this publicly. Or effectively fuse identity politics with class politics, a lesson many liberals and progressives have still to learn.


But today, young people are increasingly unintimidated to utter the word, "socialism." And some form of socialism is what is now required. I say "some form" because, unlike the caricatured boogey man promulgated by the right for a century, there is a broad array of strains.

What they have in common is democratic control and self-management of the economic enterprises that most affect our lives. An American model would probably emphasize democracy, share work and rewards equitably, nourish personal development, reward innovation, effectively utilize diversity, and seek regeneration of the natural environment.

It is a conversation that is overdue. And it is a necessary one, so that "government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

LEGAL NOTICES

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



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

**The meeting will be held using GoToWebinar.
TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4741602521728654348>
Webinar ID: 785-480-163

TO CALL IN

Phone number: +1 (562) 247-8422
Access code: 841-335-198


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

111-153 South Street: Boynton Yards Land Co LLC c/o Leggat McCall Properties LLC seeks Subdivision Plan Approval to enable a thoroughfare connecting Windsor Street with Earle Street in Boynton Yards across MBL 97-B-23.

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.

7/22/20 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145

The Somerville Housing Authority seeking sealed bids for the preventive maintenance and repair of building emergency generators at multiple sites in Somerville, MA.

The contract term is Three years.

Estimated value \$75,000.00

Quotes will be received no later than 11:00 a.m. August 13, 2020

Bid Documents will be available as of July 29, 2020 11:00 a.m.

Prevailing Wage

Quotes are subject .G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

Construction: Projects with a bid/contract cost exceeding \$25,000: Performance Bond Form (00.61.13) and Payment Bond Form (00.61.16) in 100% of total of maximum amount are required.

Contract Documents on July 29, 2020 11:00 a.m.


Contract Documents can be download from our web site, www.sha-web.org, under our Bid Opportunities tab or you may request an emailed copy from Anthony Crespo at tonyc@sha-web.org or call 617-625-1152, Ext. 336. If downloaded, you must register by email with Anthony Crespo at tonyc@sha-web.org to receive updates. Confirmation that we have received your email will be made via reply to your email. It will be the bidder's responsibility to ensure bid was received.

Due to the Covid virus, only emailed quotes will be accepted. Email bid to Anthony Crespo at tonyc@sha-web.org and mark subject line; SHA Generator Quote #P-GEN082020. If an email is received, you will receive confirmation of reception via reply to your email. It will be the bidder's responsibility to ensure bid was received.

A sites visit is scheduled for August 4, 2020 9:00 a.m. **Sites visit not required but recommended.** All interested parties will meet at OUTSIDE of the SHA Modernization Department 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145. You must register by email if you will attend. Email Anthony Crespo at tonyc@sha-web.org to confirm you will be on site. PPE REQUIRED. Mask and social distancing will be enforced. Anyone not wearing a mask will be ask to leave the premises.

7/22/20 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
RFP 21-05**

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


High Speed Mass Notification System

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **July 21st, 2020** Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **August 12th, 2020 at 2:00 pm ET**. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Thupten Chukhatsang at tchukhatsang@somerville-ma.gov for more information.

**Thupten Chukhatsang, MCPPO
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x. 3400**

7/22/20 The Somerville Times



SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, Massachusetts 02145
Telephone (617) 625-1152
Fax (617) 628-7057 TDD (617) 628-8889

ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites Paving Contractors to submit Quotes for Crack Sealing and Sealcoating at Capen Court (667-1) Elderly Apartment Building located at One Capen Court, Somerville, Ma. 02145. **SHA Job # 2022**

The Project consists of Crack Sealing and Sealcoating the entire Parking Lot at One Capen Court.

The estimated cost for work is \$13,000

Bids are subject to M.G.L c.149, § 44A-J & minim1tm wage rates as required by M.G.L c.149, § 26 to 27H inclusive. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,

Quotes will be received until **Thursday, July 30th, 2020, 12:00 p.m.** Because of the Corona Pandemic, Quotes will be received by **email only** to Brian Langton at BrianL@sha-web.org 617-625-1152 Ext. 331

A pre-bid meeting will be held at One Capen Court, Somerville, Ma 02145, on **Thursday, July 23rd at 10:00 a.m.**

Questions should be directed to Brian Langton at 617-625-1152 ext.331 or by email at BrianL@sha-web.org.


7/15/20, 7/22/20 The Somerville Times

**TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN
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PH: 617.666.4010 FAX: 617.628.0422**

Heat safety tips

As the weather continues to heat up, remember to follow these 10 #HeatSafety tips. You can find more info at somervillema.gov/keepcool.

1. Know the signs of heat-related illness. If you are experiencing headaches, dizziness, nausea, confusion, cramps, high body temperature, or a fast pulse, seek medical help immediately and move to a cooler place.
2. Stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water when it's hot outside, even if you don't feel thirsty. Drink two to four glasses of cool, non-alcoholic fluids every hour. Bring water with you when venturing out. Public water fountains are currently turned off due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Practice sun safety. Wear sunscreen. Wear a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and loose-fitting, light-colored clothing when outside.
4. Never leave children or pets in a car unattended. This includes when running out for curbside pickup or other quick errands. Even with the windows cracked open, interior temperatures can rise almost 20°F within 10 minutes.
5. Avoid strenuous activity during the hottest parts of the day. Exercise in the early morning if possible.
6. Turn on your air conditioner if you need it. Just a few hours a day in an air-conditioned space can reduce the risk of illness. Fans will not prevent heat-related illness when the temperature is above 95°F. If you are concerned about the cost of running your air conditioner, check to see if you are eligible to receive a discounted electricity rate from Eversource to help lower your electricity bills.
7. Keep up with COVID-19 precautions. Continue to wear face coverings and practice social distancing even when the weather is hot.
8. Be a good neighbor. Check on family, friends, and neighbors, especially the elderly, those who live alone, those with medical conditions, those who may need additional assistance, and those who may not have air conditioning.
9. Sign up for City alerts at somervillema.gov/alerts or by calling 311.
10. Call 911 in an emergency. If someone is showing signs of heatstroke call 911 immediately. Signs of heatstroke include a body temperature over 103 degrees; hot, red, dry, or moist skin; a rapid and strong pulse; and possible unconsciousness. While waiting for help to arrive, move the person into a cool area, help cool them down with wet towels or a cool bath, and DO NOT give them fluids. It is safe to call 911 and go to the hospital.



— City of Somerville

The Somerville Urban Forestry Committee: Watching over our trees

By Elizabeth Long

On July 16, the Somerville Urban Forestry Committee met virtually to discuss residents' concerns, city updates, and other various topics. "The Urban Forestry Committee is a great group of knowledgeable and dedicated people who are working really hard to support the city's Urban Forestry program," said Vanessa Boukili, Senior Urban Forestry Landscape member. "In addition to advising on many projects in the city and working on educational campaigns, they recently initiated the city's first Adopt-A-Tree program, which has been a huge success in getting residents to help care for the city's newest street trees."

The group recently forged a new mission statement that states "The Urban Forestry Committee provides public guidance, support, and community outreach in order to protect, nurture, and grow the city's urban forest. We are a dedicated group of local activists, landscape professionals, and community partners who work together to advise on best practices for planting, outreach, and arboreal care for the benefit of the urban forest, its inhabitants, and the residents of Somerville."

Many of the recent resident concerns were focused on a large silver maple that was removed from Wallace St., flagged for its wood conditions and root zone, making it a safety concern for the community. The committee plans to prioritize replanting

in the fall in a nearby spot. A resident commended Boukili for her well-rounded explanation and said, "As residents, we value the opportunity to have trees grow tall." The committee also wanted to issue a warning about five trees that are pending removal along the Somerville Community Path.

"... they recently initiated the city's first Adopt-A-Tree program, which has been a huge success in getting residents to help care for the city's newest street trees."

Trees are very valuable, which is a good thing to keep in mind when it comes to removal because of their importance to the ecosystem. In recent years, the city has been taking more preventative measures to help these older trees stay healthy and live longer. In regard to spring planting, there are still at least 20 more trees getting replanted. Most tree replacements of the last few seasons have been replanted.

Beech Leaf Disease, or BLD, is another problem discussed by the committee. The first symptom is green striping on the leaves, so keep an eye out and contact the committee if noticed. BLD makes trees more susceptible to pests and



The Urban Forestry Committee is looking out for the welfare of both residents and trees in the city.

kills younger trees, although not much is known about the disease, it has currently been noticed in Plymouth.

When it comes to reporting dead trees, the committee discussed the response times. When a resident calls 311, the response should be within 30 days, unless it is emphasized that the tree is a danger to the community. Smaller dead trees are taken care of much slower than the larger ones because they have to differentiate immediate hazards compared to potential threats in the future.

A major concern of the Committee is invasive plants that are protected by the city, even though they are disrupting the ecosystem. The counterargument was that the community does not want to take down big trees and replace them, but it is

a major concern affecting the environment. Ecological landscaper, Tori Antoninio wants to clarify in the ordinance that "any invasive species, no matter size, will never fall under the tree protection ordinance." She plans to start looking at how the city can avoid this and restore the ecosystem, saying that "it is irresponsible to put any protections on invasive species."

Sidewalks were next up on the agenda and ensuring that there is space accessibility with the addition of new trees along them. If a tree along a sidewalk is grandfathered in, then they will not be replaced to ensure ADA accessibility, but younger trees are removed if they do not comply with accessibility standards. At least one side of the street needs to be ADA accessible, and if a tree dies, then its replacement

is required to comply with these standards as well. In regards to spacing, in order to plant a tree, the sidewalk needs to be at least 36 inches in width, but the committee tries to increase sidewalk space as much as possible beyond that requirement.

Engaging the community and getting them involved increases the likelihood of adding trees and other plant life to the environment. Programs such as Adopt-A-Tree and Arbor Day 2020 speak to the community engagement with the streetscape. It shows the residents' investment in improving the ecosystem of Somerville. The Urban Forestry Committee meets every three weeks to discuss their plans and address resident concerns. More information is available on the City of Somerville website.

Historical Fact

CONT. FROM PG 5

and relief drives.

Somerville's city seal proclaims, "Honorably Purchased from the Pawtuckers 1639," They were the Native American Indians who inhabited the Mystic River Valley. It is an honor that very few cities can claim.

During WWI, Americans exhibited Indianhead profiles and images on their shoulder patches, vehicles, and equipment. During WWII, young airborne troops sporting Mohawk haircuts, prayed with General Eisenhower just hours before leaping into the French skies over Normandy. They spearheaded the D-Day invasion yelling "Geronimo!" in honor of the great Native American Chief. It was a declaration of their proud American heritage.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars' sponsorship of Somerville sports has been almost endless. From Golden Gloves Boxing at Dilboy Field, to amateur baseball, basketball, golf, hockey and road races for all ages.

Most interestingly, the veterans of the All-American Dilboy Post gave Boston its first professional football team, The Boston Redskins. The team played in Boston for their first few years and then

moved to Washington, D.C. It is there that they have been honoring America and the American Native Indian since 1937 as our Capitol's team ... The Washington Redskins!



Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

1. Eighteen

2. Margaret Rudkin

3. Explorer 1

4. Six

5. Ouzo

6. Outside of the museum entrance of the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory

7. Joe Montana and Ronnie Lott

8. Francis Bacon

9. 1994–95

10. Rum (with Coke and lime)

11. Opossum

12. Three: pons, midbrain and medulla oblongata

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PTAC meeting addresses mobility issues in Somerville

By Rachel Berets

The Somerville Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee (Somerville PTAC) met Thursday, July 16 to discuss Somerville’s “Shared Streets” initiative, the Washington Street Bridge construction, and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) ridership in Somerville.

The purpose of the “Shared Streets” project, which started in late May, is to give pedestrians and bikers enough space to social distance from one another by “opening up low-volume or residential side-streets to pedestrians, cyclists, and other users while still allowing vehicle access for residents of the street, first responders, delivery drivers, sanitation trucks, and street sweepers.”

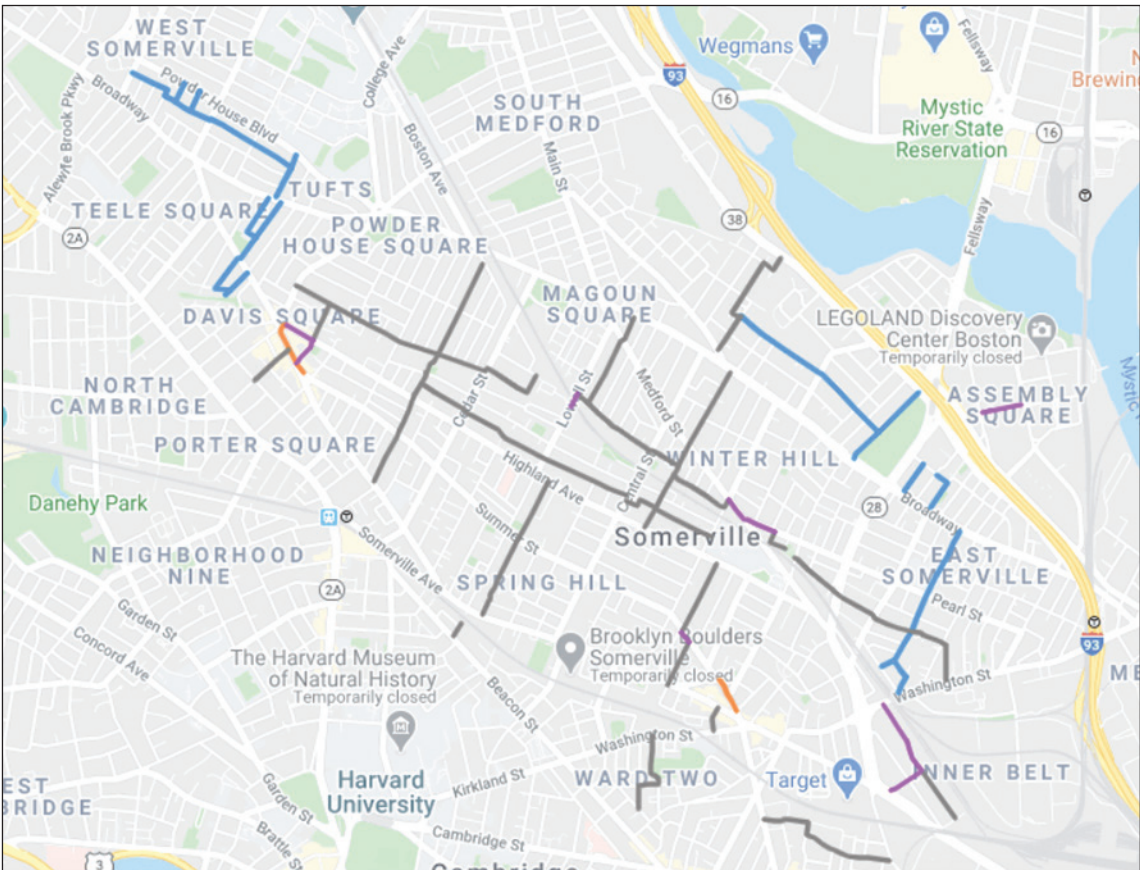
In late June, the “Shared Streets” project entered its second stage, as Elm Street and more became “Shared Streets.” At the Somerville PTAC meeting Justin Schreiber, a Transportation Planner with the Mobility

Division, revealed that “It’s taken us a lot of time to get these two phases out” because of the installation of midblocks to cordon off sections of the street.

To speed up the process and push “Shared Streets” further along, the City proposed that sawhorse barricades or A-frame barricades be used until midblocks can be installed. “The idea here is that we don’t want to leave anyone out and get to September and October and November and still have many [“Shared Streets”] to go. We are hoping to launch all of them together,” said Schreiber.

Schreiber also offered an update on the Washington Street Bridge Underpass in Somerville. In January, the MBTA released a plan for the underpass, but community members were dissatisfied with the proposed two travel lanes in each direction and no bike lane.

Now the city is working to bring back the bike lane and help speed up the buses that go under the Washington Street Bridge. “We have been working



with the transit priority team to come up with a design that more fully honors our commitment to sustainable transportation,” said Schreiber. The members of the Somerville PTAC also discussed the uptick in MBTA ridership, in-

cluding buses, the subway, and the commuter rail, for the first time since mid-March when the COVID-19 pandemic began. “Everything is increasing a little bit each week, 15 percent increases on the bus and about 9 percent on the subway.”

More information about the Somerville PTAC and their projects can be found at <https://www.somervilleptac.org/> or <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/somerville-pedestrian-and-transit-advisory-committee>.

Free Openair Circus classes now online

For over 30 years, Somerville's OPENAIR Circus has taught circus skills to children, teens and adults. This summer many classes will still be taught, but differently this year due to COVID-19.

Classes will be in 2 formats: pre-recorded lessons and synchronous online classes.

This is a great chance to learn skills like baton twirling, devil sticks, diabolo, hula hooping, juggling, magic, musical theater dance, poi, sphere play, tumbling for two, and yoyo. Kids of all ages will enjoy a new offering of Story Time.

Some circus equipment is also available for loan or purchase.

Visit www.openaircircus.org to learn more, register, and express interest in obtaining supplies for the summer.

All classes are free this year.



BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History July 22

- 1298 – King Edward I defeats the Scots under William Wallace at Falkirk.
- 1789 – Thomas Jefferson becomes the first head of the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs.
- 1814 – Five Indian tribes in Ohio make peace with the United States and declare war on Britain.
- 1894 – The first automobile race takes place between Paris and Rouen, France.
- 1934 – American gangster John Dillinger is shot dead by FBI officers outside a Chicago cinema.
- 1938 – The Third Reich issues special identity cards for Jewish Germans.
- 1943 – Palermo, Sicily surrenders to General George S. Patton's Seventh Army.
- 1966 – B-52 bombers hit the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam for the first time.

Volunteers deliver fresh produce for homebound older adults

By Nathan Lamb

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) volunteers delivered more than \$2,700 worth of fresh produce to local older adults on July 15.

The delivery was part of the annual Farmers' Market Coupon Program. Funded through the USDA and the Mass Department of Agricultural Resources, the program provides \$25 of Farmers' Market coupons for eligible older adults.

The coupons are accepted at Farmers' Markets across the region, but SCES also provides delivery for homebound clients.

"This enables people to have the produce without having to go to the market," said SCES Nutrition Director Meghan Ostrander.

The produce delivery is an annual event, but Ostrander said demand was up this year, due to the Coronavirus pan-

demic. She thanked the team of 10 volunteers, Nutrition Department staffers Andrea Svartstrom and Marva Wooden, and Colleen Morrissey and Lindsey Smilack of SCES Volunteer programs for helping with the distribution.

The distribution was a joint effort with the PACE ESP program at Cambridge Health Alliance. All told, 85 SCES clients and 25 PACE participants received deliveries.

The produce was provided by New Entry Sustainable Farming Project.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older people in Somerville and Cambridge. For more information about SCES nutrition programs, visit the Nutrition Page at eldercare.org, or contact the SCES Aging Information Center via email at info@eldercare.org.



SCES staffers Andrea Svartstrom and Lindsey Smilack handle bags of fresh vegetables, as part of a produce delivery effort that delivered more than \$2,700 worth of fresh produce to homebound older adults in Cambridge and Somerville.

dercare.org or by calling 617-628-2601. For more information about SCES volunteer programs, visit eldercare.org, call 617-628-2601, or email vol@eldercare.org.

Phase 3 business reopening in Somerville pushed to August 3 at earliest

Somerville's planned Phase 3 Step 1 business reopening is now on hold until at least Monday, August 3, as local officials grow increasingly concerned about potential impacts amid rising new case averages in the metro area and growing concerns about the efficacy of the state's contact tracing program. Prior state guidelines limiting indoor and outdoor gatherings to no more than 10 persons will also remain in effect until at least August 3 as well. In collaboration with area businesses, the city has developed provisional enhanced safety requirements and guidelines for Phase 3 businesses, but their reopening will be put on hold.

Businesses in the Phase 3 Step 1 reopening include large indoor venues and activities generally considered to be at high risk for viral spread such as movie theaters, gyms, cultural centers, performance venues, and indoor gatherings. Phase 3 Health and Human Services categories opened in Somerville according to statewide plans on July 6. Effective immediately, newly announced state guidelines for grocery stores, which now allow for an increase in customers from 40 to 50 percent of capacity and the reintroduction of reusable bags, are in place in Somerville, with a short grace period for stores to

use up existing plastic bag stock.

"We are just as eager as our businesses to restart this part of our economy, but the last thing we want is to move so quickly that we risk the kind of deadly surge and damaging reclosures we're seeing in states that opened too quickly," said Mayor Joe Curtatone. "While statewide case numbers have been holding fairly steady in Massachusetts as a whole, we're seeing new case numbers start to tick up modestly in metro area counties. Couple this with growing concerns over the adequacy of the state's contact tracing effort, which is essential to safe reopening, and the only prudent response is to press pause for the time being. We all know how small confirmed case increases can quickly become exponential with this virus, so we want to, at a minimum, see new 7-day and 14-day rolling averages ideally decreasing but holding steady at a minimum and evidence of promised contact tracing improvements before we take this next step. We are holding Somerville to a higher, safer standard."

The 14-day rolling averages in four metro Boston counties are rising. The averages in Middlesex (rising from 42 to 48), Suffolk (from 33 to 39), Norfolk (from 20 to 29), and Bristol (from 22 to 28) counties have

all shown modest upticks in new cases according to the New York Times hotspot tracker as of July 16. Additionally, on July 10, the state opened additional testing locations in Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Marlborough, and New Bedford, citing that these communities "have continued to see a higher number of residents testing positive for COVID-19."

"To reopen we must have either steady or downward case trends locally and regionally — not just statewide. We must also have all of the critical components for safe reopening in place. That's widespread easily accessible testing, effective contact tracing and tracking, and isolation support backed up by widespread compliance with requirements for face coverings, social distancing, hygiene, and business safety protocols. Massachusetts has made incredible progress over the last few months. We don't want to undo that by pushing forward without every element in place," said Doug Kress, Director of Health and Human Services.

Contact tracing is necessary to quickly identify COVID-19 flare-ups and stop further spread. Like some other municipalities, Somerville has developed local contract tracing capacity to fill gaps left by the state. Somerville's capacity right



now is sufficient for the current smaller caseloads, but a surge would stretch local resources. Thus, reliance on the state effort will be critical amid a surge.

"Our hope is that the 7- and 14-day averages over the next two weeks will show that cases are trending down. Our hope is that promised improvements to state contact tracing efforts will be effective. But if the situation does not improve over the next two weeks, we'll be glad we delayed," said Curtatone. "What we do now will determine how safely we can reopen schools in

the fall, whether businesses that struggled to reopen can avoid costly reclosures, and how many people get sick and how many die. These are serious times and we must take every step with the caution it deserves."

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

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

William Evans' 'We Inherit What the Fires Left'



We Inherit What the Fires Left
By William Evans
Simon and Schuster Paperbacks
Reviewed by *Off the Shelf* correspondent
Gregory J. Wolos

As I reread William Evans' powerful new book of poems, *We Inherit What the Fires Left*, in preparation for writing this review, I couldn't help but think of Covid-19 and its oversized impact on the Black community. The virus, to me, seemed an apt metaphor for the enmity – the kind of toxic, historical racism – Evans struggles to rise above as a father and a Black man as he examines through his poetry his own defeats and victories. The reader watches as Evans attempts to convey to his daughter – and interpret for himself – the particular vulnerabilities their flesh is heir to.

But viruses, even devastating pandemics, are not willfully malevolent; diseases eventually succumb to therapies and vaccines deriving from humankind's united intelligence and effort. And metaphors, while they may serve to explain, are only shadows. Evans, through his poems, carries the reader with him as he maneuvers through the actual landscape left by the fires of ignorance and hatred that represent his and his family's inheritance.

As I read the poems in *We Inherit What the Fires Left*, I'm forced to confront the fires fed by my own inherited white privilege, even as it inoculated me against the flames' destructive force.

In the collection's opening poem, *The Engine*, Evans, as he records his daughter watching as a sunset "fell out of the window," offers us his own point of view: "I had a cut above my eye once/ and assumed everything I saw was bleeding." He understands nightfall as "a black they can't murder" and celebrates "days my car makes it /to the garage" as "days I can live forever."

He sees himself in the present through his past: "Even flattened against the street, an officer's/ knee in my back, I look young for my age." And how will this legacy help Evans educate his daughter, who, as he observes in *Mimic*, "is already my mimic after all,/ having taken my nose/ and eyes and smile for her own"? Knowing what to share with his child and what not to is a continuing struggle, because "I never/ know what windows are worth/ destroying."

His daughter knows he is Santa Claus, and he corrects her when she calls a baseball a football. He equivocates when she says her grandparents are in heaven, telling her "close enough." But how to deal with the threatening paradoxes of life? When together they see a deer, "beautiful and liquid" and "the girl's eyes widened/ until light came from them," the father is silent and smiling as she tells him "it's so cool." He thinks, but does not tell her, not yet, "Did you know that some people shoot them?"

Evans reveals his own ambiguous feelings toward mercy in *Might Have to Kill*, in which his own pacifist father ("who marched against the war") wants him to kill a groundhog that's messing up the lawn. Did Evans learn his pacifism "after the third fight/ in the third white neighborhood"? He distracts his daughter when she asks him to kill a spider, and identifying with the gopher, wondering what it would do "if it knew it were being hunted." Ultimately, he argues that the "summer is nearly over," giving his father to understand that "the boy who looks like him/ waiting for the sun to finally go down" is hoping to avoid being the deliverer of death.

Evans expects that there are lessons his daughter will learn for herself by simple observation. In *Waves*, when she wades in the ocean and wonders what secrets the ocean will bring to the shore, he mutters under his breath, "Probably slaves," keeping his own cynicism to himself for the time being. He remembers "what lessons/ I give without ever offering," a point illustrated on the ride home, when "an officer/ pulls us to the side of the road/ and asks me whose car I am driving/ my family home in."

As a father, Evans must perform a delicate balance between protecting his daughter and teaching her to protect herself. When, in *Passing for Day*, she climbs into her parents' bed late at night, he waits until he hears her "soft snore," like "a subtle prayer against my neck, then I know it is safe to rise" before sliding out of bed, because

"building a heaven doesn't mean you get to stay." In *Sharks and Minnows*, Evans forces himself to play an active role in his daughter's education. As the girls on her soccer team dash around the field, giggling as they avoid the soccer balls kicked to "tag" them by their own coach and their parents, the poet follows the pattern of near misses until he feels compelled to offer a necessary toughening: "because I haven't tagged anyone/ with a ball in a long while and my role/ could not be more clear, I begin/ to kick the soccer balls harder."

Some lessons seem impossible to teach: in *Looking Over My Shoulder She Discovers a Lynching*, Evans hopes his daughter will "please remember this picture" as she learns to distinguish between the whites in the photograph (the same "not-people" who "pulled your dad from the car") and her "friends from school, from gymnastics, from Build-a-Bear," and teachers who "look like the not-people."

Raising his daughter in a racist society, Evans ruminates about his own issues with assimilation, unable and unwilling to forget in *After the Storm, It Was Business as Usual*, about "the time a cop appeared/ and asked me if I lived at the home I was punching my garage code into."

How can Evans make peace with the society he describes in *I Will Love You Most When I Barely Remember Anything*, in which "I drop my daughter off at school/ An officer pulls/ me out of the car as the sun goes down. Something died in between?"

In *How to Assimilate*, Evans remembers surprising a visiting white friend with an empty gun "even though I knew it wasn't/ that funny." For the friend the experience "wasn't cool," and the poet "could never really/ figure out why I aimed a hollow/ threat at my friend except/ to say that I probably gave him something I know so well." As for his fears regarding his role in his daughter's education, Evans muses in the first poem of the collection's third and final section, "You haven't been right/ since your high school teacher told you to stop/ showing off in class. Now you get nauseous/ when your daughter aces her spelling test./ When you were younger, your father overheard you/ talking to you white friends and told you/ code-switching will kill you."

Evans recalls times in his youth when he silenced his own voice, that "I was once a beautiful bouquet of new stalks,/ but nobody told us what it takes to bloom." In *Pledge to Raising a Black Girl*, he asks, "Do you know how many/ classrooms I either dulled my sharp or dulled/ my black until I got tired of being the only/ kingdom without its own campaign?/ How do you know what you have a taste for/ if you've been told never to show your teeth?" Part of the "pledge" alluded to in the poem's title seems aimed at allowing his daughter to retain her own voice in the face of the difficulties she is sure to confront. There is a touch of pride in the poet's voice as he describes his daughter: "You would've thought we set that girl on fire/how she got so cocky, smart as a broken window." Evans argues, "Can't be mad at the talk/ back because we did teach her to talk shit." A lesson learned that he hopes to impart to his daughter.

In the final poem of *We Inherit What the Fires Left*, Evans concludes that the way "things don't die" is that "[t]hey are loved on by those/ too young to believe in death's/ argument." And in a brief prose piece that ends the volume, he questions "What happens when black bodies are still full of life and ambition?" He claims that he has "planted a stake in a neighborhood and a future and have decided that nothing will move me so easily." He acknowledges the survival of his father, "born after the dawn of the civil rights era, as well as his own "as the boy who can chart the violence against [his father] through the neighborhoods he has lived." When he and his father are gone, "there is another – my daughter – who may have to fight in similar ways ... to rebel in similar ways. But she will do it, from her own plot, a governance unto herself. We," Evans asserts, "aren't going anywhere."

And I, a father and grandfather myself, can admire and sympathize with Evans's ambition and fears, vividly and tenderly expressed in *We Inherit What the Fires Left*: sympathize, but not empathize, secure but guilty about the protection my privileged skin provides me against viruses metaphorical and real.

Lyrical
SOMERVILLE
edited by Doug Holder

Marc Zegans is the author of six collections of poems, most recently, *The Snow Dead* from Somerville's Cervená Barva Press. His poems are often translated to stage as immersive theater, most recently to the San Francisco LitQuake production *Sinaesthetic*, and Erotic Eclectic's, *Sirens, Dreams and a Cat*, which was based on his poems and those of D.L. Wilder. His verse has also given rise to several short films. Marc's poetry and creative advisory services can be found at www.marczegans.com.



For Meri Jenkins
From *The Absent Gardener*

I am happiest in a garden
for in a garden I flower
along with the buds
and bulbs that break

the soil at first call of spring.
I am happiest in a garden
when it has passed the fallow
season, the ground fresh broke

the earth turned and the day warm
upon my toes, which I wiggle, sockless.
I am happiest in a garden.
Though other pleasures do draw

me swift through high-hedged
country roads, foot off the brake
as they twist like arbored vines.
I am happiest in the garden

with book in chair or trowel
scooping topsoil, an entry
to planting, and what follows
in the growing months

roses cascading over thorns
lush, fragrant, full in delicate
bloom, whose memory reminds
that I am happiest in the garden.

— Marc Zegans

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