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# The Somerville Times

VOL. 8 NO. 30

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020

**TWENTY-FIVE CENTS** 

## **Inside:**



**Everybody's dream** 

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They marched for him, too

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A home made 'museum'

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## Somerville schools reopening, but remaining cautious



Mayor Curtatone addressed the media on the plan for the upcoming school year at a press conference in front - Photo by Alberto Gilman of Somerville High School.

#### By Alberto Gilman

Mayor Joseph Curtatone announced the decision concerning the reopening of schools in Somerville on Friday, July 24 to local and city news outlets. He began by discussing the impact of the pandemic. "The COVID-19 pandemic was not something anyone was prepared for," Curtatone said. "It has not been easy."

A father of four, Curtatone and his wife, like many other parents in the city of Somerville, hope to be able to send their kids back to school in the fall. Curtatone informed the media the that schools will be on track to reopen. However, the particulars of reopening will be different from previous years.

"We're going to move diligently. We're working with experts, searching for the best solutions," Curtatone said. "Our guiding value here is to protect the health of our Continued on page 4

## Ice cream shops raise funds for social change

#### By Shira Laucharoen

When Aaron Cohen, owner of Gracie's Ice Cream, heard through Instagram that Ice Cream for Change, a platform for ice cream lovers and makers advocating for social justice, would be a holding a fundraiser on July 19, he knew he had to participate. The campaign, held on National Ice Cream Day, would be using the power of ice cream to address systemic racism experienced by Black people, with funds being donated to organizations leading the fight.

Cohen had reached out to the Ed Markey campaign and arranged for the senator to speak with and greet customers at the event. The shop created a new flavor, Green New Deal With It Mint Chip, which was colored green, rather than keeping it their traditional white shade. With a line leading outside of the Union Square ice cream parlor, they rapidly sold out of the pints they had been peddling and switched to cones.

"The Ed Markey flavor Continued on page 4



Senator Ed Markey spoke at Gracie's Ice Cream's fundraiser as part of the Ice Cream for Change's - Photo courtesy of the Ed Markey campaign

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The City of Somerville and Somerville Public Schools has decided to try reopening the schools this fall under specific guidelines that are currently being worked out. Some are wary that it is too soon and there is still too much risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus, while others argue that keeping kids out of school is detrimental to them and their parents and guardians. We can only trust that the city will come up with a plan that is safe and sustainable. What do you think about it?

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

Help reach out to seniors who need a little sunshine. The Somerville Council on Aging is looking for donations of new games, puzzles, arts and crafts supplies, books, or any other fun items. Items can be dropped off at the Holland Street Senior Center, 167 Holland Street from July 29 to August 7. A box will be inside the vestibule. The items will be used to create goody bags for seniors. For more information, please call Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

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

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Corey Norton. We wish him a happy birthday and hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to Ward 5 Councilor and smart guy Mark Niedergang, who is also celebrating this week. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Peter McIsaac, Joanne Tibbetts, Gail Stoico, Paul Wood, Michael Delicato, Robert Carnes, Laura Pitone, Daniel M. Kimmel, Cathy Driscoll-Kinnon, Nancy O'Meara Pino, Jason Banning, Karen D'Amato, Mike Morrison, Sharon Breen, Tori Antonino, Ron Newman, Michele Oliphant Spinale, and Jane Sherrill 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.

The City of Somerville Constituent Services (311 Somerville) is seeking three part-time Customer Service Representatives for temporary work through June 30, Continued on page 7

## The Somerville Times

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## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of July 29 – August 4 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday July 29	Sunny	91°/72°	0%	7%	WSW 10 mph
Thursday July 30	Thunderstorms	89°/67°	49%	29%	WSW 11 mph
Friday July 31	Partly Cloudy	84°/67°	21%	16%	NNE 9 mph
Saturday August 1	Sunny	82°/66°	11%	8%	ENE 8 mph
Sunday August 2	Partly Cloudy	84°/71°	20%	13%	SW 9 mph
Monday August 3	Thunderstorms	88°/68°	39%	31%	SW 12 mph
Tuesday August 4	Thunderstorms	77°/64°	61%	32%	ESE 10 mph
	Wednesday July 29  Thursday July 30  Friday July 31  Saturday August 1  Sunday August 2  Monday August 3  Tuesday	Wednesday July 29SunnyThursday July 30ThunderstormsFriday July 31Partly CloudySaturday August 1SunnySunday August 2Partly CloudyMonday August 3ThunderstormsTuesdayThunderstorms	Wednesday July 29Sunny91°/72°Thursday July 30Thunderstorms89°/67°Friday July 31Partly Cloudy84°/67°Saturday 	Wednesday         Sunny         91°/72°         0%           Thursday         Thunderstorms         89°/67°         49%           Friday         Partly Cloudy         84°/67°         21%           Saturday         Sunny         82°/66°         11%           Sunday         Partly Cloudy         84°/71°         20%           Monday         August 2         Thunderstorms         88°/68°         39%           Tuesday         Thunderstorms         77°/64°         61%	Wednesday July 29         Sunny         91°/72°         0%         7%           Thursday July 30         Thunderstorms         89°/67°         49%         29%           Friday July 31         Partly Cloudy         84°/67°         21%         16%           Saturday August 1         Sunny         82°/66°         11%         8%           Sunday August 2         Partly Cloudy         84°/71°         20%         13%           Monday August 3         Thunderstorms         88°/68°         39%         31%           Tuesday         Thunderstorms         77°/64°         61%         32%

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: PTAC meeting addresses mobility issues in Somerville

LindaS says:

Good luck trying to share the street between bikes and cars when there are two lanes of traffic on a narrow street, and there isn't room for a dedicated bike lane. Nobody is going to win. Lowell and Cedar Streets should be one-way the entire length, and then one side could be cars and the other bikes. It might be slightly inconvenient, but it would defiinitely be safer. We just have too many narrow streets because we are an old city, and unless you can widen them, this will continue to be a problem.

#### Richard says:

Linda, the one way street idea is a possibility, but it seems like it would inconvenience the residents and not really realize the idea of a shared street. The idea here is you only take a car onto these streets in the first place if your destination is on the street, and you drive at a jogging pace at most, and you fall in line behind any foot or bike traffic ahead of you. Seems easy enough. There's a few tiny little streets here in the Duck Village area that have always worked like that, informally, and you can drive two ways on at least one of them. Ideally the shared streets would someday be paved differently and have more permanent signage (and the rules internalized better by residents and eventually visitors), but obviously we don't have time or budget for that right now.

#### **Response to: Somerville's Cambridge Health Alliance** testing site moved to Assembly Square

Jim says:

I've heard from several people that it's about an 8 day wait to get tested. Add a one week wait for test results and you're looking at 2+ weeks to find out if you have it. A lot of people aren't going to bother with this, and instead just wait to see what happens and be a little careful. With the rest of the country blowing up the way it is, I'd think we'd be throwing every resource we have to fixing this delay problem.

Tom says:

It's being run by Cambridge Health Alliance. No surprise that there are delays that make your testing irrelevant.

#### Response to: Lowell St. fire in Somerville

Steve Keenan says:

This was a very dangerous day for firefighting when you consider the heat and humidity. I hope and pray that all involved are safe and uninjured. Hats off to the members of the Somerville Fire Department and all others who worked this fire!

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

## Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

## **Before bike lanes**



Bicycles are everywhere. Parents can transport up to three kids at a time. Two in the back in an attached carrier (they scare the hell out of me when I

see them in traffic), and maybe even one child sitting in front of the adult in a gizmo attached to the handlebars. They can also hook a kid's bike onto the back of the parents' bike and go tandem.

When I was a kid we could carry an extra passenger on the cross bar (unless it was a "girls" bike), and one standing on the back axle holding onto the peddler's shoulders, or one kid on the seat while another one peddled. If done

right one bike could carry at least three kids just like today.

We had endless adventures on our bikes. We would often go on long trips. I had a very strict and worrisome father who wouldn't allow me off the street with my bike until I was older. When I was 13, in 1966, me and two friends decided to ride our bikes to the then two-year-old Prudential Building four miles away in Boston. We started our journey in front of the old Venice Cafe on Holland St. and kept the building in our sights and just headed for it. I was never so scared of getting bagged by my dad. I thought he was following me. I jumped every time I heard a horn beep.

My bike came from Sears. It was a very nice bike for sure, with a light and



a horn and pinstripes. But it wasn't a ... Schwinn Sting-Ray. Those beautiful bikes had a banana seat with a sissy bar and butterfly handle bars also known as "wing" or "ape hanger" bars, and they were really cool. When they came out in 1963 the price was a whopping \$49.99 (a lot of dough back then).

The Sting-Ray hit the bike world by storm and sold like crazy! From the net: Sting-Ray, known as "the bike with the sports car look" has revolutionized cycling since it was introduced by Schwinn in 1963.

If you had one you were very lucky. Lots of kids started customizing their existing bikes by adding a banana seat and high rise handlebars to get that Sting-Ray look. Somerville kids who had a Sting-Ray were very fortunate. Those of us who didn't did just fine with any bike, especially since some of our friends' families back then couldn't afford bikes at all. Our first bikes were hand me downs from my cousins and we were thrilled to get them. A few of my Somerville friends were

kind enough to share Continued on page 12



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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

## Next phase of Shared Streets to be rolled out

Somerville's Shared Streets initiative will roll out new routes starting Friday, July 31. Shared Streets open up low-volume or residential sidestreets to pedestrians, cyclists, and other users while still allowing vehicle access for residents who live on the street or who need to use the street to get to their homes, their guests, and service vehicles such as first responders, delivery drivers, sanitation trucks, and street sweepers.

The new routes will be in the Spring Hill, Magoun Square, Winter Hill, Union Square, East Somerville, and Inner Belt neighborhoods. Two Shared Streets routes were opened earlier this summer - one in East Somerville and one in West Somerville. With the installation of

this next round of Shared Streets, nearly seven miles of roadway will have been repurposed to help residents safely get outside and reach essential services, with networks in every neighborhood in the city.

You can find a full route map at https://somervoice.somervillema.gov/covid19mobility. Feedback on all routes can also be submitted on SomerVoice. Residents of affected streets will be notified through the city alert system before the routes open. If you would like to subscribe to city phone, text, and/or email alerts, visit www.somervillema.gov/alerts.

Safety measures along each route include signage and flexible barriers to alert all users to the shared use of these streets. Somerville's program will use temporary materials that can be modified based on our experience and feedback from residents with the pilot. Motorists allowed to use a shared street, such as abutters, should drive slowly and expect to see people in the street on these routes. People walking, rolling, and biking should remain alert and aware and make room for these allowed vehicles. Please note that cyclists, using caution, can ride in either direction on a Shared Streets route.

## Somerville schools reopening, but remaining cautious

students, their families, our teachers, the school staff and our broader community while ensuring our students continue to learn and that their education and personal development remains on track."

Curtatone then introduced Somerville Superintendent of Schools Mary Skipper, who stated that conventional in person learning will not be the way that Somerville will go about it. Instead, the manner of reopening will consist of two different types of models: hybrid and remote.

The purpose for these models is to prevent any exposure to the virus. "It's really on us to make sure both of those systems can support all our students and staff," Skipper said.

The superintendent discussed variations of the two models. One might allow students to come in on certain days, while the other model could favor fewer attendance days along with working remotely, allowing for deeper cleaning of buildings. The details of both of those models is still being discussed, according to Skipper.

Skipper said there will be challenges ahead going forward and that it has been difficult to deal multilingual meeting will start cision making. Other partners trying

with as the beginning of the school year draws closer.

"I've been in education 32 years. I've opened a school from scratch and I've redesigned a failing school," Skipper said. "I can say without doubt that this process of moving a system to be pandemic proof has by far been the most challenging process."

Students from second to twelfth grade will be required to wear masks. However, students as young as Pre-K may be required to wear masks as well. Exceptions would be students with medical or sensory reasons for not wearing them. Other concerns for students involve transportation, sanitation, providing materials for learning and keeping everyone informed in the days ahead.

The future of fall athletics for Somerville is still uncertain due to training being pushed back from August to September. A model for after school activities is not currently in place, however success in hybrid camps over the summer have helped in considering how to move forward.

Four virtual community town halls will be hosted over the next two weeks, on Wednesday, July 29 and Wednesday, August 6. A



Superintendent of Schools Mary Skipper delivered remarks and updates following Mayor Curtatone's opening statement.

first at 5:00 - 6:25 p.m., followed by a meeting in English. More information about the town halls is available by going online at https://www.somervillema. gov/schooltownhalls.

Following the conference, Skipper discussed her work with District Management Group, part of Harvard Business, that allows access to certain resources and data that helps with deinclude state and local health services to help with decision making going forward.

Preparing to bring students and teachers back safely brings new concerns and protocols that need to be in place. Constant communication with other districts also helps in keeping families, teachers, and the community informed, according to Skipper. "Superintendents are

other informed," Skipper said.

With all this mind, Skipper is hopeful for a safe return. "The more we can all work together with our children and with our staff to adhere to what we put in place for the safety measures, we'll be able to stay in session," Skipper said. "I think we all very much miss each other. We miss the experience of being with each other because that's what

#### Ice cream shops raise funds for social change **CONT. FROM PG 1**

was what I had planned to do for the fundraiser. I added another batch, and that sold out so quickly that I ended up just selling all of our ice cream for the next couple of hours," said Cohen. "The line for donations went until 6:00, and the last donation came in at 5:55 p.m."

Gracie's Ice Cream raised \$3,450 over the weekend and began selling decorative labels over Twitter, earning an extra \$743. Cohen said that the money raised would most likely be donated to the organization Black Lives Matter Boston. He

added that Gracie's Ice Cream is an antiracist shop and has taken an active position in fighting systemic oppression, making the Ice Cream for Change fundraiser a perfect match for it.

Tipping Cow, a Black owned ice cream shop in Winter Hill, also participated in the fundraiser. Owner David Lindsey said that they had decided to donate twenty-five percent of sales for that day, raising \$2,000 total and contributing \$500 for the cause. The funds went to the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit that aims to end mass incarceration and racial inequality. On the day of the fundraiser, a total of approximately 300 people ended up standing in a line leading down the street, eager to buy a cold treat that would play a part in social change. They sold both pints and cups, with favorite flavors being key lime pie and triple chocolate.

"I felt that this was already something that was near and dear to my heart, to help people in general, but when we were approached to participate, it was essentially a no brainer," said Lindsey. "Why not help eradicate something, to help everyone, help people who are subjected to racism and then help people gain clarity on how to step away from how they may contribute to racism as well?"

Lindsey said that Tipping Cow is a shop that has zero tolerance for racism, where customers are treated with respect. The store is also allergy friendly and maintains careful attention to detail, he said.

"When people come, they feel like it's a safe space for everyone," said Lindsey. "We're a Black

owned business, where everyone is welcome."

Cohen said that it has been his intention for Gracie's Ice Cream to be able to take a stance on social and political issues and that he hopes other restaurants will do the same.

"The ice cream culture in Boston is so great and is the perfect platform for this type of activism," said Cohen. "I have to use the Gracie's platform. What choice do I have? I can't have this business that people love and have people wondering where we stand on stuff."

## They marched for him, too

## In his final years, a veteran finally finds peace in Somerville

#### By Anna J. James

On a warm summer day, my partner Quincy and I arrived in Somerville, three thousand miles from our home in Victoria, Canada. Just two days earlier, I discovered from a social worker at the Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) that his father had passed a month before.

Kenneth Thomas was an African-American Navy veteran who fought against racial injustice his entire life had died in subsidized housing, alone, found by the police after being tipped off by his landlord.

Initially, we were incredibly distressed and saddened by the way he went out, only to find hope in Somerville, a place we'd never been where Kenneth had finally found a home and community that held him to his end.

Quincy and his father had gotten back in regular contact five years ago. Kenneth expressed to Quincy and others that being a father was very important to him. They had increased their contact in the last year, sending emails and calling each other at least once a month.

After a month or so of not hearing from Kenneth, we started to worry. It was a nightmare situation. We had no contact details for Kenneth - other than his email address and landline - so we began calling around Somerville, starting with the churches and social services. Each person we were able to reach listened to our predicament and offered to help.

From the people we spoke with in Somerville, Kenneth led a difficult life. Born in 1955, he said he began experiencing prejudice as a child in Florida, but his love for his country never wavered.

Kenneth served in the US Navy in the '70s and was given an honorable discharge.

His bad experiences and pursuit of equality made him, at times, bitter and explosive, for which he spent time in prison. Kenneth was finally given a home on Somerville Avenue through Somerville Community Corporation's 75 Cross Street facility, after several years living on the streets of Boston. He was also provided the support and ear of social workers, namely Mark Alston-Follansbee.

"... after a lifetime of not trusting, Kenneth finally knew people who had his back"

Upon hearing of his passing, we flew to Boston and drove to Somerville to see what his life was like and thank those who helped him. We sat with Hannah O'Halloran at SHC, who gave us the space to grieve and some information on his dayto-day life.

From what we gleaned from Hannah and Mark, Kenneth was an avid reader, mainly on physics and social issues. He spent a lot of time in the library at MIT sourcing articles that he was so passionate about that he insisted others should read. He'd show up to their offices with clippings and return demanding feedback. He was fastidious about his diet and clocked 1,000 push-ups a day.

He rode a black bike with sil-



Quincy Thomas outside of his father's home on Somerville Avenue.

— Photo by Anna J. James

ver duct tape and a milk crate to hold his books. We arrived at his former address on Somerville Avenue, where he used to sit in a chair directly across from Market Basket. None of his belongings were saved, except for his bike, that was left outside his place, untouched. After speaking to his neighbors, we decided to take it, and as we were releasing it, a lady flew out of nowhere, "What are you doing? That's Kenneth's bike!" In this moment we felt relieved, that after a lifetime of not trusting, Kenneth finally knew people who had his back.

Kenneth's heart gave out on May 25, the same day George Floyd died and ignited protests across the world. When Quincy put the dates together, it made poetic sense. "They marched for him, too" he told me. He is finally at peace at the Massachusetts National Cemetery.



**Attention Somerville Contractors** Opportunity to Bid **Union Square Revitalization** D2.2 - D2.3 Residential Project, 20-50 Prospect Street, Somerville, MA

Documents are now available for the Union Square D2 residential project for those interested in pricing the construction. Please e-mail Kerri McDonald at kmcdonald@cranshaw.com for the Procore bid invitation.

Project consists of the construction and completion of a transit-oriented mixed-use residential building with parking, public open spaces, retail, amenities, and residential apartments (including 90 affordable housing units). There are 2 types of construction on the site. The podium and residential tower are to be of type 1A construction. Over 3 story 1A construction parking podium, is a 5-story residential building of type 3A construction.

Trades involved include Concrete, Architectural Precast, Masonry, Structural Steel, Misc. Metals, Rough Carpentry, Millwork, Waterproofing, Spray Insulation, Metal Panels, Roofing, Green Roof Decking, Spray Fireproofing, Doors-Frames-Hardware, Overhead Doors, Glass & Glazing, GWB, Tiling, ACT, Flooring, Painting, Specialties, Parking Control Equipment, Facade Maintenance Equipment, Window Treatments, Residential Casework, Swimming Pool, Elevators, Trash/Recycling Chutes, Fire Protection, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Telecommunication and Landscaping.

## At home in the 'Museum of Modern Renaissance'

#### By Rachel Berets

"We think that the main purpose of art is to make the human soul soar," said Nicholas Shaplyko, one of the founders of the "Museum of Modern Renaissance" in Somerville.

The museum, which Shaplyko owns with his wife Ekaterina Sorokina, is not a museum in the traditional sense – it's Shaplyko and Sorokina's private residence, filled with art that the two have created together.

Their art covers the walls, ceilings, and surfaces with bold colors and mythological icons, all in an effort to create a beautiful space for themselves and others. "It's not a money machine," said Shaplyko. "It's our life. We are doing our artwork because we can't not do it."

Shaplyko and Sorokina bought the building, a former masonic lodge, in 2002 and turned it into their private residence, a museum, and a performance space. They change the art pieces as they see fit, replacing larger works with smaller ones

or vice versa. "It's a process, it's feeling out the space," said Shaplyko.

This summer, Shaplyko and Sorokina have been busy creating new works together. They often post updates about their work on the museum's Facebook page, featuring pictures of Shaplyko leaning over a canvas on a hardwood floor.

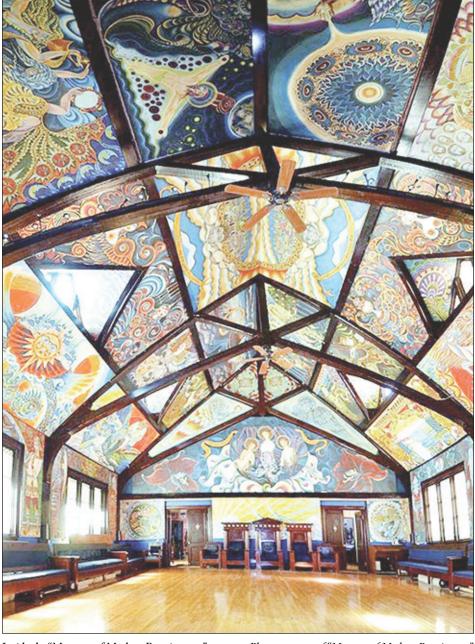
For these new works, the process is the same as always - unplanned and enigmatic. "Whatever comes to our minds goes straight to the paper or the canvas, we are not thinking about what we are doing, it's just kind of natural."

They call their style "Mystical Realism" or "Magical Realism," but Shaplyko admits that these terms were originally a tongue-in-cheek response to the frequently-asked question "What style do you work in?" that somehow stuck.

"Basically all art and all reality is inside your brain. Every human activity is created by someone's brain, like Einstein or Steve Jobs. It's all creativity of the mind." said Shaplyko.



A newer work currently on display at the "museum."



Inside the "Museum of Modern Renaissance."

— Photos courtesy of "Museum of Modern Renaissance"

The museum does not have normal hours, instead the couple leads private tours, booked by appointment, through their residence. The small groups, which range from two to fifteen, give them an opportunity to talk to people about their work and artistic process. Shaplyko sees this as a positive, differentiating them from bigger, name brand museums.

"When you go to big museums you basically know what you are going to see there, because all of the well-known artworks you've seen before on the computer or in books or as reproductions," said Shaplyko. "But when artists can explain to you what their work means and talk to

you personally, it's different. You can't talk to Michaelangelo."

When guests visit the experience they have at the museum is up to them. "We don't want to force you to feel anything if you don't feel anything. It's totally up to you. We just give you an opportunity. We don't dictate and we don't force you to feel anything," said Shaplyko.

When I asked Shaplyko if he could tell which visitors connect with the artwork he responded, "I am not an x-ray machine. Some people are emotional and their emotions are visible, some people are kind of closed and you can't see anything but it doesn't mean that they aren't receptive or that nothing is cooking inside."

# City releases Artist Certification Program in preparation for 8 artist live/work units at former Powder House School

The Somerville Arts Council recently released the application for Artist Housing Certification for newly constructed live/work units at the new Powder House/MarKa development. The certification application and further details are available online at somervilleartscouncil.org/certification.

This development will have five "market rate" units and three "inclusionary" units. All eight units will require applicants to possess an Artist Certification prior to application for either unit types. The certification deadlines to apply for the following units are:

- Market Rate Units: Friday, August 14, 2020
- Inclusionary Rate Units: Friday, September 18, 2020

The Arts Council and the developer agent will host a virtual public information meeting about market rate units on Tuesday, July 28, at 6:30p.m. To register for this webinar please visit https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3719134773092044302. You can also listen to the meeting by calling (562) 247-8422

Somerville's current zoning includes provisions that certain new developments require artist use space. If a new development creates "Artist Live/Work" or "Artist Studio Space," a certification process will accompany those units. This policy will ensure that development built for artists will retain artists.

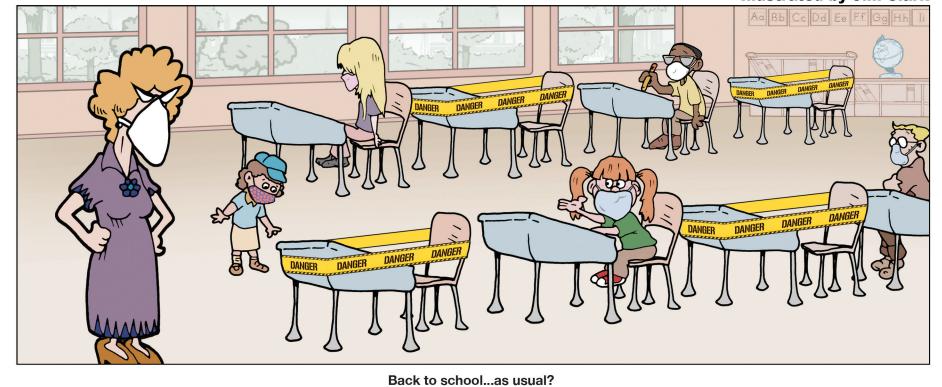
For more information on Somerville's arts certification process, arts and zoning, please visit www.somervilleartscouncil.org.



## **COMMENTARY**

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

#### Illustrated by Jim Clark



## Our View Of The Times



The city's decision to reopen the public schools this fall has been met with mixed reactions. While some praise the move as being an important step towards regaining a modicum of normalcy after months of social isolation, others wonder if it is too soon to be throwing kids and teachers together so closely at this time.

Public officials assure us that extreme measures will be taken to assure the safe-

ty of students, teachers and families as the school year gets underway. The exact procedures that will be implemented are still being discussed and examined, so nothing has yet been set in stone. It is a work in progress.

A series of virtual meetings and town halls, where public officials and the public can exchange concerns and ideas, will take place over the next few weeks. To observe or participate in the town halls, you can find information for joining in by going to https://www.somervillema.gov/schooltownhalls.

While concerns over exposure to COVID-19 are a legitimate concern, many cite warnings by child development professionals that too much home schooling in combination with social isolation can be seriously detrimental to

children's needs for socialization and personal engagement with teachers.

Some also cite the need to get the economy restarted by freeing parents to get back to work after spending time looking after their kids' home schooling activities.

All of us would undoubtedly agree that the health concerns are of paramount importance. Fortunately, we will have the option to pull back if need be.

#### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

**2021**. Learn more about the job description and how to apply at bit.ly/311jobs.

Tufts University President Monaco will host a virtual community meeting to discuss their plans for re-opening. Email your questions ahead ahead of time to Rocco.Dirico@tufts.edu, or you can ask during their Q&A portion of the meeting on Tuesday, August 4, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. https://tufts.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_rDutFXeK-SK2KjpHdeox-qQ?fbclid=IwAR3eYt-SYYPjnOx7UCd6iNg47eStwsyxkED-np1RynUDT6VdxiKN8OqHuN2-A.

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

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. - 4:00 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. 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).

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

The Somerville Arts Council is looking to create an outside photography exhibition in East Somerville. "With this exhibition we want to give our Black and

Brown artists a public platform to show how visuals creates change within ourselves and awareness in our communities. So if you are a POC photographer, please consider applying!" The submission process will be juried. To Submit: https://forms.gle/RZaEHo6A9TN-JSHHE9. Deadline: August 3. Questions? Contact iaritza menjivar at imenjivar@somervillema.gov.

On July 30, The Center for Arts at the Armory will be hosting their first major fundraising event and virtual gala as they celebrate the organization's ten year anniversary as a home for the arts in Somerville. General admission tickets are \$25 and \$100 for VIP tickets. The virtual gala program will also include performances by Puerto Rican cuatro player Fabiola Mendez, Haitian contemporary dance company Jean Appolon Expressions, Esh Circus Arts, and a short film by Karen Aqua. The event will honor U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley MA-07 and State Representative Denise Provost. Visit https://www.classy.org/event/arts-atthe-armory-10-year-anniversary-gala/ e291058 to learn more.

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

Mark your calendars. This year's What the Fluff? festival will be a little zanier than usual as they celebrate through the sphere of cyberspace. In a world reinventing itself, Fluff Fest 2020 unites us - albeit virtually through the one thing we can all believe in: the sweet, sticky, tasty, magical power of Fluff. For the love of Fluff, wherever our e-news reaches you, get ready to boast your worldwide Fluff pride, support independently-owned by scoring your Fluff stuff online, take part in innovation jubilation with arts, eats and oodles of family fun, and flock with fellow friends-in-Fluff through the first-ever, virtual Fluff Festival on September 12. \*\*\*\*\*\*

More than 100 families in East Boston's Eagle Hill neighborhood have been hit especially hard by the coronavirus this spring and summer, and they have been relying on donated food from mutual aid support. Josephine Ave organizers are looking for people to "adopt" a food item and picking it up every time you shop, such as beans, vegetable oil, instant coffee and more. Ball Square Fine Wines, Neighborhood Produce, and Sounds Bites have already

Continued on page 10

## **FUN & GAMES**

## Ms. Cam's

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. Who in 2016 hosted the first season of America's Got Talent?

7. What does the G stand for in G-Men?

place in the US?

2. What animal is the on the Kentucky state quarter?

8. What is added to gin to make "pink gin"?

3. What artist painted The Card Players series?

9. Which guitarist is known as Slowhand?

4. What is the phrase spoken by Keanu Reeves in the final scene of the film Point Break?

10. What unusual pet did actor John Barrymore have?

5. Who coined the

term carport?

11. What Frank Sinatra song did Sid Vicious of the Sex

Pistols cover?

6. When did the first bank robbery take

12. What wine once contained cocaine?

Answers on page 15

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SUDOKU

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.

5

#### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death.

2. The volume of the earth's moon is the same as the volume of the Pacific Ocean.

#### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD WHO SAID IT?

#### **ACROSS**

1. Involuntary twitch

6. World's oldest national broadcaster

9. Pilgrimage to Mecca

13. Pacific island greeting

14. "\_\_\_\_ the ramparts..."

15. Prefix relating to sun

16. Not so crazy

17. Maiden name indicator

18. Greet the day

19. Mentally prepared for something

21. "There's no place like home"

23. Liveliness

24. Answer to this clue, e.g.

25. Winter bug

28. Hatha or bikram

30. Incense burner, in a church

35. Bubonic plague spreaders

37. Bottle plug

39. Part of TNT

40. Bad luck predictor

41. "D'oh!"

43. Cleopatra's necklace

44. Red Cross supply

46. Have supper

47. Female crab, or crybaby in Australia

48. Belonging to Cree, e.g.

50. Byproduct of combing wool

52. Be nosey

53. Spilled the beans

55. Band booking

57. "I have always depended on the kindness of strangers"

61. "The caged bird sings of freedom"

65. Acoustic output

66. Polar toy-maker

68. Oodles

69. "Everyone wants to be Cary Grant.

Even I want to be Cary Grant."

70. "Funny or \_\_\_\_\_

71. Tutor's student

72. Withered

73. Use a Singer, e.g.

74. Not be frugal

#### **DOWN**

1. Fresh talk

2. Surveyor's work

3. Excellent

4. Pen dweller

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© StatePoint Media

5. "Don't worry 'bout a thing, 'cause ev-

ery little thing is gonna be alright." 6. "A martini. Shaken, not stirred."

7. Samantha of "Full Frontal"

8. Words to live by

9. Submarine sandwich

10. Climbed down

11. Potluck offering

12. "It's a moo point"

15. Habituate, like a plant 20. Historical period

22. Tolkien humanoid

24. Global problem?

25. "Two roads diverged in a yellow

26. Coeur de \_\_\_

29. Well-behaved 31. Lice eggs

32. "Sesame Street" prominent architec-

\_, "Titanic" 27. Embryo cradles

61. "\_\_\_\_Good Men"

33. Not right

Mouse

34. "Yo, Adrian!"

38. Bingo-like game

\_\_-di-dah

51. Hanukkah's eight

56. "Faster!" to a horse

54. Must-haves

57. Tea servings

58. Fishing decoy

36. Give the cold shoulder

42. 1837 to 1901, to Queen Victoria

45. Ronald McDonald or Mickey

62. Like the White Rabbit

59. Month before Nisan

60. Half a golf round

63. Inviting sign

64. Like a hand-me-down

67. Baron Munchausen's statement

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

#### Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

Sociation to last week's crossword puzzle.														
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Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

6

## Little Sisters of the Poor grand sendoff

The Jeanne Jugan Residence Advisory Board for the Little Sisters of the Poor sent the nuns off to their Provincial Residence in Queens, NY, in grand style on Sunday.

A caravan of police, firefighters and a color guard kicked off the parade with over 200 vehicles of families, friends and grateful residents in recognition of their dedication to the community for the past 150 years of Catholic

ministry in the greater Boston area for taking care of the elderly poor. The procession was led by Somerville Fire Department and Somerville Police Department Honor Guards with SFD Engine 7 and C3 participating.

The Little Sisters will be missed but never forgotten because of their fabulous caregiving they provided to the many seniors over the years. Somerville was blessed to have them in

the community for 128 years.

The caravan and parade would not have been accomplished if it was not for the hard work of Mayor Emeritus Gene Brune, who organized the farewell drive-by "thank you" for the Little Sisters along with the Advisory Board and Home Administrator Meghan Maloney.

The Visiting Nurses will take over the home as of August 1.

— Photos by Bob McWatters











# Dorothy's Corner



## **Brussels Sprouts** Agrodolce

One of my staple vegetables is Brussels sprouts. I usually toss in olive oil, salt, pepper and roast them in the oven. Then I add a balsamic reduction to them for a hint of sweetness. Of course with this heat, why put on the oven? But since I received sprouts this week in my vegetable share I decided to switch things up a bit.

I wanted to try doing them on the stove top along with changing up the flavor profile. I really like sauces that are sweet and sour, so I thought an agrodolce sauce would be great, especially with the added saltiness of the pancetta and capers. The best part, no oven needed.

2 oz. pancetta, small dice 1 teaspoon safflower oil 3 cups of Brussels sprouts, cleaned 1/2 cup water 2 cloves garlic, minced 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt 5 teaspoons red wine vinegar 1 teaspoon honey 2 teaspoons capers, drained and

rinsed

In a large sauté pan, add the pancetta and start the heat on low. This will render the fat and crisp up the pancet-

ta. Once the pancetta is crispy, remove it with a slotted spoon reserving it for later. If there are less than 2 teaspoons of fat in the pan, add the teaspoon of safflower oil. Also add the sprouts and 1/2 cup of water.

Set the heat on medium and put a lid over the pan. At this point you want to steam the sprouts for about 8-10 minutes. Remove the cover and let the rest of the water evaporate. Add the salt, toss to make sure the sprouts are coated in the oil and turn the heat up to brown the sprouts, making sure they don't burn and all



get nicely browned.

Once tender, add the garlic and let cook for about 30 seconds. Add the vinegar and honey. Toss to coat. Remove from the heat and add the capers and pancetta. Recheck your seasoning. Serves 3.

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

## **LEGAL NOTICES**

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



#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance with 24 CFR 91.05(c)(2) and subpart B of the federal regulations relative to citizen participation for Community Planning and Development Programs and applicable waivers made available to those requirements through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), the City of Somerville is making an amendment to the 2019-2020 Housing and Urban Development Annual Action Plan for the City of Somerville available to the public through this notice

#### Amendment:

This is an amendment to the 2019-2020 Housing and Community Development Annual Action Plan for the City of Somerville to enable the City to receive and administer an additional \$632,359 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The city has previously received an earlier round of Cares funding in the amounts of \$1,493,384 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and \$ 750,831 in Emergency Solutions Grant Funding. This second round of funding for \$632,359 is being added as an additional available resource available in the 2019-2020 plan.

These funds will be used for the same purpose of the initial allocations indicated above which is to prevent the spread of coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) and facilitate assistance to eligible communities, households, and persons economically impacted by COVID-19. In addition, the City has already reprogrammed up to 60% of the original FY 2019-2020 CDBG funding allocation as needed to respond to COVID-19. FY 2020-2021 CDBG funds already allocated to the City may also be used to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible CDBG activities include, but are not limited to, assisting low- and moderate-income households with rental assistance for no more than three months, general food security and meal programs, workforce development and re-training programs, business assistance to retain employees that are low- and moderate-income, and support of other COVID-19 response services to ensure public health and well-being. Eligible ESG activities include street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing, Homeless Management Information System and administration.

Further, eligible CDBG and ESG costs incurred as of March 27, 2020, which is the date in which the CARES Act was signed, and paid for with nonfederal funds may be repaid with CDBG and ESG funding, including those made under the CARES Act. These pre-award costs will meet all HUD requirements applicable to CDBG and ESG, including those under the CARES Act. Unless waived by HUD, CDBG preaward costs for FY 2020-2021 will not exceed 25% of the grant and will be used for the CDBG eligible activities as indicated above

7/29/20 The Somerville Times



#### City of Somerville **PLANNING BOARD**

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a public hearing on Thursday, 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

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/ Link: 4741602521728654348

Webinar ID: 785-480-163

#### TO CALL IN

Phone number: +1 (562) 247-8422

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, 7/29/20 The Somerville Times

#### Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website:

www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

## From tennis courts to portable dorms as separation area



Tufts University is reconstructing the tennis court area on Professor Row to make way for portable dorms to be used as a separation area for any students who may contract Covid-19.

Approximately 6,000 undergraduate students are expected to return to Tufts this coming year. Everyone is required to wear masks and cleaning procedures will be followed according to CDC regu-

All students will be tested for the virus twice a week. This way if one tests positive, they can move the student from their living space to the portable dorm while they are asymptomatic before they have a chance to spread the virus.

There are going to be more than 200 modular units for these students to live in and be isolated for two weeks. The rooms vary in size but on average they are 12 x 60 ft. The estimated cost of this lease project is approximately 6 million dollars for two-year period.

These units were made in Canada, then sent to California to help out during the wild fires, and now they are here at Tufts to help with this situation.



## TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY PH: 617.666.4010 FAX: 617.628.0422

#### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

pledged to donate. Drop offs located at 10, 32, and 104 Josephine Avenue. Contact genevieve.walsh@gmail.com for more information.

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

Owner Matt Grey has indicated that Neighborhood Produce Hill/Gilman Square area) is working on opening its second location in Ball Square. Yes, a local grocery store! Beloved and strongly supported during the pandemic, the store will be at the former PaperWorks store, 691 Broadway. According to Matt, "Our plan is to first use the space for online orders, and pack orders for both our current store and this store. So, it'll be open to grocery pickups (which the store is perfectly set up for with its vestibule and ATM booth). Then, while the online orders are going on, we'll decide what the inside of the store will look like, and when we'll open to the general public." The opening date is yet to be determined, but could be as

early as August. Follow Neighborhood Produce on instagram at @neighborhoodproduce and on Facebook at neighborhood produce.

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

Registered voters in Somerville should have received their applications for mailin 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 buildings remain closed, 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.

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.

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

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

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

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.

# ROOTED Cafe and Farmstand makes fresh and local food accessible

#### By Isabel Sami

The Center for Arts at the Armory (CAA) has been closed since March 13, but opened last week on July 21 with a fresh look for its cafe, ROOTED: Armory Cafe & Farmstand. Now the Armory introduces a new menu of sandwiches, coffee, pastries, and more, using products from local farms and small businesses including Boston Smoked Fish Co., Doris' Peruvian Pastries, Beverly Bees honey, and Red Fire Farm. Only eight people are allowed to occupy the space at a time, but staff set up outdoor seating for up to 20 people and distanced tables to follow guidelines.

Providing the community with access to farm fresh produce was a priority of CAA executive director Stephanie Scherpf when reopening the cafe. "I think people are valuing more than ever buying local, buying organic, and

supporting the local economy, so all of those were incorporated," she said.

After working with the Somerville Winter's Farmers market, Scherpf, who has been in this role for a year, wanted to support farmers market vendors during the pandemic while also continuing to make fresh and local products available to the public. While the Armory was closed, she built more on this idea and decided to start ROOTED as a way to pivot after the economic shutdown, keeping 13 staff members employed and making revenue for the CAA while the usual Armory events are cancelled.

The new menu, designed by Scherpf, includes sandwiches, salads, breakfast items, quesadillas, burrito bowls, fresh juice, smoothies, and more. To-go items, meal kits, and vegan and gluten-free options are also all available. At the ROOTED



ROOTED: Armory Cafe & Farmstand at the Center for Arts at the Armory is now open and offering fresh produce and other food items on a daily basis. - Photos by Isabel Sami

farmstand, all kinds of produce and products from local farms are available.

"I think people are valuing more than ever buying local, buying organic, and supporting the local economy, so all of those were incorporated," Scherpf said. Overall, the cafe and farmstand are a resource for the Somerville community. Soon online ordering will be available at the cafe, and, following suit of Somerville farmers markets, food stamps (SNAP) will be accepted at ROOTED as well.

Scherpf's background is in arts management, so she says she never imagined her career would someday include opening a cafe-slash-marketplace. "It's really a sign of the times, in terms of what I felt we needed to do as an organization to survive," she said.

But ROOTED is more than a cafe and farmstand. It is currently the only way the CAA is staying afloat. Scherpf says without events at the Armory, finances are weakened, as the CAA relies on holding events and selling

concessions for revenue. All the income from ROOTED goes to the Armory and staff, but it isn't enough. A fundraising gala is being held on Thursday night to provide additional help, and more information can be found on the CAA's website.

ROOTED Cafe and Farmstand is open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Center for Arts at the Armory is located at 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143. To learn more, please visit https://artsatthearmory.org/rooted-cafe/.



## Town Halls on school district COVID-19 planning schedule update

The Somerville Public Schools and the City of Somerville will be jointly hosting three upcoming (not four) online School Planning Town Halls (two in English, one multilingual) on local efforts to prepare for the 2020/2021 school year amid the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, due to the pandemic, the Somerville School Committee will be holding two additional summertime meetings.

#### The upcoming schedule is as follows:

- Monday, July 27: School Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 29: School Planning Town Hall: Introduction to Planning Efforts and Discussion
  - Town Hall, 6:30 to 8 p.m. in English
  - + Due to the successful Multilingual SPS Reopening Meeting held on Thursday, July 23, the second multilingual session originally planned for July 29th, will now be merged with the multilingual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 5.
- Monday, August 3: School Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 5: School Planning Town Halls: Update on Planning Efforts and Discussion
- Multilingual Town Hall, 5 to 6:25 p.m. (Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, and Nepali)
- Town Hall, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (English)

#### How to participate:

Watch: All meetings will be livestreamed. View them live on:

- + City Cable TV and the Educational Channel (Channels 13 and 15 on RCN, Channels 15 and 22 on Comcast)
- City YouTube: youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV
- Via the City Website: somervillema.gov/TV (Select "Watch Live Stream")

#### Join School Committee Meetings online:

Instructions on how to join and comment at School Committee Meetings are located on the Schools website at https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee/school-committee-meetings.

#### Join Town Halls online or by phone:

- Town Halls are hosted on the Zoom teleconferencing platform and there will also be an option to call into the meeting from a phone.
- Visit www.somervillema.gov/virtualtownhall at the start time of the meeting you would like to attend to join live or get call-in information.
- The Somerville Public Schools will also send meeting information via their alert system to all student families and conduct additional multilingual outreach via the School's Somerville Family Learning Collaborative.
- Call-in information will also be available on the day of each meeting on City Cable TV and the Educational Channel (channels 13 & 15 on RCN, channels 15 and 22 on Comcast) or by calling 311.



## Summer programs thriving at Parks and Recreation

By Elizabeth Long

The Somerville Parks and Recreation Department bounced back after Covid-19 caused many to question whether their programs would reopen and do so safely. Although the programs were shortened in length, they were still able to open their summer programs, which was a big plus for many parents and their kids.

These programs reduced their occupancy in order to follow safety guidelines. Although it was questioned whether parents would feel safe sending their children off in the middle of the pandemic, there was no decrease in attendance besides the minimized occupancy which resulted in waiting lists.

The summer programs adjusted to the new regulations very quickly which were determined in the beginning of June. The Sports Clinics and KidStop/Sprout Sports were limited to 20 participants each, Canoe Camp was capped at 10, and SomerTime had a maximum of 50.

All locations were provided with PPE equipment including masks,

gloves, a thermometer, hand sanitizer, water jug, and disinfecting spray. There was a designated area for disinfecting equipment for and a designated sanitation area for participants during the program that was separate from the one for staff and instructors. Parents were suggested to also disinfect their child's bag and water bottle each day.

When it comes to day-to-day precautions, participants were required to wear a face-covering and bring their own water bottle. The drop off areas marked off spaces of six feet in order to maintain social distancing as well.

The program also requires that any person, whether participant or staff, who is sick must stay home. Staff have been required to show up half an hour before the program starts, have their temperature taken, and wash their hands. All staff are also required to wear a mask, wash their hands, and sanitize any personal items that they touch throughout the day. Staff and participants are encouraged to stay six feet apart, but of course, this can be difficult given the circumstances.

Thus far, there have been very



Summer programs offered by Somerville Parks and Recreation are continuing under established safety guidelines.

— Photo courtesy of Somerville Parks and Recreation

few issues following these guidelines. Even in hot weather, the participants and staff continue to wear their masks. Having these summer programs available is very important to everyone involved, including parents, so collaborating with these new regulations has been a smooth transition. On days when the heat is unbearable for full-day programs, they have had early dismissals after lunch.

Programs that would not be able to follow the spacing guidelines were canceled, especially when it required physical contact or needed to be indoors. This included programs like flag football, boxing, and the Jr. Police Academy.

Somerville Parks and Recreations Director, Jill Lathan, was happy at how well the programs have been going, especially under the circumstances. There has

been very positive feedback on the programs and their success.

"Youth need to be outdoors socializing and being active," said Lathan, "We have incredible staff who love working for Parks and Recreation and we are committed to making this summer as fun and memorable as possible."

These summer programs remain open and continue offering safe measures in collaboration with the community.

### Before bike lanes CONT. FROM PG 3

their stories about the infamous Sting-Ray bike.

"I had a paper route, so on trash days I would bring home bike parts I found in the trash and switch them out and make custom bikes."

"I had a few that I built, with the help of my friends Nappy and Carl at Park Sales on Somerville Ave."

"Most stolen bike in the history of Somerville. So you know I had one for a day or 2."

"I still have mine with a steering wheel

and sissy bar and drag brake."

"Purple and silver metallic. My favorite bike!"

"I had a red one. Loved it. Coolest bike I ever owned. Rode it all over Somerville, Arlington & Cambridge & even a few trips to Billerica!"

"I won one at Parke Snows."

"My BRAND NEW pink Huffy was stolen from my backyard circa 1977."

"I still have my 85 Mongoose I bought new."

"I had a lowly single speed Ross ... I had

to dress it up. We couldn't afford a Sting-Ray."

"I had one and the color was Groovy Green."

"We built our own."

"I had a brand new Schwinn that was stolen out of our back hallway on Summer St. I think it was 1965."

"I had a purple metallic Sting-Ray with silver. It was smokin!"

"Loved my Chopper!"

"I'm still waiting for mine."

Other bicycle companies produced

copycat versions of the Sting-Ray that were also very desirable.

Last week an original 1969 Schwinn Campus Green, 5 speed Sting-Ray with a stick shift was selling for \$1950 on eBay. In February of 2019 Schwinn reissued the Sting-Ray. Amazon offers a new one at a price of \$349.00 and ones with more features are more expensive. We have endless fun memories of when we were kids cruising the streets of Somerville and beyond, when the world was our bike lane.

## Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris

Why was the math book sad? It had a lot of problems.

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# On This Day in History July 29

1603 – Bartholomew Gilbert is killed in Virginia by Indians during a search for the missing Roanoke colonists.

1830 – Liberals led by the Marquis de Lafayette seize Paris in opposition to the king's restrictions on citizens' rights.

 $1858\,{-}\,{\rm Japan}$  signs a treaty of commerce and friendship with the United States.

1915 - U.S. Marines land at Port-au-Prince to protect American interests in Hairi

1921 – Adolf Hitler becomes the president of the Nationalist Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazis).

**1945** – After delivering parts of the first atomic bomb to the island of Tinian, the *U.S.S. Indianapolis* is sunk by a Japanese submarine.

1981 - Prince Charles marries Lady Diana.

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## SCATV Channel 3 Schedule

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3:00pm 4:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) Wednesday, July 29 Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 12:00am 8:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party VOX POP: Somerville Connects 9:00am SMC Youth Media 5:00am Free Speech TV Free Speech TV 12:00am 4:30pm The Struggle 9:30am Science 360 6:00am 6:00am NASA TV Somerville Neighborhood News Dead Air Live Community Bulletin Board DW In Good Shape 5:00pm 10:00am 7:00am Somerville Storytellers 7:00am 6:00pm #AFAD 11:00am TeleGalaxie 7:30am 7:30am Going Postal 12:00pm 6:30pm Somerville Storytellers 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) Community Lens: SHC 5K Race 7:00pm 1:00pm Tele Magazine 9:00am DW Global 3000 Reeling Review 8:00pm LIVE - Our View 2:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News Both Sides of the Bars 10:00am 9:30am PABFONE Closing Day Ceremony 9:00pm 10:00pm 3:00pm MA House of Representatives Formal Session 11:00am Our View 10:00am Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer Community Bulletin Board 4:00pm Tele Krevol 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show Somerville Neighborhood News SNN Neighborhood Update 10:30am 10:30pm The World Fusion Show Henry Parker Presents 5:00pm 1:00pm 11:00am SOM ARTS 11:00pm VOX POP Comedy Night Henry Parker Presents 5:30pm From My Heart to Yours 11:30am 1:30pm Somerville Storytellers Somerville Pundits Friday, July 31 6:00pm 2:00pm NASA TV 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show The Somerville Labor Show 6:30pm 3:00pm Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 1:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News 12:00am Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 7:00pm BLOWW Show a Go Go SCATV Secret Stash 4:00pm African Television Network 1:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News 1:00am 7:30pm 8:00pm Somerville Neighborhood News 2:00pm 3:00pm 5:00pm 6:00pm Community Lens: SHC 5K Race Colores Latinos 1:30am SCATV Secret Stash #AFAD 2:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) Free Speech TV LIVE from VOX POP 9:00pm 10:00pm Nossa Gente e Costumes 4:00pm DW Conflict Zone 6:00am NASA TV 6:30pm Fur, Fins and Feathers 4:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library 5:00pm Hello Neighbor Heavy Leather Music Video Show The Bill Press Show (Free Speech TV) 7:00am 7:00pm Tele Galaxie 11:00pm SCATV Secret Stash 8:00am LIVE -Somerville Overcoming Addiction Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 8:00pm 11:30pm From My Heart to Yours 5:30pm 9:00am DW Euromaxx 9:00pm Dedilhando au Saudade 6:00pm 6:30pm Somerville Neighborhood News VOX POP: Somerville Connects Sunday, August 2 9:30am Strata 10:00pm Colores Latinos NASA TV 10:00am 12:00am Flotilla 11:00pm Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party "The Cask of Amontillado" at VOX POP SOM ARTS NASA TV 7:00pm 11:00am 1:00am Tuesday, August 4 Cambridge Calendar The Thom Hartman Show 7:30pm 8:00pm Sidewalks Entertainment 11:30am 1:30am NASA TV 12:00am Public Safety/Homeland Security Hearing LIVE - Somerville Pundits 12:00pm 2:00am NASA TV 6:00am 8:30pm DW Euromaxx Community Benefits Agreement 1:00pm 3:00am Free Speech TV 7:00am NASA TV 9:00pm 10:00pm Revolution Awakening at VOX\_POP 2:00pm Somerville Pundits 2:30pm Autumn Reads with Somerville Public Library Bate Papo com Shirley Nossa Gentes e Costumes Somerville Pundits 6:00am 8:00am Democracy Now! LIVE - Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party 7:00am 9:00am The Chef's Table Series 3:00pm

8:00am

9:00am

10:00am

11:00am

12:00pm

1:00pm

1:30pm

2:00pm 3:00pm

4:30pm

5:09pm

8:30pm

9:06pm

11:00pm

11:30am

12:00pm

4:00pm 4:30pm

5:00pm

6:30pm 7:00pm

7:40pm 7:55pm

8:00pm

8:30pm

9:10pm

1:00am

1:30am

6:30am

Thursday, July 30 SCATV Secret Stash 12:30am 1:00am Free Speech TV 1:30am Free Speech TV 2:00am Free Speech TV 3:00am Free Speech TV

11:00pm

Wednesday, July 29

6:30am

8:40am

8:55am

9:40am

10:00am

11:00am

11:30am

12:00pm

3:00pm

4:00pm

5:00pm

6:30pm 8:30pm

10:00pm

10:16pm

12:05am

12:30am

6:30am

7:00am 8:45am

8:50am

9:00am

9:30am

10:00am

11:00am

11:30am

3:30pm

3:36pm

4:00pm 4:30pm

5:30pm

10:20pm

Friday, July 31

Thursday, July 30

Bate Papo com Shirley 6:00am DW Conflict Zone 7:00am DW Euromaxx 7:30am 8:00am Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV) 9:00am DW Tomorrow Today 9:30am Hello Neighbor The Chef's Table Series The Chef's Table Series

10:00am 10:30am Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals 11:00am 11:30am Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals 12:00pm The Thom Hartman Show 1:00pm 1:30pm The Somerville Line **CITY TV 22 (Comcast)** 

Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Joe Curtatone

Memorial Day Remembrance 2020

Chair Yoga w/Janine Fit 4 Life 2020 #2

Chair Yoga w/lanine

ArtBeat 2020

SPD Ride Along

Chair Yoga w/lanine

Thank You from Mayor loe Curtatone

Youth Mental Health During COVID-19

Somerville's Phase 3 Re-Opening Plans School Committee Meeting 8.3.20

Somerville Public Schools Re-Opening

School Planning Town Halls Somerville Public Schools Re-Opening

Youth Mental Health During COVID-19

Pride Flag Raising 2020 Somerville's Phase 3 Re-Opening Plans

Como Enfrentar o Novo Coronavirus Fit 4 Life 2020 #3

Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers

City Council Meeting 7.14.20

Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone

East Somerville Walking Tour - 6.16.19

City Council Spotlight: Katjana Ballantyne

Finance Committee Meeting 7.2.20
SPD Mask-Wearing Enforcement Discussion

Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz SPD Mask-Wearing Enforcement Discussion

CC-Finance Committee of the Whole

Memorial Day Remembrance 2020

Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz

Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz August

12:00am SPD Mask-Wearing Enforcement Discussion

Heavy Leather Topless Dance Party Heavy Leather Music Video Show 11:00pm Saturday, August 1 12:00am 1:00am 3:00am 5:00am

Senior Circuit "Mental Health" June 2020

Cooking w/Ellen: Mac & Cheese 6.2.20

Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone

Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone

Como Enfrentar o Novo Coronavirus

Youth Mental Health During COVID-19

Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz Somerville Public Schools Re-Opening

City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo

City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo Memorial Day Remembrance 2020

Somerville's Phase 3 Re-Opening Plans Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz

City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo

School Committee Meeting 6.22.20 Thank You from Mayor Joe Curtatone

Cooking w/Ellen: Mac & Cheese 6.2.20

Pride Flag Raising 2020 CC-Finance Committee Meeting 7.8.20

Chair Yoga w/Janine City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo

Structural Racism Panel 6.23.20 Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz

The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism
City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo

Memorial Day Remembrance 2020

Cooking w/Ellen: Pudding Cake Return to Italy

School Planning Town Halls

Fit 4 Life 2020 #3

Finance Committee Meeting 7.6.20 Fit 4 Life 2020 #2

Cooking w/Ellen: Pudding Cake

Fit 4 Life 2020 #1

Chair Yoga w/Janine

ArtBeat 2020 Covid PSA Facemask-1

4:00pm 5:00pm

5:30pm

6:00pm 7:00pm

7:30pm

8:00pm 8:30pm

9:00pm

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12:00am

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7:00pm

7:20pm

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9:00pm 11:40pm

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12:08am

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1:20am

1:30am

7:00am

8:30am

11:00am

11:30am

12:00pm

Friday, July 31

2:30pm

Saturday, August 1

VOX POP Comedy Night Free Speech TV Free Speech TV Free Speech TV Free Speech TV DW Focus on Europe Effort Pour Christ

Democracy Now! (Free Speech TV)

What's New Massachusetts?

Grandstanders Emergency Preparedness

LIVE - Greater Somerville Greater Somerville

Fur, Fins and Feathers

The Somerville Labor Show

Gay USÁ DW Global 3000

4:00pm 5:00pm 6:00pm VOX POP: Somerville Connects 6:30pm 7:00pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm Community Lens: Somerville 5K Detour 11:00pm Monday, August 3

13 (RCN) Schedule Somerville Public Schools Re-Opening Youth Mental Health During COVID-19 School Committee Meeting 8.3.20 Como Enfrentar o Novo Coronavirus School Planning Town Halls

Somerville Public Schools Re-Opening

House of Representatives Formal Session

Effort Pour Christ

Sidewalks Entertainment

SNN Neighborhood Update

Chico and B-Man African Television Network

Dedilhando a Saudade

DW Tomorrow Today

SCATV Secret Stash

**Emergency Preparedness** 

NASA TV

Tele Kreyol

SOM ARTS

Gay USA

Dead Air Live

10:00am

11:00am

12:00pm

1:00pm

2:00pm

3:00pm

4:00pm

5:00pm

5:30pm

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11:30am

11:38am

12:00pm

12:30pm

1:00pm

2:31 pm

4:00pm

4:30pm

3:30am

6:30am

8:06am

8:40am

8:48am

8:56am

9:00am

11:00pm

12:00am

11:40pm Youth Mental Health During COVID-19 Sunday, August 2 12:00am

Race and Equity in Policing City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo 1:30am 2:00am The Bilingual Brain: Benefits of Bilingualism Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz 7:00am ArtBeat 2020 8:00am City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo School Planning Town Halls Fit 4 Life 2020 #3 City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo 8:30am 9:00am 11:00am

School Committee Meeting 8.3.20 Fit 4 Life 2020 #1 City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo

Structural Racism Panel 6.23.20 Chair Yoga w/Janine Como Enfrentar o Novo Coronavirus Memorial Day Remembrance 2020 Thank You from Mayor Joe Curtatone

City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo Somerville Public Schools Re-Opening School Planning Town Halls Somerville Public Library

11:30pm Monday, August 3 12:00am

Serenading Seniors at Brady Towers Memorial Day Remembrance 2020 White Nationalism Community Response Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone Somerville Public Library Youth Mental Health During COVID-19

Pride Flag Raising 2020 City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz Memorial Day Remembrance 2020 Chair Yoga w/Janine Cooking w/Ellen: Mac & Cheese 6.2.20 Cooking w/Ellen: Pudding Cake City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo Memorial Day Remembrance 2020 Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone Somerville's Phase 3 Re-Ópening Plans

Joanna Bremis HMS Clinicals

Revolution Awakening at VOX POP

LIVE - Poet to Poet, Writer to Writer

What's New Massachusetts?

The Somerville Labor Show

From My Heart to Yours

LIVE - Greater Somerville

The World Fusion Show

LIVE - Dead Air Live

**Totally Working Out** 

SCATV Secret Stash

Somerville Neighborhood News

Box House Productions Presents

Somerville Overcoming Addiction

The Thom Hartman Show

Democracy Now!

SMC Youth Media

Going Postal

Fit 4 Life 2020 #2 Youth Mental Health During COVID-19 Como Enfrentar o Novo Coronavirus

5:00pm 7:00pm School Committee Meeting 8.3.20

Tuesday, August 4 12:00am

School Committee Meeting 7.27.20 Ball Sq. Walking Tour Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone Somerville Public Library Cooking w/Ellen: Pudding Cake Cooking w/Ellen: Mac & Cheese 6.2.20 Covid PSA Facemask-1 SPD Mask-Wearing Enforcement Discussion Youth Mental Health During COVID-19 10:30am Fit 4 Life 2020 #2 11:00am City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo 11:30am CC-Finance Committee Meeting 7.8.20 12:00pm 3:10pm Music & Movement w/Steve Gintz 4:00pm Chair Yoga w/Janine Virtual Town Hall w/Mayor Curtatone School Planning Town Halls 4:30pm 6:30pm 8:30pm Race and Equity in Policing 10:39pm 10:45pm COVID-19 Update em Portugues Thank You from Mayor Joe Curtatone

omerville Public Schools Re-Opening

City Council Spotlight - Kristen Strezo

## Educational TV 15 Schedule

#### Wednesday, July 29

7:00am Jef Czekaj's Sequestered Storytime El Sistema Winter Bash WHCS Virtual Moving Forward Ceremony 7:30am 8:00am SHS Hockey vs Mal.-Rev. Co-op SHS Winter Concert 2019 9:30am 11:00am SHS Girls Soccer vs Concord Carlisle Kennedy School Gr. K-3 Winter Concert 12:30pm 2:00pm 3:00pm 3:30pm Gardening at SPL 7.16,20 SPL Storytime with Miss Alison [5/26] SPS Town Hall - LIVE SHS Winter Concert 2019 6:30pm 9:30pm 11:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Concord Carlisle

Thursday, July 30 12:30am

Kennedy School Gr. K-3 Winter Concert 1:30am Gardening at SPL 7.16,20 SHS Football vs Pentucket Reg. SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden 2:00am 7:00am SHS Boys Soccer vs Dracut SPL Storytime with Miss Alison [5/26] 8:30am 10:00am SPL Storytime with Miss Annamarie [5/27] 10:30am Argenziano School Spring Concert 2019 11:30am SHS Football vs Lawrence [11.11.01] SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett 12:30pm 2:30pm WHCIS Innovation Fashion Show 2014 4:00pm Next Wave Virtual Graduation 2020 4:30pm 5:30pm 7:00pm SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden SHS Boys Soccer vs Dracut 8:30pm SPL Storytime with Miss Alison [5/26 SPL Storytime with Miss Annamarie [5/27] 9:00pm

10:00pm 11:00pm Argenziano School Spring Concert 2019 SHS Football vs Lawrence [11.11.01]

1:00am SHS Girls Basketball vs Everett WHCIS Innovation Fashion Show 2014 2:30am 3:00am Next Wave Virtual Graduation 2020 7:00am All City Middle School Winter Concert 8:00am SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge [1.19.10] 9:30am SHS Girls' Basketball vs Watertown [1.18.20] 11:00am El Sistema- Elamanecer de la Música El Sistema Year End Concert 11:30am SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden 12:00pm SHS Boys Soccer vs N. Andover SPL Storytime w/Miss Ann [5.7.20] 1:30pm 3:00pm SPL Storytime w/Miss Alison [5.5.20] String Fest & Summer HONK Concert 3:38pm 4:30pm 5:30pm All City Middle School Winter Concert SHS Boys Basketball vs Cambridge [1.19.10] 6:30pm 8:00pm SHS Girls' Basketball vs Watertown [1.18.20] 9:30pm El Sistema- Elamanecer de la Música El Sistema- Elamanecer de la Música

10:30pm Saturday, August 1

10:00pm

12:00am SHS Boys Soccer vs N. Andove SPL Storytime w/Miss Ann [5.7.20] SPL Storytime w/Miss Alison [5.5.20] 1:30am 2:08am 3:00am String Fest & Summer HONK Concert Argenziano School Winter Concert 7:00am 7:45am WSNS Science Fair Winners Jef Czekaj's Sequestered Storytime #3

El Sistema Year End Concert

SHS Girls Soccer vs Malden

Healey School Gr. 3-8 Winter Concert 9:00am SHS Football vs Ipswich 93rd All City Track Meet 2014 12:00pm Gardening at SPL 7.16,20 SHS Girls' Basketball @ Wilmington 1:30pm 2:00pm 3:30pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Algonquin 5:30pm 6:15pm Argenziano School Winter Concert WSNS Science Fair Winners 7:00pm 7:30pm Ief Czekai's Sequestered Storytime #3 Healey School Gr. 3-8 Winter Concert SHS Football vs Ipswich 8:30pm 93rd All City Track Meet 2014 10:30pm

Gardening at SPL 7.16,20

SHS Girls' Basketball @ Wilmington

Sunday, August 2 12:00am

12:30am

SHS Boys Basketball vs Algonquin 2:00am 7:00am Girls' Indoor Soccer Final '14 - ESCS v WHCS 8:00am SHS Hockey vs St. Joe's SCALE Virtual Graduation 6.17.20 9:30am SPL Storytime w/Miss Meghan [5.6.20] 10:30am SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical 11:30am 1:05pm 2:30pm Gardening at SPL 7.16,20
3:00pm ESCS Spring Concert [6.4.19]
4:30pmNight Owl Storytime w/Miss Meghan [5.6.20]
5:30pm Girls' Indoor Soccer Final '14 - ESCS v WHCS SHS Hockey vs St. Joe's SCALE Virtual Graduation 6.17.20 6:30pm 8:00pm 9:00pm 10:00pm SPL Storytime w/Miss Meghan [5.6.20] SHS Girls' Basketball vs Lynn Classical 11:35pm SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical

Monday, August 3

1:00am Gardening at SPL 7.16,20 1:30am ESCS Spring Concert [6.4.19] 3:00amNight Owl Storytime w/Miss Meghan [5.6.20] 7:00am Night Owl Storytime w/Miss Meghan [5.17] 8:00am El Sistema Winter Bash SHS Boys Soccer vs N. Andover 8:30am SHS Girls Soccer vs Matignon 9.27.19 10:00am SPL Storytime with Miss Ann [4.1.20] SHS Girls' Basketball @ Wilmington 11:30am 12:30pm 2:00pm SHS Boys' Basketball @ Billerica 4:00pm ESCS Winter Concert 5:00pm Night Owl Storytime w/Miss Meghan [5.17] 6:00pm El Sistema Winter Bash School Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

Tuesday, August 4 12:00am

2:00am

7:00am

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SHS Boys' Basketball @ Billerica ESCS Winter Concert SHS Girls Soccer vs Haverhill SHS Boys Soccer vs Chelsea SPL Storytime w/Miss Alison [5.5.20] SHS Drive Up Graduation SHS Drive Up Graduation Gardening at SPL 7.16,20 Outdoor Track GBL Invitational 2014 SHS Girls Soccer vs Haverhill SHS Boys Soccer vs Chelsea SPL Storytime w/Miss Alison [5.5.20] SHS Drive Up Graduation SHS Drive Up Graduation

# lyrical **SOMERVILLE** edited by Doug Holder

David Donna is a software engineer living in Somerville, and ought not to be taken seriously.

To the Man Who, When Our Elevator Reached the Top Floor, Stayed Put and Pushed the Button for the Top Floor

I didn't say anything, but it's true: no one can prove that God will hide forever.



I played you like a rented saxophone: The early shrieks, the aching cheeks, the way We kept the neighbors up those nights alone, The thoughtless daily price for me to pay.

You hulked between my flustered fingertips, Your shell a maze of consequential keys-All mute until, with braced and clueless lips, I'd honk amiss and cringe. But by degrees

We found the tune, and studiously deft Each day I'd reassemble you (preclude The necky squawk whenever you were left In pieces), set my tongue against your mood.

I got all I could ask from you, and yet There's more reward in singing a duet.

— David Donna

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

# From page 8 Ms. Cam's

- 1. Regis Philbin
- 7. Government
- 2. Thoroughbred horse
- 8. Angostura bitters
- 3. Paul Cézanne
- 9. Eric Clapton
- 4. Vaya Con Dios

- A vulture named Moloney
- 5. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright
- 11. My Way
- 6. March 19, 1831 by Edward Smith in NYC
- 12. Vin Mariani

## FF THE SHEL

by Doug Holder

## **Jacob Kramer:** A children's writer who brings noodles and critters to life



Jacob Kramer met me at my perch in the backroom of the Bloc 11 Cafe in Union Square, Somerville. The fireplace was on full blast - to foil the frigid winter winds just outside the window. Kramer, is a youngish man with a scruffy beard, and wears his long hair in a ponytail. I noticed something wide and child-like in his eyes undoubtedly some seminal flame that still burns with a kid's wonder.

Kramer is a graduate of Harvard University, and has lived in our burg for six years. Originally from Providence, Rhode Island, he lives in what I consider a well-appointed spot in Union Square close to that U.N. of supermarkets, Market Basket. Kramer told me, "I love Somerville. I have a number of friends here. The Somerville Arts Council has been very supportive of my work, not to mention the Somerville Public Library, Porter Square Books, and the Somerville Museum."

Kramer revealed to me that a person has to have a good sense of humor to be a children's writer. He elaborated, "You have to try to understand what you care about, and why you care about it on the most basic level. Then you have to deliver to your audience. And for children that means delivering it in the most straightforward way.

I asked Kramer if his study of film at Harvard informed his work as children's writer. He replied, "With film making you have to think in scenes, cuts and edits. This is in some ways like my genre of writing. You always have to have a page turner to keep the kid's attention. You have to have one scene, then cut to the next surprise on the following page."

Kramer's beautifully illustrated book, Noodlephant, is about a bunch of despotic kangaroos, who take over the production and distribution of noodles, much to the chagrin of noodle-loving elephants and other critters. It is a story which has a social message, and Kramer, as an activist, is very much into this kind of narrative. Kramer opined, "Kids have a natural interest in what's fair, and what is not. So this kind of theme will appeal to them."

Kramer also wrote a light verse book that he calls Critterverse. He feels light verse is sometimes looked down on as too shallow or trite, but he finds that it can be a teaching tool for kids, as it mixes easier and harder words. Kramer feels the kids will understand the harder words through the context of the story. He believes that kids are intuitive, so they don't always need a parent next to them to explain things."

The illustrator Kramer often works with is K-Fai Steele. Her vivid and colorful work goes well with the inventive text.

Kramer is a man with many interests. He was a founding member of the Union Square Neighborhood Council, and has worked to make sure that the community's interests are met by the developers of Union Square.

Kramer told me he is writing a sequel to Noodlephant, Okapi Tale, and if I were you, I would secure an advance copy as soon as they are available.

To find out more about Kramer go to: http:// jacobkramer.com

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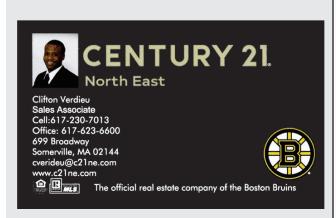
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