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# The Somerville Times

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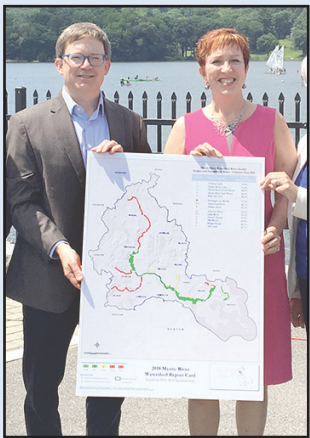
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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## Facial recognition technology banned by City of Somerville



An ordinance banning the use of facial recognition technology in the City of Somerville was unanimously approved by the City Council.

By Jennifer Grimes

During the latest City Council meeting, an ordinance banning the use of facial recognition technology in Somerville was discussed, in consultation with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and advocated specifically by Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen.

The ordinance seeks to ban the technology "until our society can come up with transparent democratic regulations of how this technology is going to be used. This issue is one that has widespread support in our community," according to Ewen-Campen. The Councilor had earlier created a petition to ban facial recognition technology in Somerville and collected 248 signatures, including 140 people from Somerville and more from outside of the community.

Research has shown that facial recognition software is consistently inaccurate, has a high false positive rate and a *Continued on page 4*

## Putting the band back together Velvet Crush reunites and heads to ONCE

By Blake Maddux

The rock 'n' roll subgenre power pop has never been reliably lucrative or considered to be particularly cool. However, since its emergence in the 1970s, each decade has produced its own batch of purveyors who have been kept afloat by an unfaltering fan base. In the 1990s, these artists included Matthew Sweet, Teenage Fanclub, Sloan, The Posies, and Velvet Crush.

Singer/bassist Paul Chastain, guitarist Jeffrey Underhill, and drummer Ric Menck formed Velvet Crush in Providence, RI, in 1989. They released three albums together between 1991 and 1998. After Underhill's departure, Chastain and Menck – who are both longtime members of Matthew Sweet's band – recorded three more between 1999 and 2004.

It has been two decades since Chastain, Underhill, and Menck have recorded or played live as Velvet Crush (although the three performed onstage together at a *Continued on page 14*



Recently reformed and on the road, Velvet Crush brings its pop power to ONCE Lounge on Saturday, July 6.

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

The publisher and staff of *The Somerville Times* wishes everyone a happy and safe **4th of July**. As a reminder, city offices will be closed for Independence Day. Trash and recycling collection will be on a one-day delay starting Thursday. Parking meters and resident permit parking will not be in effect on July 4, and street sweeping will be canceled. Prospect Hill Park and Tower will remain closed on July 4 due to ongoing construction. We know that this is a popular place to watch the fireworks, but this year it will not be possible to gather there.

\*\*\*\*\*

Calling all artists, musicians, creatives and supporters: **New Alliance Gallery** invites you to **Meet and Greet** in their new Union Square home tucked in the alley between **Market Basket and Dane Street, July 10, 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.**, at New Alliance Gallery, 438R Somerville Ave.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Community Meeting: A Cultural District for East Somerville**, at **Cross Street Center**, 165 Broadway, **July 18** at 6:00 p.m. Would East Somerville benefit from a Cultural District designation? Come to the community meeting, learn about what Cultural Districts are and what they can do for the local community.

\*\*\*\*\*

Please join the **Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development** and **Ward 4 Councilor Jesse Clingan** on **Tuesday evening, July 9**, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for the first community meeting with the landscape architecture team from **Warner Larson Associates**. The meeting will be held in the **Healey School cafeteria**, 5 Meacham St. Warner Larson will present their qualifications, review the criteria for the new schoolyard design, and discuss the layout possibilities. For more information or with any questions about the project, please contact **Arn Franzen** at [AFranzen@somervillema.gov](mailto:AFranzen@somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

Get ready for monthly **Movie Nights in the Park** this summer, **July through September**. International *Continued on page 11*

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: *A system gravely out of balance*

**Jim** says:

This is very well written Mr. Shelton. It concisely describes many of the trends I've observed in Somerville over time. It also underscores the need to harness the positive wealth creating effects of capitalism (e.g., commercial development) while controlling the uglier side of capitalism that we see in the current housing market.

**LindaS** says:

Sounds to me like we should all just move to Cambridge. We'd certainly be treated better, and could actually afford to live there. Somerville used to be a great city, and I'm sure if you're a young professional, you think it is. But remember that young people don't stay young forever, and not all will stay employed. Will Somerville still look good to you? Maybe not. Then you'll just decide to move to Cambridge.

**William Wilkin** says:

Interesting analysis. Not that I have any personal experience with drug addiction, but I would think that the recovery of a crystal meth addict would be more torturous than tortuous. As a Somerville resident, should I understand that substance abusers may also pose a risk to community well-being?

**Gabriel Marques Coan** says:

It's sad to see a tide of people being pushed away because they can't make rent specially when some of them work so hard.. But, if that's the America we want then yea shall have.

**Transient** says:

It's unfortunate to see a member of the Union Square Neighborhood Council hold such thinly veiled contempt for the 'transients' who he clearly doesn't consider worthy of the privilege of living here. How much of the fraying of the 'community fabric' is because our local organizations are controlled by people who loathe their fellow neighbors for daring to move to a place with jobs and economic opportunity? Many of those 'childless transients' would love to stay and raise a family here, but are subject to the same economic pressures as every other renter. I'd hope a secure homeowner like the author would have a modicum of sympathy.

**Chris Dwan** says:

Fantastic analysis Bill. Thank you. I would only add that the current winner-take-all conversation that we inherit from our fractious national politicians makes it incredibly challenging to find nuanced and balanced solutions.

**Short termer** says:

As one of those recent residents who has been here for a mere 10 years, I can reassure Mr. Shelton that sports leagues, scouting troops and other organizations have continued to exist and thrive with little help from those 20+ year residents who are nearing retirement age like Mr. Shelton. Perhaps he is 'bowling alone' because his bowling league can't get a lane at the 'new' Saccos (renovated right when I moved here in 2010), but many of these fabric of life arguments have more to do with global trends in human behavior than anything unique to Somerville. I'm excited by all that is happening at Kendall Square, but must we try to emulate our neighbors instead of trying to be our own thing?

**Bob Ross** says:

Bill Shelton for mayor! Run Bill, run!

**DatGruntled** says:

"Many of those 'childless transients' would love to stay and raise a family here, but are subject to the same economic pressures as every other renter. I'd hope a secure homeowner like the author would have a modicum of sympathy." Is there anything funnier than a displacer crying when they are then displaced?

**Magic Mike** says:

Curtis – a brand new High School is being built right now at great expense (which I support). Newcomers are well aware of these expenses that have to be paid for. It's the old time Somerville crowd who resent paying any taxes and scream about it all the time at City meetings.

**Bob Ross** says:

Mike.... read the article again. What part of "this is not sustainable" do you not understand?

Log onto [TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://TheSomervilleTimes.com) to leave your own comments

# The Somerville Times

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

# Fixing a 60's bully



In 1965 I was 12 years old. We were still the new family on my street having moved there in 1960. My street was full of families with kids. On a typical summer night there were at least 20 kids playing Buck Buck, Red Rover or Relieve-E-O in someone's driveway or right in the middle of the street. I was never taller than about 5 foot 7, so I learned early to befriend bigger and tougher friends.

There was one particular bully on my street who teased my little brother relentlessly. He referred to him as "fruity" which really ticked me off. He was obnoxious.

I had a cousin who was three years older than me and lived near The Western Junior High School. His parents always bought him the coolest jackets, belts and most of all, black leather engineer boots. A lot of the stuff came from Micky Finn's in

Davis Square. When he outgrew those neat clothes, I got them. I had two pairs of his old engineer boots and I loved them. We also got my cousin's bikes when they got new ones. Another cool thing about having an older cousin was that he was pretty tough. He hung around with the black leather jacket wearing kids with slicked back hair and pegged pants.

When that bully on my street (my mother gave him the perfect nick name of "Jerko!") got out of hand, I had to call my cousin over. On the old Leave it to Beaver Show, when Wally talked about taking care of a kid that was bothering them, they'd use the term "fix." Wally was going to "fix" Eddie Haskell for picking on Beaver. Well, I had to call my cousin to come over and "fix" Jerko. And over he came! It was great!

My cousin challenged Jerko to a friendly wrestling match on our friend "Jello's" front lawn. All the kids on my street gathered to watch my cousin fix Jerko. He flipped him to the ground three times. No punching, no kicking, no blood. Just a few flips, and a couple of gentle body slams.

Like it was yesterday I can still hear my cousin saying, "Come on! One more time for old time's sake!" And I vividly remember Jerko saying, "No thanks" and backing away, all the way into his backyard. He never called my little brother fruity again and he stopped bothering us. By the way, Jerko had at least 5 inches and 30 pounds on my cousin.

There was also the time I got into a beef with a guy on a flight from Bermuda to Logan Airport and my cousin was at the gate waiting for us. Thankfully, me and my airline enemy became friends during the flight back but it was calming knowing my cousin showed up for me.

Fast forward to 1992 and me and my then girlfriend were in Disney World in Orlando. Guess who we bumped into? None other than Jerko himself and his girlfriend. He pulled me aside and asked me not to mention to his two young kids (who we were friendly with) that I saw him. File under, "Still Jerko after all these years!"

My cousin really took care of us back then. Although my older sister kept an eye on me



and my brother, it was good to have my older, tougher cousin in my corner. Today, he's a good dad and grandfather and we're still in touch.

I still have many close friends

who know we are always there for each other if needed. That's my Somerville.

And this was just one story from the good old days growing up in Somerville.

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# THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

## A driveway so bright he had to wear shades

Police officers were dispatched to a Lowell St. location last Saturday evening on reports of a non-responsive man inside a motor vehicle that was blocking a driveway.

Upon arrival, the officers observed a man, later identified as Moises Reyes, in the driver's seat of a car. Reyes was wearing sunglasses and appeared to be asleep. The car was running and had been running long enough for the engine's heat to radiate to the car's hood. According to reports, the hood was much warmer than the other surfaces of the car.

An officer tapped on the driver's window to get the Reyes' attention, but he reportedly did not respond. The driver's door

was unlocked, so an officer opened it, causing Reyes to stir and then attempted to get out of the car.

Reyes was told to stay in the car and turn off the engine. He continued his attempts to get out, but the officers pushed on the door to prevent him from exiting the vehicle.

The officers told him to turn off the engine once again. Reyes reportedly reached for the ignition keys and fumbled a bit, but eventually was successful in turning off the engine.

Reyes was told to remove the keys and put them on the dashboard, after which he removed the keys but put them on the passenger's side car seat.

The officers told Reyes again

to put the car keys on the dashboard, and he picked up the keys and then put them back down on the passenger's side car seat, as before.

The third time Reyes was asked, he picked up the keys again and just held them in the air. The officers took the keys from him and placed them on the hood of the car.

During this brief interchange, one of the officers noticed two open beer cans in the beverage holders located between the front car seats and a partial case of beer on the floor of the front passenger's seat. Both of the beer cans reportedly contained a small amount of beer, which were later emptied and discarded.

When the officers asked Reyes for his driver's license, he removed his glasses and told them that he did not have a license. With his sunglasses removed, the officers reportedly observed his eyes to be glassy, and after he began to speak they detected the smell of alcohol and noticed that his speech was slurred.

These signs along with his uncoordinated movements and failure to follow their instructions led the officers to believe that Reyes was under the influence of alcohol.

Reyes eventually provided the officers with his passport, which showed his name to be Moises Aguilar Reyes of El Salvador.

Reyes was subsequently placed under arrest on charges

of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and alcohol from open container.

The officers did not ask Reyes to complete a roadside assessment because there was a language barrier and because he appeared so too incapacitated to perform it. The officers did not want to take a chance of him hurting himself or an officer by falling. Reyes did agree to take the blood alcohol test during the booking process. The results showed a blood alcohol level of .13%.

The car that Reyes was operating was towed incident to arrest and because it was blocking a driveway.

## SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

### Arrests:

**Amador Vasquez**, of 138 Pearl St., June 26, 12:35 a.m., arrested at Brook St. on a charge of unarmed burglary.

**Deandre Singletary**, of 795 Cummings Highway, Boston, June 26, 6:45 p.m., arrested

at Harding St. on multiple warrant charges of receiving stolen property over \$1200, larceny over \$1200, larceny under \$1200, and forgery of check.

**James McNeil**, of 35 Windsor St., June 28, 5:21 p.m., arrested at Cedar St. on warrant

charges of not being in possession of license, larceny from a building, larceny over \$1200, possession of a class B drug, possession of counterfeit notes, utter counterfeit note, larceny under \$1200, attempt to commit a crime, possession of a class A drug, felony nighttime

breaking and entering, operation of a motor vehicle with a suspended license, and failure to signal.

**Francisco Santos**, of 15 Wesley St., June 29, 12:13 a.m., arrested at Broadway on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and resist-

ing arrest.

**Moises Reyes**, of 332 Lowell St., June 29, 9:51 p.m., arrested at Lowell St. on charges of operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and alcohol from open container.

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## Facial recognition technology banned by City of Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

significant racial bias which is more likely to misidentify women of color than white men.

The ACLU performed a facial recognition test on the U.S. House of Representatives using an algorithm that has been adopted by Amazon and sold to law enforcement agencies. During this study, the members of the House were asked to provide headshots which were combined with mugshots of convicted felons, then the facial recognition software was used in order to match the correct photograph with the correct face. The facial recognition software misidentified 28 members of congress. The errors were particularly high when matching people of color.

Ewen-Campen invited Emilia-no Falcon from the ACLU to

provide more insight on the negative impacts of facial recognition. "Facial recognition is a technology that allows the government to identify, track, and catalog people based on the physical characteristics of their faces, this software works by creating a unique faceprint of individuals based on pre-identified photos or set of photos," according to Falcon.

The faceprints are collected and included in a database which is used to search for matches and identify new and unknown faces captured by public video coverage. Some companies are also selling emotion detection surveillance systems, which supposedly identify whether a person is happy, sad, lying or angry based on their facial expression. "Generally speaking,"

Falcon said, "We have three major concerns: unregulated use, intrinsic dangers, and civil rights and civil liberties."

Face surveillance is currently unregulated in the United States but government agencies are still adopting this technology despite the absence of privacy regulations.

MIT researchers found that facial recognition software is more likely to misidentify darker skinned people than white men, which puts them at risk for racial discrimination. Additionally, the emotion-detection surveillance was found to label black males as angry even when they were taped or photographed while smiling, which also contributes to racial prejudice.

According to advocates of the



Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen led the effort to pass the ordinance banning facial recognition technology.

ban, using this technology dismantles the first amendment, the right to speak freely, the ease of privacy in our own homes and the peace of mind that we are safe from misidentification

or identity theft.

The vote to ban the use of facial recognition technology in the City of Somerville was unanimously approved by the Council.

# Developer with keen sense of history restores Linden Ave. house

By Marian Berkowitz

Denise Price is not your typical developer. When she purchases and redevelops a home in this area, she cares not only about design and construction, but also about the property's history. She notes that every house represents a unique piece of local history and digging out old maps and census files of Somerville are a good place to learn more, as they can reveal the location and names of owners at each address.

The oldest map that Denise found related to 22 Linden Avenue was 1852 when Nathaniel Gilson was the owner. The Somerville census records indicate Mr. Gilson was a real

estate developer who died in 1895. Jumping to a map from 1900 tells Denise that Nathaniel's wife Delilah was responsible for additional development on the block, adding five houses and a tiny adjacent street to be known as Gilson Terrace.

The house was originally a single-family and like many others in Somerville, it was converted in later decades to a two-family dwelling. At some point, a large addition was added to the back of the house with an entrance facing Gilson Terrace. The last occupants were a brother and sister that lived in each of the two units. Once both siblings had passed away the house was listed for sale, and Denise purchased it with the intent of restoring it as a single-family, with its original Greek Revival style, including front columns and symmetrical windows.

Her restoration work, both inside and outside, was considerable. First, the entire house was raised in order to put in a new foundation. Exterior aluminum siding was replaced with new clapboard siding in the front and matching concrete siding in the back. The staircases were

restored. Property excavation in the front revealed an old gas line likely used for an evening gas lantern. Denise decided it was a valuable detail to include in the plans and installed hand-made historic gas lanterns in front of each unit. What a pleasure it is to see how they look at night.

*"...when the next person tears apart this house in 100 years, I want them to find out what the Boston area was like."*

Denise's final and unusual touch was a time capsule hidden between the walls where she hopes that "when the next person tears apart this house in 100 years, I want them to find out what the Boston area was like." She includes in the time capsule several items found during demolition – a 1925 license plate, an 1882 Commemorative Longfellow's death edition of



The freshly renovated award winning house at 22 Linden Ave.



The 22 Linden Ave. time capsule.

the Cambridge Chronicle, a 1945 copy of Colliers magazine, and a 1954 Newsweek. She adds her own items – an issue each of the New York Times and Boston Globe from last June, as well as a copy of her own recently published Boston Freedom Trail Pop-Up book that displays a 3D image on each page of all

the prominent historic sites of downtown Boston.

Denise was surprised and delighted to be nominated for and receive a 2019 Director's Award from the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission at their end of May Ceremony in recognition of her outstanding house restoration work.

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# Beacon Hill Roll Call



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**THE HOUSE AND SENATE:** *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' votes on four roll calls from the week of June 24-28. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

## ALLOW UNIONS TO CHARGE NON-UNION MEMBERS FOR SOME COSTS (S 2273)

Senate 38-1, approved a bill that would allow public sector unions to charge non-members for the cost of some services and representation. The bill was filed as a response to a 2018 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that public employees cannot be forced to pay fees or dues to a union to which he or she does not belong. Freedom of speech advocates hailed the decision while labor advocates said it was an unjust attack on unions.

"Today we protect the right of unions to be able to make the case for membership to new hires, and to be compensated for representation they offer," said Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville). "Unions have benefited all of us. They helped build the middle class, and they are now our main protection against its erosion. This bill is an important step in the fight against the rising tide of inequality, and it will safeguard the support that unions have provided for generations to workers across the commonwealth."

"The *Boston Globe's* editorial on the Janus fix was spot on," said Rep. Ryan Fattman (R-Webster), the only senator who voted against the bill. "I agreed with the underlying legislation, however as the *Boston Globe* pointed out, the Senate had the opportunity to protect private information including the personal cell phone, email, and birth dates of the employee and their family members who chose not to be part of a union. We failed to do so. I believe if you choose to opt out of union membership your personal and private information should be exactly that: personal and private. These employees should not be compelled to turn over that private information to anyone. It is because of this privacy concern that I voted no."

"I urge my colleagues to reject all the amendments that would undermine the principles set forth in this underlying bill and adopt a bill that will, again, ensure workers can come together, can organize together, can work together," said Sen. Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton), during Senate debate on the floor. "[And] to have a voice that will help each and every one of us as citizens of this commonwealth and, at the end of the day, help to continue to improve the economy in a way that is more equitable for all people."

"Legislators today voted against amendments that sought to educate workers on their rights regarding union membership, to give employees control over their private and personal information, and to protect that personal information once it is in the hands of union bosses," said Paul Craney, spokesman for the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance. "One thing is absolutely clear—this legislation has nothing to do with protecting employees. It is entirely about protecting union bosses and advancing their power over the workers. The legitimate concerns over protecting people's right to privacy were completely swept under the rug by lawmakers beholden to union bosses. We urge the governor to veto the bill when it lands on his desk."

The House has approved a different version of the bill and a conference committee will likely work out a compromise version.

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

## PERSONAL INFO (S 2273)

Senate 6-32, rejected an amendment that would eliminate the requirement that employees give the union their home address, home and cell phone number and personal e-mail address. The amendment would leave in place the requirement that the employee provide his or her work telephone number and work e-mail address.

Amendment supporters said that requiring personal information is an invasion of the employee's privacy. They noted that unions have enough ways to contact new employees without using personal information.

Amendment opponents said laws have to keep up with the times. They noted that today's communication is done via cell phone and personal e-mail address, not home address and landline phone.

(Please read carefully what a "Yes" and a "No" vote mean. On this roll call, the vote can easily be misinterpreted. A "Yes" vote is against requiring that employees give the union their home address, home and cell phone number and personal e-mail address. A "No" vote is for requiring it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

## KEEP PERSONAL INFO PRIVATE (S 2273)

Senate 7-31, rejected an amendment requiring that unions keep the personal information of an employee confidential.

Amendment supporters said this is a simple amendment that ensures privacy and guarantees that the union will not sell the employee's information.

Amendment opponents said this is a problem in search of a solution and that this information is already kept confidential.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

## EMPLOYEE NOT REQUIRED TO MEET WITH THE UNION (S 2271)

Senate 5-33, rejected an amendment providing that no newly-hired employee be required to meet with the union.

Amendment supporters said the bill ensures that the union has the ability to meet with new hires. They said it is vague on whether the new employee can decide not to go the meeting. They noted that this amendment clarifies that the employee can opt out of the meeting.

Amendment opponents said the amendment is unnecessary because nothing in the bill requires an employee to meet with a union or prohibits the employee from choosing not to go to the meeting.

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen No

## ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

**PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE (H 1194)** - The Public Health Committee held a jam-packed hear-

ing on the controversial bill that would allow terminally ill patients with fewer than six months to live to obtain medication they can self-administer to commit suicide. The bill includes many rules and protocols that must be followed before the patient is given the medicine.

Voters defeated a similar measure on the 2012 ballot by a very slim 51 percent to 49 percent margin with 1,466,866 voting for the measure and 1,534,757 against. There were also 182,573 blank ballots of people who took a ballot but did not vote on this question.

"I first filed this bill on behalf of a constituent who was dying of stomach cancer," said Rep. Lou Kafka (D-Sharon). "Having worked on this issue for over a decade, I have only become more passionate that this should be an option at the end of life. We can't sit in judgement of those in such personal pain. Everyone must be allowed to make their own choice based on their own beliefs."

"The question of assisted suicide was put before the voters of our Commonwealth in 2012, and they rejected it," said Massachusetts Family Institute President Andrew Beckwith. "That's because people understand that if we legalize doctors prescribing poison for certain patients to take their own lives, we would in effect codify that those lives are no longer worthy of legal protection. That would in itself be tragic, but would also set a dangerous precedent, blurring the line between natural death and medical manslaughter."

Diane Rehm, a former National Public Radio talk show host, related her personal experience with this issue. Her husband John Rehm was afflicted with Parkinson's Disease and sought alternatives to hospice care. His doctor told him that his only option was to stop eating, drinking, and taking his medications. "It took ten long days for him to die," Rehm told the committee. "I was there with him watching him grimace but knowing that he did not want to be stopped on the path he was on. In the end he died a very painful elongated death which I will never ever forget."

"This measure will replace a sanctity of life ethic with a quality of life ethic," said Catholic Action League Executive Director C. J. Doyle. "It will deform the medical profession by making doctors participants in the death of their patients. Disturbingly, the legislation contains no requirement for the notification of family or next of kin, and no conscience clause for pharmacists. Powerful insurance companies, which already exercise a disproportionate influence on legislation and public policy, through their assets in lobbying, public relations and campaign finance, will have a financial incentive in the promotion of this practice."

Citizens for Limited Taxation's (CLT) Executive Director Chip Ford submitted, on his own behalf, written posthumous testimony from his partner former CLT chief Barbara Anderson who passed away in April 2016. Anderson wrote of assisted suicide in a March 2016 column, two weeks before she died following a struggle with leukemia.

"When I get angry, it's when my own rights are attacked," wrote Anderson. "... I want the right to choose assisted suicide should I be in a 'ready to die' mode. But no, despite my having left the Catholic Church 55 years ago, it still had the power to fight a ballot question that would give me personal autonomy over its religious doctrine. My own emotions don't usually run deep, my being a rational, logical person and all, but I admit to hating the

# Beacon Hill Roll Call

continued from page 6



voters who said no to the recent 'death with dignity' ballot question. [I] hope they live long enough to regret it."

"The end of life options act may sound good with its ideal of person in control choosing when to end their suffering, but in reality, for far too many people, it functions like a death penalty," said John Kelly, Director of Second Thoughts Massachusetts, a group that champions disabled persons' rights.

### BAN TOXIC FLAME RETARDANTS (S 2555)

The Committee on Public Health has recommended passage of a bill that would ban 10 toxic flame retardants from children's products, bedding, carpeting and residential upholstered furniture sold or manufactured in Massachusetts, except for inventory already manufactured prior to June 1, 2020. Another provision requires the Department of Environmental Protection to review, at least every three years, chemical flame retardants used in these products and include them on the list of prohibited chemical flame retardants that are documented to pose a health risk. Violators would be fined up to \$1,000 for a first offense, up to \$5,000 for a second offense and up to \$50,000 for a third and each subsequent offense.

Motor vehicles, watercraft, aircraft, all-terrain vehicles and off-highway motorcycles are exempt from this law as are any previously owned products that contain a retardant.

The House and Senate approved the bill at the end of last year's legislative session, but Gov. Charlie Baker did not sign it. "Massachusetts can be a leader in this area, but the specifics of the bill that emerged during the last hours of the legislative session limit its potential effectiveness," Baker wrote to legislators. "A deliberative pro-

cess involving all stakeholders and an implementation schedule that takes into account the realities of manufacturing and distribution practices are key components to any legislation. I look forward to working with the bill sponsors and stakeholders on a revised form of this legislation in the [2019] session."

Supporters say that since 1975, manufacturers have added chemical flame retardants to a wide array of household items including products with polyurethane foam, such as sofas, car seats, strollers and nap mats. They are also incorporated into electronic products and building insulation.

They argue that the retardants, while well-intentioned, do more harm than good and have been linked to an increased risk of cancer, fertility problems, neurological disorders and other major health concerns. They note that firefighters are exposed to flame retardants when they go into burning buildings.

"Now that the bill has once again had a very well-attended hearing and been released favorably with no changes by the Joint Committee, we are ready to take this bill all the way to enactment," said the bill's Senate sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "We must protect the public, including children and firefighters, by banning these dangerous chemicals from products in our homes."

Representatives of chemical and electronics companies, makers of children's products and mattresses testified against the bill when it had a hearing in May.

Ryan Trainer, president of the International Sleep Products Association, said that banning one specific chemical—antimony trioxide—would limit mattress manu-

facturers' ability to meet federal flammability standards. He said that if the bill passed, it could force the redesign of many mattress styles, which would raise prices for consumers and businesses.

Dan Moyer from the Consumer Technology Association said other states exempt consumer electronics from the ban, but this version does not. He noted some of the banned chemicals are needed for circuit boards and other electronic parts that carry currents or are near parts that carry currents. He said other states exempt consumer electronics and that while such an exemption was in last session's bill, it is not this year.

"I continue to be very appreciative of my House colleagues and leadership, including Chair Mahoney and Speaker DeLeo, who have continued to choose the side of science, public health and the lives of firefighters and children," said the bill's House sponsor Rep. Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge).

"If this bill was a library book, the overdue bill would be astronomical," said Janet Domenitz, executive director of MASSPIRG. "It's well past time to enact this law which will protect our health, our safety, and our first responders."

### REQUIRE LOCKDOWN DRILLS AT SCHOOLS (H 433)

The Education Committee held a hearing on a proposal that would require each every public or private elementary and secondary school, in consultation with the local police department, to establish critical incident response protocols for the school, including protocols for active shooters and other critical incidents during classes, breaks between classes, lunch, assembly and fire alarms.

Continued on page 17

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### Recent Single Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:

MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72465558	67 Gilman St	8 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath	6	\$499,999	\$572,000
72475965	66 Marshall Street U:A	4 room, 2 bed, 1f 1h bath	6	\$595,000	\$641,000
72463960	2 Snow Terrace	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath	7	\$685,000	\$715,000
72361444	23 Glendale Ave	8 room, 5 bed, 2f bath	276	\$800,000	\$750,000
72455592	33 Avon Street	8 room, 3 bed, 2f 1hbath	61	\$1,399,000	\$1,380,000

### Recent Condominiums Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:

MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72464755	56 Line Street U:1	8 room, 3 bed, 3f bath	3	\$1,085,000	\$1,200,000
72448116	40 Harvard St U:2	7 room, 4 bed, 3f bath	27	\$1,099,900	\$1,085,000
72403300	12 Columbus Ave U:12	7 room, 4 bed, 2f bath	199	\$1,145,000	\$1,100,000
72485889	35 Woodbine Street U:35	6 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath	7	\$1,148,000	\$1,155,000
72476091	5 Elmwood Street U:1	6 room, 2 bed, 3f bath	7	\$1,175,000	\$1,195,000
72458234	33 Bay State Ave U:2	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath	29	\$1,190,000	\$1,141,500
72418896	9-11 Sherman Ct U:9	7 room, 4 bed, 3f 1h bath	159	\$1,299,900	\$1,250,000
72460554	22 White Street Place U:2	7 room, 3 bed, 3f 1h bath	31	\$1,419,000	\$1,380,000

### Recent Multi-Family Homes Sold in Somerville Over the Past Month:

MLS#	Address	Description	DOM	List Price	Sale Price
72322821	46-48 High Street	11 total rooms, 5 total bedrooms 2 Family	368	\$1,250,000	\$1,100,000
72476211	78 Morrison Avenue	12 total rooms, 3 total bedrooms 3 Family	15	\$1,350,000	\$1,400,000
72452986	30-32 Whitman St	14 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms 2 Family	51	\$1,374,900	\$1,342,500
72487492	94 Albion Street	10 total rooms, 5 total bedrooms 2 Family	20	\$1,398,000	\$1,400,000
72497854	11 Preston Rd	17 total rooms, 7 total bedrooms 3 Family	9	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
72469003	242 Broadway	21 total rooms, 9 total bedrooms 4 Family	31	\$1,649,999	\$1,560,000
72463745	65-69 Adams Street	36 total rooms, 18 total bedrooms 5-9 Family	21	\$3,650,000	\$3,200,000

## Massachusetts Health Connector's 'Day of Coverage'



Acrobat Cate Great!, a Massachusetts Health Connector member, performed high above Davis Square in Somerville as part of the "Day of Coverage" activities. — Photo by Eric Haynes

On Thursday, June 27, the Massachusetts Health Connector held "Day of Coverage" activities across the Commonwealth designed to help people #GetCovered and connect with health insurance options via the state's health insurance marketplace.

In Somerville, the Acrobat Street Performer Cate Great! (a Massachusetts Health Connector member) put on a 30-minute show including acrobatic stunts and juggling knives to show the importance of getting covered. The event helped connect Somerville residents directly with Health Connector navigators to get enrolled into health insurance coverage.

It was one of several "Day of Coverage" events held on Thursday that also included a waffle giveaway to morning commuters at the Salem MBTA station; an Escape Room game in Boston's Chinatown; ice cream giveaways in Springfield; and a Yappy Hour Puppy Parade in Jamaica Plain.

The Commonwealth's Open Enrollment period starts on November 1, but residents can apply for ConnectorCare coverage anytime if: it is their first time applying, they are new to Massachusetts, or they have experienced an important life event such as getting married, divorced, or having a child.

Residents can sign up for coverage at [www.MAhealthconnector.org](http://www.MAhealthconnector.org), over the phone at 1-877-MA-ENROLL (1-877-623-6765), or in person through a local navigator organization.

## Savvy Caregiver dementia training returns in September

Registration is now open for Savvy Caregiver, a free training program that provides family caregivers with skills and knowledge about dementia.

The six-session class returns to Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services on September 13, and will meet Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The curriculum includes an overview of dementia, along with how its progression can impact daily life. The training is highly interactive, with a focus on developing practical tools and strategies that fit the participant's needs.

Classes are open to a limited number of participants, allowing the caregivers to work closely



with the facilitators. Subsidized respite options are available for some caregivers.

For more information or to register call 617-628-2601 extension 3123 or email [nmeyer@eldercare.org](mailto:nmeyer@eldercare.org).

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Ser-

vices (SCES) is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older people in Somerville and Cambridge. For more information, visit [eldercare.org](http://eldercare.org), follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or contact the SCES Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601 for free advice and guidance.

## The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

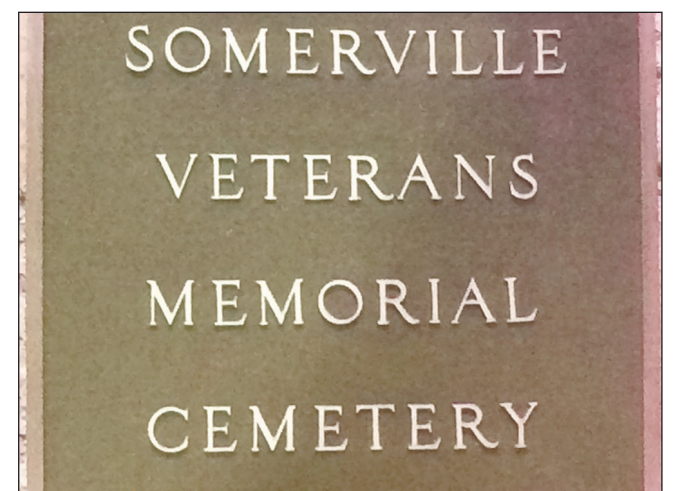


Eagle feathers #182

### Welcome Home

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

This past weekend the remains of United States Army Sergeant George R. Schipani were brought home to Somerville and laid to rest in the city's Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The ceremony was concluded with full Military, Municipal, and Veterans' groups' honors.



The nineteen-year-old former Winter Hill resident was captured in 1950 during Korean combat; and along with thousands of others, he died in an enemy Prisoner of War Camp. Buried first in Korea for three years until 1954, his remains were then brought to Honolulu, Hawaii, where they rested in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific until January of this year when his remains were finally identified. He had been an unknown soldier for over 68 years.



Another Somerville soldier, United States Marine Corps Sergeant Henry O. Hansen still rests today in the same National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. The twenty-six-year-old soldier died fighting on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II. He helped raise "both" American flags on Mount Suribachi during the iconic battle and was originally buried in the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima Island. Born in 1919, the hero would have been 100 years old this year.

The re-internment of United States Navy Commander Richard Somers, the namesake of our city, has long been a thorn in the side of many Americans. Somers, a martyred hero of the 1804 War with Tripoli, is buried on that city's shore. In 1842, Somerville's first year, James Fenimore Cooper, America's first-born novelist wrote a biography about Captain Somers. He also then called for the remains of Somers and his crew to be returned home from Tripoli. To this day, Somers and his men are still there in unmarked graves.

Twenty-two-year-old United States Army Private George Dilboy won the Congressional *Continued on page 20*

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# Annual report card shows good water quality in main stem of the Mystic River in 2018

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), announced its annual Water Quality Report Card on the Mystic River watershed for 2018. For the fifth year in a row, water quality monitoring data show that water quality in the main stem of the Mystic River, including the Upper and Lower Mystic Lakes, is very good on a regular basis and meets water quality standards nearly all the time, especially in dry weather.

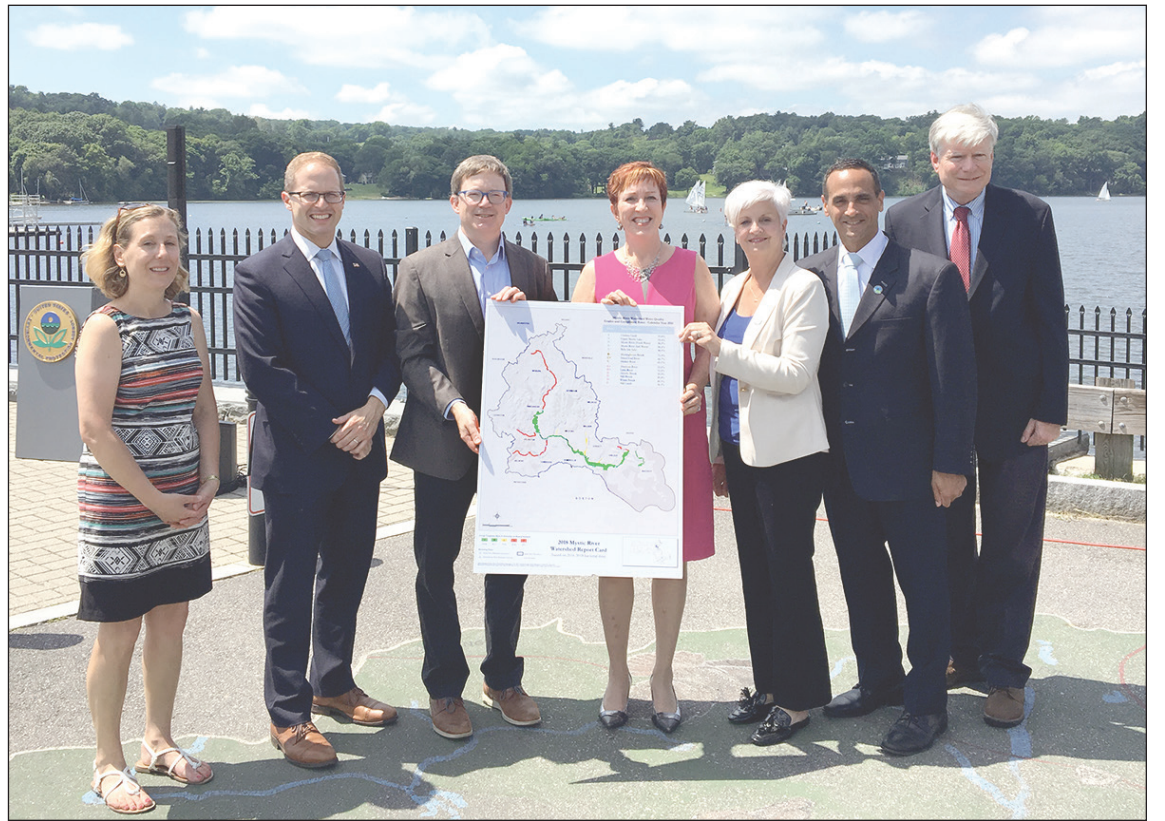
“The Mystic River is a tremendous urban water resource for towns north and west of Boston,” said EPA Acting Regional Administrator Deb Szaro. “Protecting the watershed is a priority for EPA. We are thrilled to see that the main stem of the Mystic and the lakes are generally in good shape, but we have work to do in the smaller streams that feed the river.”

“The work of local, state and federal governments and regional advocacy groups continues to have a positive impact on water

quality within the Mystic River system,” said Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Deputy Commissioner Stephanie Cooper. “We look forward to the day when the river and all of its tributaries feature clean, fresh water that supports a variety of uses.”

“I encourage community members to go out and boat on the Mystic and Malden River, and swim at Shannon Beach,” said Executive Director of the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) Patrick Herron. “It is a great resource – and we are so happy that it is clean and becoming even more accessible for community members with more public boat launches, canoe/kayak rental facilities, and even more connected paths and parks.”

The report card gives grades to 14 segments of the Mystic River Watershed, and it shows improvement in some segments of the watershed in 2018, which indicates that work to reduce bacterial contamination may be starting to



Local officials recently celebrated the positive report on the water quality of the main stem of the Mystic River.

show positive changes. While no single “overall” grade is generated for the Mystic River watershed as a whole, the data show that the main stem of the river is often safe for swimming and boating; however, bacterial levels in many of the tributary streams feeding the Mystic are high, and these areas often do not meet water quality standards. In 2018, some of these problem streams showed

signs of improvement, especially Island End River in Everett and Chelsea.

“We are so lucky to have such a valuable natural resource such as the Mystic Lakes and the Mystic River in our city. It has been incredible to see the improvements in water quality over the years, demonstrating the positive impacts of the various environmental organizations and initiatives that are dedicated to the Mystic.

In the next few weeks, Paddle Boston will be officially launching canoe and kayak rentals on the Mystic at the Condon Shell. We all must be stewards of this amazing *Continued on page 10*

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**MONDAY July 8**  
7 p.m. Shawn Carter's Cheapshots Comedy  
10 p.m. Marley Monday with The Duppy Conquerors

**TUESDAY July 9**  
8 p.m. Christian McNeill & Tim Gearan

**WEDNESDAY July 10**  
8 p.m. Free Poker, lots of prizes!

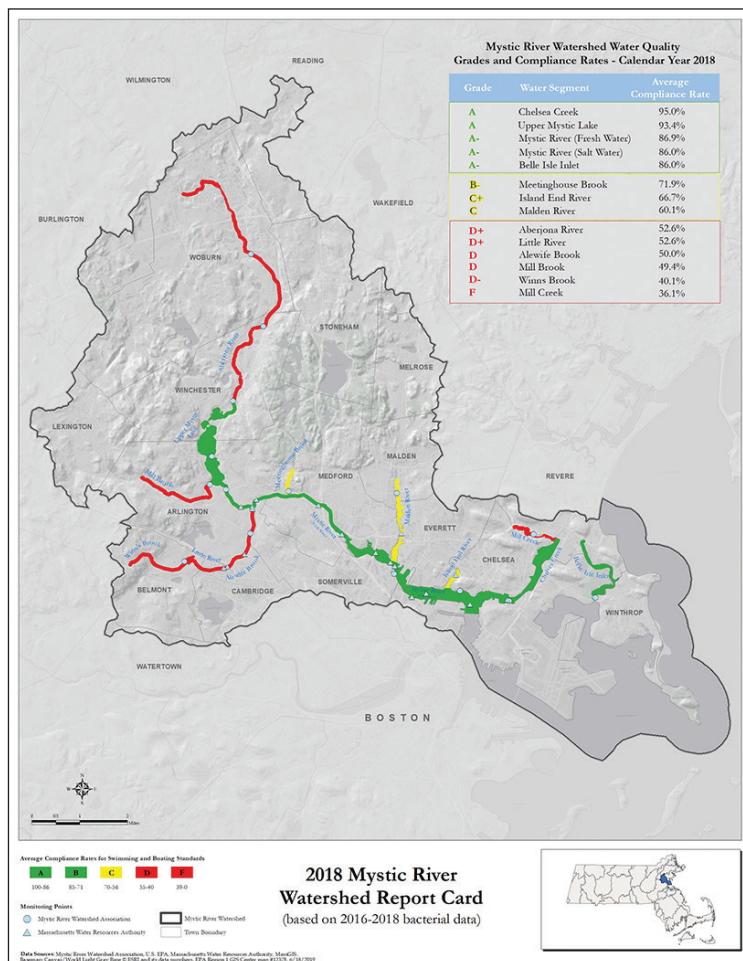
**THURSDAY July 11**  
8 p.m. Tad Overbaugh, Shawn Byrne, Speedfossil

**FRIDAY July 12**  
6 p.m. Jim Coyle & Sneaky Pint  
9 p.m. Hear Now Live / Tiny Oak present - \$10 cover

**SATURDAY July 13**  
6 p.m. Tom Hagerty Band  
9 p.m. Motel Black, Dori Cameron & The Invisible Monsters, Graneros, Vic Firecracker - \$5 cover

**SUNDAY July 14**  
11 a.m. brunch with the Roundtable Acoustic Series  
4:30 p.m. The Natural Wonders  
10 p.m. African Night, SambaLolo and guests

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## COMMENTARY

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

## Somerville is ready to fight for public transportation



By Joseph A. Curtatone

On July 1, morning commuters were among the first MBTA riders to pay newly increased fares. Adding insult to injury, riders on the Red, Blue, and Green lines that morning were also subjected to significant delays. It shouldn't be this way. We shouldn't have to fight for safe, reliable public transit.

Transit here and throughout our region should be something we take as a given. It's the smart way to move around in places with high concentrations of people. That's actually something we figured out a long time ago. Somerville was built around dozens of trolley stops that dotted the city in the early 20th century. Likewise, the greater Boston region was once made up of streetcar suburbs, but now, by some estimates, our roads have

the worst rush hour traffic in the country.

Yet our state's politicians seemingly forgot the benefits of transit in the late 20th century. Our economy was booming and they stopped building out the MBTA. Even worse, they started short-changing the maintenance, allowing the system to fall into a state of rack and ruin. Now we are looking at a summer of intermittent service on the Red Line. In other cities these frequent breakdowns would be unacceptable, here they're the norm.

A big part of the problem is revenue. Riders have been unfairly asked to shoulder the burden of fare increases, but the state has known for more than a decade it needs to tap other revenue sources to keep the T running like it needs to run. It's time to put every idea for new, non-rider revenue on the table.

We are also coming up on the 20th anniversary of the failed plan to have the MBTA pay off large chunks of state transportation debt. There's more than \$3 billion in Big Dig and pre-2000 project debt that MBTA revenue growth was supposed

to settle. It didn't work out that way. Now that debt service money has turned into a constant drain on MBTA finances, contributing to the current maintenance backlog.

At some point we have to stop doing the same thing and hoping for a different result.

Failure to address our transportation needs will have significant impacts not just on the Boston area, but statewide. Eighty percent of our state's economy is generated by the Boston metro region, which is dependent upon transit to function properly. The Massachusetts economy relies on this transit system.

And this doesn't even touch on the climate. There's an ocean immediately to our east that's in danger of rising unless we stop pumping so many greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. It's in our vested interest to maintain – and expand – more sustainable transportation options like public transit as quickly as possible.

On the bright side, Somerville is finally getting the Green Line extension, though a quarter of a century later than we should have. I suspect the memory of how hard we had to fight to

make it happen is fresh in all of our minds. I lost count of the number of attempts to yank it out from under us, despite the state being required by the courts to build it. If we had been anything less than relentless, the GLX wouldn't be under construction today.

The lesson to take away from that is that although we shouldn't, we do have to fight for public transit. It doesn't just get taken care of in an orderly and sensible fashion. Left to its own devices, it withers from neglect. Riders are now paying the fourth fare hike since 2012 and each time were promised better service. But small improvements here and there won't result in the major improvements we need. And this time, it seems riders and local leaders have finally had enough.

I've been in regular contact with mayors, representatives, and councilors from other municipalities and we're going to push for radical improvements to be made to MBTA service. In particular, we're going to fight for the riders and communities served by the T to have a stronger voice in the op-

eration of the system. A deaf ear has been turned to our concerns for too long.

I want to emphasize that when the Green Line Extension comes on line, it will put 85% of Somerville residents within walking distance of a T station. We will go from somewhat dependent to overwhelmingly dependent on transit. It is critical for us to address these maintenance issues before that switch gets flipped. The GLX itself will be brand new, but everything it connects to has been starved for attention for too long.

Half measures and tweaks aren't going to fix the MBTA's profound maintenance issues and revenue needs. The fix needs to start with an acknowledgment that the state has failed to deliver on its obligation to riders. People rely on transit to connect them to the rest of their lives – jobs, family, errands, medical care, social events.

Make no mistake, the fight is on. I encourage everyone to get involved. Let the state know we've had our fill of shabby service. We cannot afford another round of pushing this off until tomorrow.

## Annual report card shows good water quality in main stem of the Mystic River in 2018

CONT. FROM PG 9

environmental asset," said Mayor Stephanie M. Burke of Medford.

"Arlington is committed to improving the water quality of its tributaries through active stormwater management," said Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine of Arlington. "Stormwater management strategies that Arlington is pursuing include investing more in green infrastructure, educating residents and property owners on proper stormwater practices, assessing local stormwater regulations for opportunities for improvement, and working with surrounding communities to coordinate management across the watershed."

"The Mystic River is an important natural asset to Somerville and our neighboring communities and it's encouraging to see steady progress in its water quality," said

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone of Somerville. "Somerville is committed to continuing to work with our neighbors to improve the river's health."

"We are happy to be part of the renaissance of the Mystic River," said MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey.

### Background

The report card grades issued annually for the Mystic River by the EPA are based on the level of bacterial contamination found in samples collected by MyRWA volunteers over the past year at 15 monitoring sites throughout the entire watershed, as well as data collected at numerous locations by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The grades are calculated using a three-year rolling average, allowing for a more complete and accurate assessment of recent water quality that addresses weather variability

from year to year.

For the past several years, the EPA, in partnership with the MassDEP has had an active enforcement program focused on finding sources of bacteria in the Mystic. Through innovative approaches to field testing and laboratory methods, EPA has been able to identify sources of illicit discharges and require communities to find and fix illegal connections. This work has prevented more than 43,000 gallons per day of sewage from entering the Mystic River watershed.

More work is scheduled for these tributaries. Many communities are actively investigating their discharges and are completing repairs to their sanitary and storm sewer systems, which will prevent tens of thousands of gallons more of sewage from discharging to the river during rain events.

In addition to bacterial con-

tamination, the Mystic River watershed also suffers from excess nutrients, primarily phosphorus, entering the river from stormwater. EPA, MassDEP, MyRWA and several other partner agencies are nearing the completion of a two-year study that will help determine how much phosphorus must be reduced to meet water quality standards and the most cost-effective means of achieving those reductions.

In support of that effort, EPA has deployed a water monitoring buoy in front of the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse in the City of Somerville capable of measuring – in real time – a host of water quality parameters including temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, conductance, and chlorophyll and helps the agency track cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) blooms. Data from this buoy – and from the water

quality sampling program on the Mystic River that led to the grades in this report card – can be found on the EPA's Mystic River website at <http://www.epa.gov/mysticriver>.

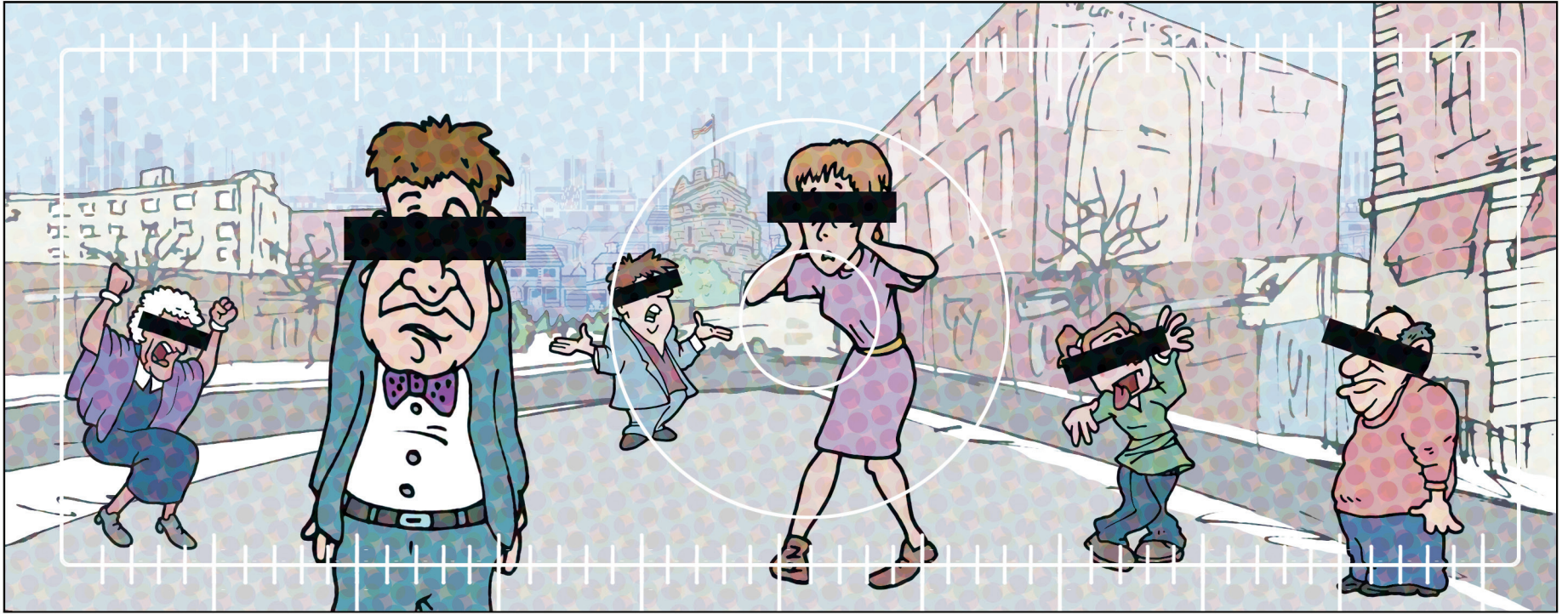
This report card is part of the EPA's long-term effort to improve this vital waterway through support for the Mystic River Watershed Initiative Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was formed to help foster a strategic, community-driven approach to water quality improvement and includes EPA and MyRWA representatives, as well as representatives from other federal and state agencies and numerous public advocacy groups and municipalities from throughout the area.

More information on EPA's Mystic River Watershed Initiative, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/mysticriver>.

# COMMENTARY

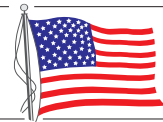
## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville says “no thanks” to facial recognition technology.

## Our View Of The Times



At first blush, it may seem like a reasonably good idea. A high tech tool to help the good guys catch the bad guys. Is it as simple as that? Of course not. It is indeed “complicated.”

Many scientific studies have confirmed that the technology behind facial recognition systems is far from perfected. Horror stories abound involving wildly inaccurate matches being made, often at the expense of people of color. That alone

should disqualify the technology as a viable option for utilization by law enforcement, security services, and others.

To put it simply, unless it works in a mostly flawless and unbiased way, it just shouldn't be considered for use by communities such as ours.

One wonders, though, if the technology will ever overcome its limitations. Perhaps in time, as artificial intelligence becomes more sophisticated, the pro-

cessing of the visual information gathered will be more accurately performed. But is this a given certainty? How can we know for sure?

At this particular time, we have to admit that we just aren't there yet. This technology can do amazing things, but mistakes are still being made. Is it fair to the certain percentage of people who are subject to false identifications to go ahead with it, just because it seems to work most of the

time? It just doesn't seem so.

Unless and until the technology is proven to be accurate in its operation at a far higher rate, it really has no place in our society. We have been chasing and catching the bad guys for a long time without the benefit of having this thing. We can function quite a while longer without it. Let's wait and see if we can get it right before plunging headlong into an unknown future that we may come to regret.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Movie Nights in the Park are brought to you by **East Somerville Main Streets** in collaboration with the **Arlington International Film Festival**. Enjoy the summer evening as **Chuckie Harris Park** is turned into an outdoor movie theater. This year's films include: *Heart of Sky*, *Heart of Earth* on **Friday, July 12**. The film follows six young Maya in Guatemala and Chiapas through their daily and ceremonial life, revealing their determination to resist the destruction of their culture and environment. Pre-film discussion panel at 7:30 p.m., followed by the film at sundown (around 8:30 p.m.); *New Immigrant & Refugee Vision Films* on **Friday, August 9**. This is a collection of documentary films by and about new immigrants. The stories produced provide a unique insider perspective on the integration challenges faced by immigrants and the contributions they make to our culture, economy and social fabric. Pre-film discussion panel at 7:30 p.m., followed by the film at sundown (around 8:30 p.m.); *Arlington International Film Festival Youth Shorts* on **Friday, September 6**. The festival was founded in 2010, its mission being “to foster appreciation for different

cultures by exploring the lives of people around the globe through independent film — to nurture the next generation of filmmakers.” AIFF is a jury festival welcoming submissions of feature length and short films. A selection of the Youth award winners from the festival will be shown. Pre-film discussion panel at 6:30 p.m., followed by the film at sundown (around 7:30 p.m.).

\*\*\*\*\*

Join the **City of Somerville**, **City Councilors Jesse Clingan, Ben Ewen-Campen, and Matt McLaughlin**, and the **Gilman Square Neighborhood Association** for a community meeting on **Monday, July 15**, to discuss the implementation of the **Gilman Square Neighborhood Plan**. The meeting will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the **Winter Hill Community Innovation School**, 115 Sycamore Street. For more info and to view the plan, visit [www.somervillebydesign.com](http://www.somervillebydesign.com). If you have any questions about the meeting, contact **Sue Thomas** at [SThomas@somervillema.gov](mailto:SThomas@somervillema.gov), or 617-625-6600 ext. 2561.

\*\*\*\*\*

The annual **SomerMovie Fest** is back with free, family-friendly films starting

just after sunset. Showings are scheduled **every Thursday evening** at dusk from **July 11 to August 29**. Screenings will take place at different locations around the city, and you can see the full schedule on the city's website [www.somervillema.gov](http://www.somervillema.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott, and Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen** invite you to a public meeting for an update on the **Somerville Ave. Utilities and Streetscape Improvements project** and **ongoing construction in the Union Square area**. The meeting will be held **Thursday, July 18**, at 6:00 p.m. in the **Academy Room at the Somerville Public Safety Building**, 220 Washington St. Project staff will outline progress of construction thus far and the planned sequence of work through the rest of the year. For more information about this project, please visit [www.somervillema.gov/SomervilleAve](http://www.somervillema.gov/SomervilleAve), email [construction@SomervilleMA.gov](mailto:construction@SomervilleMA.gov), or call the Engineering Department at 617-625-6600 ext. 5400.

\*\*\*\*\*

Looking for a **job as a real estate pro-**

fessional here in the Greater Boston area and Somerville? Contact **Century 21 North East – Norton Group RE**, 699 Broadway Somerville Ball Square. Phone 617-623-6600 or email [donaldfnorton@gmail.com](mailto:donaldfnorton@gmail.com). Century 21 North East has over 45 offices here in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine. It's the fastest growing company around, headed by **Jimmy D'Amico**, originally from Chelsea. Find out why so far, since January 1 of this year, over 100 agents – both new and existing – have joined with C21 North East's more than 800 agents. It's all about family and good business sense. A grand opening will be coming up sometime soon.

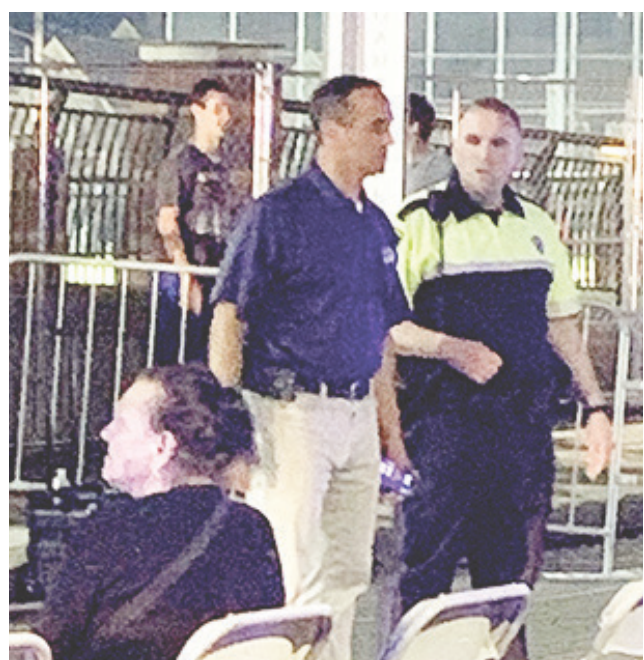
\*\*\*\*\*

**The Somerville City Club manager Donny Johnson** is looking all the time for new members to join the club, if you think you'd be interested give him a call at 617-623-9340. It's a great local club for the residents of Somerville, and has been around now for over 40 years, their location on Innerbelt Road. Plenty of parking and a very nice hall for rent, some say the best deal in Somerville. Call and ask for details at 617-623-9340.

# 2019 Fourth of July celebration

The Annual Fourth of July Fireworks with live entertainment took place on Thursday, June 27, at Trum Field in Somerville.

The entertainment lineup for the celebration includes performances by the USO Metropolitan New York Performers and local Disco-Funk band Booty Vortex, leading up to a 20-minute fireworks display beginning at approximately 9:15 p.m.



Go to [www.somervilletimes.com](http://www.somervilletimes.com) for more photos

Photos by Bobbie Toner

Putting the band back together CONT. FROM PG 1

Matthew Sweet and Tommy Keene show in Boston five years ago). That will change when the trio – along with guitarist Jason Victor – plays POP in Providence on July 5 and ONCE the following night.

Menck recently spoke by phone to *The Somerville Times* from his home near Minneapolis, MN.

**The Somerville Times:** What prompted Velvet Crush to get together for a few shows this year?

**Ric Menck:** We'd been talking about it for a while. We used to have a guy who played lead guitar for us named Tommy Keene. He was in the band for quite some time. For years he had tried to encourage us to get back together

er and we put it off and put it off. And then just as we began the process Tommy died, which was shocking. Then we figured we really gotta do it now, for Tommy and for our own sake. About a year ago, Jeffrey and Paul came here to Minneapolis and we ran through the songs for a couple days and it was super fun. The hardest part's been trying to get everyone together, because Paul lives in Japan now with his wife and kids.

**TST:** How did drums become your instrument of choice?

**RM:** When I started getting into rock music heavily, I was just drawn to the drums more than any other instrument. Also, when I sat down to play them the very first time, it was almost



like I knew how to do it. Nothing had ever been so easy in my life as that, so I sort of took that as a sign that this was a think that I should be doing.

**TST:** Who was your favorite drummer?

**RM:** At the time I was living in a little town, a northwest suburb of Chicago called Barrington. It's not far from Rockport, where Cheap Trick are from. We kind of knew about them before the rest of the world did. All my friends and I were really inspired by them. Bun E. [Carlos, drummer] was, even more than Ringo or Charlie Watts, the first drummer who made me think, that guy is the coolest, greatest drummer ever. There's no way I am or will ever be as good, but he was a major, major influence to me. Still is.

**TST:** Which Velvet Crush album would you say is your personal favorite and which do you think is underrated?

**RM:** The one that we're most proud of is *Teenage Symphonies to God*, and then closely behind that would be the first album, *In*

*the Presence of Greatness*. Those are probably my two favorites, I guess. The one that I think is probably the most underrated is the very last one we made, called *Stereo Blues*. At that point Jeffrey was no longer in the band. It was just me and Paul. It was the last album we made before we took the 20-some-year hiatus. I think that is actually a really cool record, but by the time it came out, I think we had just lost the energy and drive. I don't think anybody really heard it that much.

**TST:** How did you become the author of a 33-1/3 Series book about the Byrds album *The Notorious Byrd Brothers*?

**RM:** That came about because I'm really good friends with this guy called Joe Pernice, who's from Boston. He had written one of those books, and we were talking one day and he said that I should do one. I didn't even know if I could do it, but he said to submit a proposal and if they say no, you're off the hook. But they didn't say no, they said yes, so then I actually had to! It was a challenge, but it was fun. I en-

joyed doing it. As a kid, I liked The Byrds more than I liked The Beatles. For me, they were like the perfect band. They always meant a lot to me going way back to before I was a teenager, and that album in particular always intrigued me.

**TST:** How likely is it that Velvet Crush will record new material?

**RM:** Oh, very. I don't think it will be for a while, but we're definitely going to do that eventually. I mean, the whole point of doing this is to sort of get Velvet Crush up and running again so that we could play periodically whenever the situation arises. So after these shows, we're going to Japan towards the end of the year to play shows. We used to be very popular in Japan. We played really big places and we'd go there frequently for many years. After that, we'll probably do other live stuff.

*Velvet Crush, Sleepyhead, Hilken Mancini & Chris Colbourn, and DJ Ty Sesso at ONCE Lounge, 156 Highland Ave., Somerville, Saturday, July 6. Show at 8:00 p.m.*

Ms. Cam's  
**Olio**  
#686

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. What was the first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence?
2. Who will headline the 2019 Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular?
3. Who was the first woman to be inducted into the World Football Hall of Fame?
4. Who had a portion of their ashes buried in a Pringles can?
5. In *Game of Thrones*, who is Aegon the Conqueror?
6. What three colors appear on the Italian flag?
7. What U.S. President said, "Every constitution, then, and every law, naturally expires at the end of nineteen years"?
8. When was the last Tug of War event held at the Summer Olympics?
9. What president was shot outside the Washington Hilton Hotel?
10. In what years did Walt Disney himself provide the voice for Minnie Mouse?
11. What is the most common street name in the United States?
12. In what movie would you find this famous line, "After all, tomorrow is another day!"?

Answers on page 23

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**Celebrate Somerville's Haitian community**

Join the City of Somerville's SomerViva Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Somerville Arts Council, and local non-profit organization Haitians United in a celebration of Somerville's Haitian community. Enjoy a night of art, music, dance, and food on Saturday, July 6, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Center for Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave.

Haitian art will be available for purchase from amateur and professional artists from the Haitian Artists Assembly of Massachusetts and world-renowned painter Charlot Lucien will give a presentation on the history of Haitian art. Haitians United dancers will be performing and teaching techniques of folklo (traditional Haitian dancing) while Noche Latina Dance Group will demonstrate modern konpa dance. Don't forget your dancing shoes so you can join in.

Local Haitian/Caribbean restaurant Pikliz International Kitchen will be selling food and alcoholic drinks will be available for purchase for attendees 21 and older. To finish the night, enjoy a performance by locally- and internationally-known Rara band (a percussion band) and musician and television host King Bobo. This event is free and open to all.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE  
OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing for all interested parties will be held by the **Zoning Board of Appeals** on **Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.** in the **City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue.**

\*\*\* Cases are sometimes postponed to later dates. Check the ZBA agendas online 48 hours prior to the hearing start time to check the status of the case in which you are interested.\*\*\*

**117 Summer Street (ZBA 2019-65):** Applicant and Owner, Riverside Community Care, seeks a Special Permit under §4.4.1 of the SZO to increase the non-conforming FAR and a Variance for parking relief. RA and RB zones. Ward 3.

**25 Ivaloo Street (ZBA 2019-66):** Applicants and Owners, Tuesday Thomas & Can Keskin seek a Special Permit under §4.4.1 of the SZO to substantially alter a non-conforming structure by razing the structure and rebuilding a single-family residence. \*The Applicants/Owners received ZBA approval for this project in 2017 under project number ZBA 2016-145. The special permits have since expired and the Applicants/Owners seek to re-activate those special permits. RB zone. Ward 2.

**20-24 Rush Street (ZBA 2016-140-R1-5/19):** Applicant and Owner, Jonathan Lee/Buck Lee Real Estate Development, seeks relief under §5.3.8 of the SZO to revise a previously-granted Special Permit. RB zone. Ward 1.

**36 Summer Street (ZBA 2019-56):** Applicant, MF Dulock, Inc., and Owners, Michael F. Dulock and Maureen E. Gaffney, seek a special permit under SZO §4.5.1 to change from one nonconforming use (a laundromat) into another nonconforming use (butcher shop). Parking relief under Article 9 is also required. RB Zone. Ward 3.

**54 Myrtle Street (ZBA 2019-53):** Applicants and Owners, Christiane Bode-Boezio and Alessandro Boezio, seek a special permit under SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming structure by construction a two-story addition within the left side yard. RB Zone. Ward 1.

**7 Oak Street (ZBA 2019-01):** Applicant, Dalfior Development, Inc., and Owner, Joseph Trofimow, Trustee of the Trofimow Family Realty Trust, seeks a special permit with site plan review under SZO §7.2 to erect a second principal structure on the lot. The existing structure is proposed to become a single family dwelling and the proposed structure is proposed to be a two-family dwelling. A special permit under SZO §9.13 for parking relief is also required. RB Zone. Ward 2.

**11 Rossmore Street (ZBA 2019-41):** Applicant / Owner, The Rossmore LLC, seeks a special permit with site plan review under SZO §7.2 to erect a second principal structure on the lot. The proposal is to demolish the existing structure and build a new single family dwelling and a two-family dwelling. A special permit under SZO §9.13 for parking relief is also required. RB Zone. Ward 2.

\*\*\*

Submittals may be viewed in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30pm [www.somervillema.gov/planningandzoning](http://www.somervillema.gov/planningandzoning).

As cases may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending a meeting. **Continued cases will not be re-advertised.** Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSP/CD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to [planning@somervillema.gov](mailto:planning@somervillema.gov).

Attest: Sarah Lewis, Planning Director  
As published in The Somerville Times on 7/3/19 & 7/10/19  
7/3/19 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISEMENT

The **Somerville Housing Authority** invites sealed bids for Locksmith Services for install and repair of locks and other locksmith duties as needed, in various State and Federally Funded housing developments at various locations throughout Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by the SHA Purchasing Department.

The Project consists of installing and/or repairing of Locks and other locksmith duties as needed.

The work is estimated at **\$65,000.00** for 3 years.

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Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until 11:00 a.m. on July 18, 2019 and publicly opened, forthwith at Somerville Housing Authority's, Administration Bldg., 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents are available for download from SHA web site at [www.sha-web.org](http://www.sha-web.org). Bid Opportunities-tab or at Somerville Housing Authority, Administration Offices, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145 after 10:00 A.M. on July 03, 2019. There will be no charge for these documents. You must register by email at [tonyc@sha-web.org](mailto:tonyc@sha-web.org) to receive any updates.

General Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit or bid bond that is not less than 5% of the greatest possible bid amount (considering any alternates) and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

For projects with a bids exceeding \$25,000.00 Performance Bond and Payment Bond in the amount of 100% of total of maximum amount are required by the award contractor.

Bids may be mailed or dropped off to Somerville Housing Authority, Purchasing Department, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145 and must be received before the time specified. SHA is not responsible for lost or late bids.

A site visit is scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on July 9, 2019. All interested parties will meet at Somerville Housing Authority, Administration Building, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145. Site visit not required. Prior notification that you are interested in attending the site visit is required. Please notify Anthony Crespo at 617-625-1152 extension 336 or email [Tonyc@sha-web.org](mailto:Tonyc@sha-web.org) if you are attending.

7/3/19 The Somerville Times

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE  
CITY COUNCIL

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on **Wednesday, July 10, 2019, at 6:00 PM**, in the Committee Room on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, on the petition of JAR36, Inc., dba Papa John's Pizzeria, for an Extended Operating Hours License at 622 Somerville Avenue, to remain open until 1 AM Sunday through Thursday nights, and until 2 AM Friday through Saturday nights, for take-out and delivery service only.

You and other members of the public are invited to attend and be heard at this Hearing. If you are unable to attend, you may send your comments by US mail or by email to the City Clerk, at 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143, or at [cityclerk@somervillema.gov](mailto:cityclerk@somervillema.gov), but they must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Committee.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

JOHN J. LONG  
CITY CLERK

7/3/19 The Somerville Times

The **Somerville Licensing Commission** is accepting applications under Chapter 142, acts of 2016 for:

**TWO** available All Forms 7 Day Restaurant Licenses **or** Wine and Malt Restaurant Licenses for restaurants in Assembly Square District Area, **FIVE** available All Forms 7 Day Restaurant Licenses **and** **TWO** available Wine and Malt Restaurant Licenses for the Enhancement Area(s), **TWO** available All Forms 7 Day Restaurant Licenses for the City Wide Area (s)

Interested Parties may obtain applications online at [Somervillema.gov](http://Somervillema.gov). ABCC applications must be filed (by paper application) obtained from [www.mass.gov/abcc/](http://www.mass.gov/abcc/). The deadline for applications will be: **Monday, July 22, 2019 by 10:00AM for the August 19, 2019 Hearing**

Kindly contact the Somerville Licensing Commission at [ljbatzek@somervillema.gov](mailto:ljbatzek@somervillema.gov), for further details or deadlines for any upcoming Hearing Dates not listed above.

**CITY AND ABCC APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE OR THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

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

Attest: Lori Batzek  
Administrative Assistant

7/3/19 The Somerville Times

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Stephen Stenson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Sallie Mae Home Loans, Inc., dated May 16, 2006, and recorded in Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 47461, at Page 79, as affected by Loan Modification Agreement, dated May 18, 2018, and recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 71239, at Page 459, of which mortgage Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC is the present holder, by Assignment of Mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Sallie Mae Home Loans, Inc. to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, dated February 25, 2015, and recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 65008, at Page 89, as further assigned by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC by Assignment of Mortgage dated July 1, 2016 and recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 67657, at Page 336, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 o'clock P.M. on the 30th day of July, 2019 on the mortgaged premises located at 170 Walnut Street, Somerville, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Somerville, Middlesex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with the buildings thereon situated, being known and numbered 170-R Walnut Street, being Lot 6 on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Somerville, Massachusetts, T. Corcoran, Civil Engineer, dated January 9, 1952," and recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds, Book 7853, Page 547; being a subdivision of land as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Somerville, Massachusetts, belonging to the Estate of Albert E. Kenneson" dated June 3, 1935, John Falvey, C.E., duly recorded with Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds, Book 5943, Page 293, and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Lot 6:

BEGINNING at a point where Lot 5 adjoins Lot 6 on said plan, eighty-one and 17/100 (81.17) feet;

THENCE Northwesterly of the Northeasterly side of said Walnut Street;

THENCE Northwesterly by Lot 7 on said plan, fifty-three and 73/100 (53.73) feet;

THENCE Southwesterly by land of owners unknown, forty-two and 45/100 (42.45) feet;

THENCE Southeasterly by land now or formerly of Anna White and/or Margaret A. Johnson, fifty-six and 52/100 (56.52) feet;

THENCE Northeasterly by Lot 5 on said plan forty-two and 90/100 (42.90) feet to the point and place of BEGINNING.

Containing two thousand three hundred forty-nine (2,349) square feet of land, more or less, according to said plan and numbered 170-R Walnut Street.

For title see Deed recorded in B. 42100, P. 243

In the event of any typographical error and/or discrepancy between the legal description set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Said premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of all restrictions, easements, improvements, outstanding tax titles, mortgages, liens, rights of tenants and parties in possession, unpaid taxes, municipal liens, and other public taxes, assessments or liens, having priority over the mortgage described herein, if any, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed or otherwise noticed at the sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of the foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by Foreclosure Deed to the second highest bidder provided that the second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee's attorneys, O'Connell, Attmore & Morris, LLC, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice of default of the previous highest bidder and title shall be conveyed to said second highest bidder within twenty (20) days of said written notice.

Terms of sale: A deposit of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at the law office of O'Connell, Attmore & Morris, LLC, 1500 Main Street, Suite 1710, P.O. Box 15309, Springfield, MA 01115 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC,  
Present holder of said mortgage  
its Attorneys,  
O'Connell, Attmore & Morris, LLC  
1500 Main Street, Suite 1710  
P.O. Box 15309  
Springfield, MA 01115

7/3/19 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, July 15, 2019** in the Senior Center, Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA at **6:00PM** on the Application of a 7 Day All Forms Alcohol Restaurant License for the Enhancement Area to Bow Street Charm Corp d/b/a Yoi Sushi & Chinese Restaurant, and an Entertainment by Devices License, for 16 Bow St., Somerville, MA

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

Attest: Lori Batzek  
Administrative Assistant

7/3/19 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

# Thank you for supporting Elder Abuse Awareness Month 2019

By Norah Al-Wetaid and Susan Pacheco

Roughly 10 percent of older adults have experienced some form of elder abuse or neglect – but less than one out of every 14 cases is reported to authorities.

Abuse and neglect know no boundaries and all too often go unnoticed. And we would like to thank those in our community who have come together to try and change that during Elder Abuse Awareness Month 2019.

This was the fifth straight year that the Cambridge Council on Aging and Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services put a spotlight on these issues for the month of June. Joining with other local organizations and concerned residents, we distributed 3,000 fact sheets and purple ribbons, which are the symbol of elder abuse awareness. We also

hosted a great community discussion about common links between abuse, neglect, and mental health. Our thanks to everyone who helped make it happen.

But to be effective, elder abuse awareness can't be something we only revisit once each year. Truly making a difference requires knowing elder abuse, the signs, and how to take action if there are concerns.

Elder abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, or financial. It also includes neglect and self-neglect. These issues affect elders across all income levels, cultures, gender, and races.

The most common signs of abuse or neglect are:

- + Unexplained financial loss
- + Unexplained bruises or injuries
- + Isolation
- + Verbal abuse or threats
- + Changes in mood or behavior
- + Rapid decline in health

- + Sudden confusion
- + Unexplained weight loss
- + Neglected care needs
- + Hesitation to speak openly
- + Frequent unpaid or overdue bills

If you have concerns about elder abuse or neglect, call the Massachusetts Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-800-922-2275. All calls are confidential, and the hotline is a gateway to your local Elder Protective Services program, which works to eliminate or alleviate abuse or neglect of adults aged 60 and over.

Elder Protective Services investigates reports of abuse, working with older adults and other stakeholders to mitigate risk factors. Crisis intervention, safety planning, referrals to services, housing loss prevention and harm reduction strategies are just some of the ways they can help.

Once again, our thanks to ev-



Connections between mental health and elder abuse were the focus of an elder abuse awareness event at the Cambridge Council on Aging (CCA) on June 20. This is the fifth straight year that CCA and Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services have teamed up to promote Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

everyone who has helped spread this message. Elder abuse is present in our community. But by working together we can make a difference.

Susan Pacheco is director of the Cambridge Council on Aging, which works to promote the health and independence of lo-

cal older adults by providing meaningful social and recreational options. Norah Al-Wetaid, LICSW is a Senior Elder Protective Services Case Worker at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services, a non-profit dedicated to supporting the independence and well-being of older adults and people with disabilities.

## Beacon Hill Roll Call

continued from page 7



Each school would then be required to conduct at least two lockdown drills and one safety briefing for students and staff each school year. Currently, Massachusetts schools are required to conduct at least four fire drills per year, but there is no similar requirement for preparing for other critical incidents such as shooters.

"This is a very common sense bill," said sponsor Shawn Dooley (R-Franklin). "One of my local police chiefs informed me that although some towns practice drills many do not. We mandate fire drills so children and teachers know what to do, so why wouldn't we want to practice when our school is faced with other types of emergencies?"

**BAN ON NATIVE-AMERICAN SCHOOL MASCOTS (H 443)** – The Education Committee's hearing also included legislation that bans the use of any Native American mascot by a public school including names like Redskins, Savages, Indians, Chiefs, Chieftains and Braves. Currently more than 30 schools in the Bay State use Native American mascots. The measure would allow schools to continue to use uniforms or other materials bearing the banned name, logo or mascot, if they were purchased before the date of the ban, and if the school does not buy anything new with the banned logo.

Supporters say the use of these symbols is demeaning to Native Americans and stereotypes them as savages. They said this decision should not be left up to local communities and noted a statewide ban will ensure that no schools use these offensive symbols.

"The ban on Native American mascots ... represents a prime opportunity for us to celebrate our collective heritage in ways that bring us together and bring healing," said the bill's sponsor Rep. Nika Elugardo (D-Boston) "It's an opportunity for Massachusetts to lead once again on the cutting edge of living out our shared value of justice for all."

Some opponents say the mascots honor Native Americans by emphasizing positive traits like a fighting spirit,

bravery, pride and dedication. Others say this is a decision that should be made by individual cities and towns. "The citizens, both native and non-native in my district, had a debate when this piece of legislation was proposed years ago and overwhelmingly supported saving the mascot from elimination, [and] instead teaching the history of the Wamesit [Native American Tribe] people," said Rep. Dave Roberston (D-Tewksbury) an opponent of the ban. "The Greater Lowell Indian Cultural Association spoke positively on the matter, and as representative I carry their concerns with me to Beacon Hill every day. I hope the towns and cities with such mascots work with their local tribes to celebrate and educate us on those who lived here before in a shared manner.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES - Environmental Edition

"As an advocate, an attorney, and a homeowner near the state's biggest landfill, I am here today with my colleagues to say, we are heading in the wrong direction. We produce too much waste, its disposal is dirty and dangerous, and exporting our trash somewhere else is not the answer." — Kirstie Pecci, Director of the Zero Waste Program at the Conservation Law Center, calling on Gov. Charlie Baker to turn the upcoming 2020-2030 Solid Waste Master Plan into a Zero Waste Master Plan for Massachusetts.

"Out of the billions of plastic bags used each year in America for an average of 12 minutes, only 1 percent are recycled. Most end up in landfills or incinerators, or as litter in the environment. Plastic bags take at least 500 years or more to degrade and are ingested by wildlife and humans alike." — MASSPIRG Executive Director Janet Domenitz urging passage of the bill restricting single-use plastic grocery bags.

"Municipal light plants are a true asset to the commonwealth that have leveraged their unique combination of flexibility, expertise and local decision-making authority to be early adopters in the state's clean energy future. I commend the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company and their members and look forward

to working with you to facilitate further opportunities to build upon your clean energy accomplishments to date." — Rep. Tom Golden (D-Lowell), Chairman of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

### HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of June 24-28, the House met for a total of four hours and five minutes while the Senate met for a total of six hours and 56 minutes.

Mon. June 24	House 11:05 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. Senate 11:20 a.m. to 12:33 p.m.
Tues. June 25	No House session No Senate session
Wed. June 26	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. June 27	House 11:06 a.m. to 2:51 p.m. Senate 11:12 a.m. to 4:55 p.m.
Fri. June 28	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com





## SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

**CENTER LOCATIONS, TIMES & SCHEDULES**

**Holland Street Senior Center:** located at 167 Holland Street (between Davis Square and Teele Square)  
Monday through Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Fridays: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
617-625-6600, ext. 2300

**Cross Street Center:** located at 165 Broadway (East Somerville)  
Mondays & Tuesdays – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Thursdays – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Fridays – 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
617-625-6600, ext. 2335  
Fax: 617-625-1414

**Ralph and Jenny Center:** located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn)  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
617- 666-5223

**Main Office:** located at 167 Holland Street (between Davis Square and Teele Square.)  
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
617-625-6600, ext. 2300  
Fax: 617-625-0688  
TTY: 866-808-4851

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Volunteers needed for the Engage for Brain Health Study.** Are you starting to have problems with your memory or have trouble climbing stairs? Engage B might be right for you! 24 week study for people 60 to 89 years of age. Call Chris at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email him at ckowaleski@Somervillema.gov for questions and additional information.

**Fit-4-Life Nutrition Classes** – Thursday afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with our Nutritionist Caitlin McAfee. Learn about our new and upcoming nutrition programs including, Cooking with Caitlin, Fit-4-Life Nutrition Class, Meal in a Mug and more. For more information call Caitlin at 617-625-6600, ext. 2316.

**Healthy Steps** – Thursdays – Holland Street from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Healthy Steps is a therapeutic, gentle, movement class for anyone who needs to get moving, particularly anyone recovering from surgery, frail elders or those living with chronic fatigue or arthritis. Class is free. For additional information or questions to call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300

**Country Western Line Dancing** – The 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month- Holland Street Center . – class is free. No experience needed. For additional information or questions call at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Movie Day Monday** – July 15 starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Instant Family starring Mark Wahlberg. Lunch and Bingo to follow. Please call Josie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 to reserve your spot.

**Lowell Spinners** – Monday, July 15 - \$35 includes transportation, seating and an all you can eat BBQ. Game time is 7:05 p.m. Check in at Holland Street at 3:30 p.m. with an approximate return time of 10:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Afternoon at the Reagle Theatre** – The Sound of Music – Thursday, July 18 at 2:00 p.m. \$33 per person. First come – first serve, space is limited, no refunds. Check in time is 12:30 p.m. at Holland Street with an approximate return time of 5:00 p.m. Payment due at time of reservation. Please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 for more information.

**Granite State Chocolate & Wine Tour** – Tuesday, July 23. \$89 per person. Includes luxury coach transportation, Sanborn Fine Candies in Hampton Beach, Warren's Lobster House for a full course luncheon and The Flag Hill Winery for a wine tasting. Lunch options are crab crusted salmon, top sirloin steak, ritzy filet of haddock or seafood casserole. Check in time is 8:00 a.m. at Ralph & Jenny with an approximate return time of 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Arts & Crafts with Judy** – Wednesday, July 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Bingo and lunch will follow. Please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 for more information or to sign up.

**Foxwoods Casino** – Monday, July 29 - \$25 per person includes roundtrip transportation and a yet to be determined bonus package. Check in time is 7:00 a.m. at Holland Street and 7:30 a.m. at Ralph & Jenny with an approximate return time of 7:00 p.m. Sign up with

Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Summer Sizzle Super Bingo** – Wednesday, July 31 at our Holland Street Center. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. \$12 includes lunch, coffee, dessert, cards and prizes. Sign up with Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**BBQ at the Cross Street Center** – Tuesday, August 6 starting at 10:00 a.m. 165 Broadway. Join us for a BBQ of hot dogs and hamburgers and Bingo too. Please call Maureen to RSVP at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

**Essex, Gloucester & Rockport** – Wednesday, August 14 - \$55 per person includes motorcoach transportation, lunch and shopping on your own. Lunch at Village Restaurant. Lunch choices are steak tips, seafood medley or oven roasted chicken, Space is limited. Check in time is 10:00 a.m. at Holland Street with an approximate return time of 4:00 p.m. For more information or to sign up please call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Afternoon at the Theatre** – La Cage Aux Folles – Thursday, August 15 at 2:00 p.m. \$33 per person. First come – first serve, space is limited, no refunds. Check in time is 12:30 p.m. at Holland Street with an approximate return time of 5:00 p.m. Payment due at time of reservation. Please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 for more information.

**Movie Day Tuesday** – August 20 starting at 10:30 a.m. Sister Act starring Whoopi Goldberg. Lunch and Bingo to follow. Please call Josie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 to reserve your spot.

**Arts & Crafts with Judy** – Wednesday, August 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. Bingo and lunch will follow. Please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 for more information or to sign up.

**BBQ at the Ralph & Jenny Center** – Thursday, August 22 starting at 10:00 a.m. 9 New Washington Street. Join us for a BBQ of hot dogs and hamburgers and Bingo too. Please call Josie or Vivian at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 to RSVP.

**Twin Rivers Casino** – Monday, August 26 - \$25 per person includes roundtrip transportation and a yet to be determined bonus package. Check in time is 9:00 a.m. at Holland Street and 9:30 a.m. at Ralph & Jenny with an approximate return time of 6:00 p.m. For more information or to sign up please call Connie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Music and Movement with Steve Gintz** – August 26, September 30 and October 28 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at our Holland Street Center. Steve Gintz is a board certified music therapist and mental health clinician. He will inspire those with and without memory decline to connect with one another as we move and groove to music. For more information or to RSVP please call Ashley at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

**Atlantic City Boys** – Wednesday, September 18 at the Davensport Yacht Club. \$69 per person includes transportation, lunch, show, taxes and gratuity. Meal choice of stuffed breast of chicken or baked scrod. Time to be determined. If you require additional information, have any questions or want to reserve your spot please call at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**LGBTQ EVENTS**

**LBT Women Fit-4-Life** at Holland Street Center 167 Holland Street - Fitness class is Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 P.M. \$10 a month fee - scholarships available & it just might be covered under your insurance. We have available slots and would love to have you. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our Health & Wellness Coordinator, Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2315.

**WEEKLY EXERCISE AND NUTRITION CLASS SCHEDULE (PLEASE CUT OUT AND SAVE)**

**Monday:**  
Keep Moving Walking Club - 9:00 a.m. (H)  
Tai Chi – 11:30 a.m. (H)  
Fit-4-Life – 11:00 a.m. (C)  
Fit-4-Life Group C - 1:00 p.m. (H)

**Tuesday:**  
Strengthening - 9:00 a.m. - \$3 per class (H)  
Fit-4-Life - 11:00 a.m. (C)  
Bike Club – 12:15 p.m. (H)

**Wednesdays:**  
Fit-4-Life Group A (exercise) – 8:45 a.m. (H)  
Fit-4-Life Group B (exercise) - 10:00 a.m. (H)  
Fit-4-Life Group C (exercise) - 1:00 p.m. (H)

**Thursdays:**  
Yoga - 9:00 a.m. (H)

Fit-4-Life - 11:00 a.m. (C)  
Healthy Steps – 12:30 p.m. (H)  
Nutrition Class – 3:00 p.m. (H)  
LBT Fit-4-Life, 6:00 p.m. (H)

**Fridays:**  
Fit-4-Life Group A – 8:45 a.m. (H)  
Fit-4-Life Group B - 10:00 a.m. (H)

**Adventure Group – Please call for details**

**\*All Fit-4-Life classes are \$10 per month and require pre-registration\***

**HOLLAND STREET GROUP INFORMATION**

**Book Club** – Meets the third Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This group self-facilitates. Group members choose both fiction and non-fiction titles on a quarterly basis. Books are available on reserve at the Central Branch of the Somerville Library. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

**Caregiver Support Group** – Meets the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. Are you caring for a parent, relative, spouse or close friend? Feeling isolated or overwhelmed? You are not alone! Come share your experience and practical support. Open to all and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318.

**Conversations of the Heart** – Meets bi-monthly on Mondays from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. at our Holland Street Center. Social Worker, Natasha Naim, facilitates this group. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

**Cribbage Club** – Meets every Monday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This group is facilitated by volunteer Norbert DeAmato. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Josie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

**Current Events Group** – Meets every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. Our Social Worker, Natasha Naim, facilitates this group. Join a group of your peers to discuss current events. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

**De-cluttering support group** – If you have concerns around your clutter, this group may be for you. This closed group meets both in the spring and fall for 6-8 weeks. This group is co-facilitated by Natasha Naim and Marina Colonas. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

**CROSS STREET GROUP INFORMATION**

**Lunch is served** every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 for sign up.

**Coffee & Conversation** – Meets every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator and Sandy Francis, Cross Street Center Volunteer, work together to facilitate this group. Come meet people from all over the world and join in the discussion of a different topic every day. Conversation is followed by the Fit-4-Life exercise program and then lunch. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

**Game Hour** – Every Tuesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. at our Cross Street Center. Join us for lunch and activities. Immediately following lunch we will have a "Game Hour." Yahtzee, Sorry, Jenga, Cards, Scrabble, Checkers, Clue, Qwirkle, Dominoes, Uno & Connect 4 are available to play. Community Cooks provides us with a family style lunch on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays and Food Services provides us with lunch on the off days. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

**Gardening Club** – Meets the second Monday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. Vilma Sullivan, facilitates this group. There is a different topic each month ranging from gardening tips & secrets to inexpensive greenhouses. Group runs for approximately an hour. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

## 2019 SomerMovie Fest lineup announced



The City of Somerville's annual SomerMovie Fest is returning for July and August 2019. Every Thursday night, beginning on July 11, join in for a free, family-friendly movie in a local park (In case of inclement weather, the movie showing will be cancelled, and information will be posted at [www.somerville-ma.gov](http://www.somerville-ma.gov)). All movies will be shown at Seven Hills Park in Davis Square, beginning at sunset. The full 2019 schedule is as follows:

- July 11: The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part
- July 18: Back to the Future II
- July 25: Spiderman 2
- August 1: Incredibles 2
- August 8: Superman II
- August 15: Bride of Frankenstein
- August 22: Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan
- August 29: Viewers' Choice – vote for your favorite at [www.somerville-ma.gov/fest](http://www.somerville-ma.gov/fest)

All movies are shown with closed captioning. For more information, visit [www.somerville-ma.gov/fest](http://www.somerville-ma.gov/fest), or call 311 (617-666-3311).

## Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 8

Medal of Honor posthumously for his valor in France during World War I. The Somerville hero was the first Greek American to do so. During his funeral in Greece, the service was disrupted and his remains were desecrated by marauding Turkish troops. This created an international incident that involved three United States leaders. President Woodrow Wilson authorized his medal of honor; President Warren G. Harding had his remains brought back to America; and President Calvin Coolidge presided at his Arlington National Cemetery burial.

Twenty-two-year-old United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal Richard J. Gordon was the 69th veteran to be laid to rest in Somerville's Veterans Memorial Cemetery. He was killed in the 1983 Beirut, Lebanon, terrorist bombing which took 241 servicemen's lives. It was the greatest one-day loss the Marine Corps sustained since Iwo Jima. Sergeant Schipani was the 70th.

A military quote by John Maxwell Edmonds: "When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrows, we gave our today."

## BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



What do elves do after school?  
Their gnome work.

The "Original"  
**All Types Vent Cleaning**  
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## Upcoming VOX POP events



VOX POP is a pop up community, media & arts space that is the result of a collaboration between Federal Investment Realty Trust (FRIT) the property developer and owner of Assembly Row and Somerville Media Center. VOX POP is located at 431 Artisan Way at Assembly Row. Parking is free for 3-hours in the garages and is accessible by MBTA Orange Line.

You can find the Full VOX POP Calendar online at: <http://www.somerville-media.org/VOXPOP>

### Wicked Wednesdays Author Series with Sam Baltrusis

Wednesday, July 3, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Guest: Peter Muise, *Legends and Lore of the North Shore*

Eventbrite Registration: <https://scatvsomerville.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f666d0ca2473e6d81ef0dc44f&id=ff4df2d152&e=a6639670d7>

Join Sam Baltrusis, author of eleven historical books including *Wicked Salem* and the upcoming *Ghost Writers from Globe Pequot*, in this three-part series on the first Wednesday every month this summer starting 6:30 p.m.



Peter Muise, editor of New England Folklore blog and author of *Legends and Lore of the North Shore*, will be the featured guest at the Wicked Wednesdays Author Series at VOX POP in Somerville's Assembly Row on Wednesday, July 3 at 6:30 p.m. Yes, something wicked this way comes. Come join the studio audience for this fascinating talk series.

Peter Muise, editor of New England Folklore blog and author of *Legends and Lore of the North Shore*, will be the featured guest at the Wicked Wednesdays Author Series at VOX POP in Somerville's Assembly Row on Wednesday, July 3 at 6:30 p.m. Yes, something wicked this way comes. Come join the studio audience for this fascinating talk series.

### Pajama Storytime with Somerville Public Library

Wednesday, July 10, 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Eventbrite Registration: <https://scatvsomerville.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f666d0ca2473e6d81ef0dc44f&id=81462308f0&e=a6639670d7>

Come one, come all, come in your pajamas. The Somerville Public Library invites the community to Pajama Storytime on the second Wednesdays of the month 6:30 – 7:00 p.m. at VOX POP, 431 Artisan Way, Assembly Row. Wear your pajamas if you can, because we're going to snuggle and read stories with librarian Ann Cassesso.

**VOX POP Hours of Operation** May 8, 2019 – Aug 31, 2019:

Monday: 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Wednesday: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Third Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*\*There may be select events outside these hours*

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### EMPLOYMENT

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OFF THE SHELF  
by Doug Holder

'William Stoner  
And the Battle for the Inner Life'

William Stoner  
And the Battle for the Inner Life  
© 2019 by Steve Almond  
Ig Publishing  
Box 2547, New York, NY 10163  
ISBN: 978-1-63246-08-75

Review by Wendell Smith

The title of this monograph on display at Porter Square Books grabbed my attention because reading *Stoner* by John Williams had provoked an abreaction five years ago. Once I read Almond's introduction with my Sunday coffee I did not put it down except for bodily necessities until I finished it so I could go to bed. That kind of absorption is unique in my experience reading criticism.

For a book to have had such an emotional impact as this one has had on the both of us, *Stoner* is deceptively simple. Here is Almond's masterful succinct summation of the story:

Stoner, the only son of subsistence farmers, attends college, unexpectedly falls in love with literature, and becomes a teacher; he endures a disastrous marriage, a prolonged academic feud, and a doomed love affair, then falls ill and dies.

That hardly seems a story capable of meeting Aristotle's requirement for a tragedy, but, as Almond will show us, William's genius takes his spare tale and infuses it with a power that is more than sufficient to evoke pity and fear and the weeping purging of those emotions.

The success of Almond's essay rests on a foundation he creates with his subtitle, "and the battle for the inner life," and his willing engagement and perseverance in that battle. My engagement with Almond's argument was created by the rhythm of his writing as he swings between lucid, if traditional, explication of the work, and narrative considerations of his own life problems elicited by Stoner. He has read the book some 13 times precisely because it provokes him to self-examination.

Here's a lengthy illustration from Almond's third chapter, *Love Makes Us Zombies* (aka *Worst Marriage Ever*). First with a sample of his explication from the chapter's middle:

The description of this honeymoon spends six excruciating pages. We know from the jump that Stoner's abject desire will be met by dread, because the narrator tells us so. And yet these scenes are among the most heart-rending of the entire book, because Williams does just what most writers lack the courage to do: he slows down where his characters are most exposed and helpless.

Then as he concludes this chapter Almond, in his battle, charges into a territory that I would not have considered to be part of literary criticism, suggesting, as he does, when he shifts from an analysis of Stoner's marriage into an arrestingly candid discussion of his own, that literature has a use as marriage counseling:

This is why Williams portrays them as zombies, I think: to suggest they have no conscious capacity to choose one another. Stoner is dumbstruck at the site of Edith and decides that he must marry her. She accedes to his ardor. They operate at the level of glandular instinct and social programming.

It's an extreme portrait, but anyone who has been in a long-term monogamy, especially a marriage, will recognize the outlines. Romantic love always begins with the dream, one designed to liberate us from the burdens of the past but inexorably bound to them. Erin and I dreamed of building a family impervious to the bullying and anxiety we'd experience growing up, though our relationship was fraught with elements of both.

I've often portrayed our romance as a tale of heroic self-determination, in which we boldly hurtled from long-distance lovers to rookie parents in a few exuberant months. But I was consistently controlling during our courtship, and Erin too often silenced her doubts and resentments, for fear I would abandon her. Like William Stoner, I fell in love with an idea and charged ahead, ignoring the woman I claimed to adore.

This approach reminds me of a mantra of my medical residency: See one; Do one; Teach one. I think Almond is advocating something similar: Read *Stoner*; Think about *Stoner*; Think about your life as you thought about *Stoner*, and, if you can be as honest about your failures as Williams is honest about Stoner's failures, then the exercise may prove worthwhile. Indeed, later in the essay Almond will assert that this is the purpose of literature and that *Stoner* is supreme in fulfilling it.

That last sentence makes Almond sound all too serious, when he full of wit and self-aware self-deprecation. He follows chapter 5, *Everybody Loves a Good Fight* (*A Short History of My Many Feuds*), with chapter 6, *The Perfect Martyr*, which begins

The foregoing chapter should make two facts pretty obvious:

1. Most of *Stoner* is about a guy getting pummeled.

2. The author of this book is somewhat pathologically inclined toward feuds.

And he is pragmatic when he shows us how these understandings that have come from his facing up to his feuds in the "battle for the inner life," may have a use in politics:

Edith and Lomax dominate *Stoner* in the same way demagogues dominate their political opponents; not through superior ideas or logic but the seductive force of uninhibited aggression. This is the secret sauce modern conservatives used to advance a plutocratic and bigoted agenda. At a primal level, they project a willingness to fight.

If John Kerry had turned to George Bush during any of their presidential debates and said, "In 1969, I was on the Duong Keo River killing the Vietcong and watching my friends bleed out. Where were you in 1969?" he would've been elected president. Just as Hillary Clinton would be president today if, during her second debate with Trump, she had turned to him and said, "Stop stalking me around the stage. It doesn't make you look tough, Donald. It makes you look like a creep who harasses women."

But look: that's not who liberals are. They don't punch bullies. They go high, like Stoner, and wind up on the ground wondering what went wrong.

Almond applies this same intelligent analysis to the rest of the novel as Stoner deals with parenting, teaching, reading, writing, and death.

But for all of his book's virtues and Almond's insights and humor that claimed my attention for that Sunday, a flaw in the last chapter brought me up short with its unconscious white privilege. Here is the flaw, which continues to rankle me:

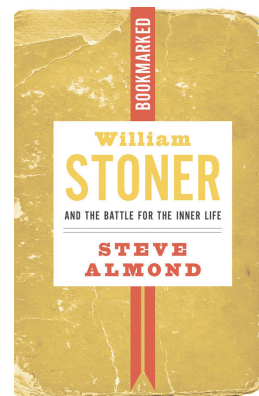
My mom made it through the hike [during which her husband bullied her] but wound up in the ER with a racing heart. When we met the next day, she had recovered physically, but was uncharacteristically subdued. I assumed she was ashamed, though I can see now that I was ashamed. She glanced down for a moment and then said very quietly, "Stevie, I was the n[xxx]er of this family."

Why would my mother – who had marched into segregated restaurants with African-American students and demanded service – utter such an indefensible word?

She was struggling, I think, to convey how powerless she felt, the enormity of the hurt she'd experience living within our family, nearly all of it invisible. The word was meant to startle and offend, in the same way Yoko Ono and John Lennon meant when they released *Woman Is the N[xxx]er of the World*. or maybe it would be more accurate to say that she was simply unburdening herself of her most closely guarded secret: the sorrow of her inner life.

This is the one place in his essay where, I think, his public exposure of a private detail doesn't work. I find his apology for her insufficient; it reveals a failure of the inner life of his mother and of Almond. I think it reveals that, because of their white privilege, neither of them know what "n[xxx]er" means in its historically American context, which is far uglier and more complex than what it means in the context of, say, Conrad's *The N[xxx]er of the Narcissus*. Almond's list of his mother's liberal credentials and his speculation about her motive does not excuse her lapse nor does the equally egregious example he gives of Yoko Ono and John Lennon's use of the word. John was British and Yoko Japanese so neither of them could have known the ugly extent of the word in American usage. We know his mother isn't aware of what the word means in these United States because she has the leisure to play Bach and Mozart, because she's a graduate of Yale Medical School, because she's a psychoanalyst, because the day before she made this claim she had been on a vacation hike in the mountains, and because she (and Almond) don't have to worry about him being shot at a routine traffic stop. They are Jews so they should know that Almond's mother isn't the "n[xxx]er" of her family for the same reasons that a goy who survived Auschwitz isn't a survivor of The Holocaust.

In an ideal world Ig Publishing would recall this edition until Almond could do battle with a revision, but ideal worlds can be dangerous, so let's hope in the world we have that this book will get to a second printing and that by the time it does he will have found the resources in his inner life to craft an adequate revision. But, I must admit when I saw Almond's book on display at Porter Square, I was primed to pay attention and my attention was rewarded with an essay as engrossing, in spite of its genre, as I once found John Williams' masterpiece; when I finished I had to reread *Stoner* and Almond's criticism has enriched my re-experience of the novel.



Lyrical  
SOMERVILLE  
edited by Doug Holder

State Rep. Denise Provost has a new poetry collection out with Somerville's Ibbetson Street Press, *Curious Peach*. She writes *The Times*, "I've always been highly attuned to seasons, weather, and the natural world around me. Several years ago, I collected a number of poems on these themes, arranged them chronologically through the passage of a year's time, and kept rewriting every word and line until I was mostly satisfied. Most of these poems are hyper local. They include such subjects as Somerville street trees, the wild roses in the parking lot of the porter Square Star Market, and my neighborhood after a snow storm. This sonnet is about the effort to grow vegetables in our difficult urban garden – which, of course, is a metaphor for many other endeavors besides."



Encore

This summer was too hot for runner beans.  
They wouldn't even blossom in such heat,  
but produced only a cascade of leaves –  
huge, heart-shaped; hung in shingled stacks of green.  
In autumn, they produce a cautious bloom,  
their big-lipped flowers peering out below  
an ample shade of foliage, that grows  
in snaking twists, upon a tent of poles.

Late in the fall, I rake my fingers through  
the luscious tangle of the still-green vines;  
within their deep interior I find  
a plentitude of long, sweet beans that grew  
half-hidden there. Who could anticipate,  
from these old plants, a harvest come so late?

— Denise Provost

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:

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Ms. Cam's

From on page 14

Olio

Answers

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Benjamin Towne's <i>Pennsylvania Evening Post</i>           | 6. Red, white and green       |
| 2. Queen Latifah   | 7. Thomas Jefferson           |
| 3. Mia Hamm  | 8. 1920                       |
| 4. Fredric J Baur, designer of Pringles' packaging             | 9. Ronald Reagan              |
| 5. King of the Targaryen dynasty who conquered all of Westeros | 10. 1928 – 1929               |
|  | 11. Second Street             |
|  | 12. <i>Gone with the Wind</i> |



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