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The Somerville Times

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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trunk!

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Changes to Powder **House Circle**

page 4

Building Committee debates design and community use for public safety building



The Context Architecture and Capital Projects team weighed in on its design option preferences, among other matters, at the latest meeting of the Public Safety Building Project Building Committee.

By Joe Creason

The Public Safety Building Project Building Committee held a meeting on August 4 concerning the public safety building project located at 90 Washington Street.

"I think we're going to achieve our goals of not only having a net zero ready building, but a building that possibly is net zero from the time it is occupied so it will be the most sustainable municipal building in Somerville, but I would also put that up against private development as well," said Building Committee Chair Melissa

Capital Projects is considering a geothermal system for heating and cooling and solar panels to power lighting throughout the building.

"We're about a third of the way through this project timeline," Woods said.

Context Architecture and Capital Projects state that they are currently Continued on page 10

'Sweet 16: Onward & Fluffward'

Fluff Festival seeking volunteers

By Bella Levavi

1917, in Somerville Massachusetts Archibald Query invented the famous Marshmallow Fluff that gets spread on toast, often with peanut butter. 104 years later Query didn't know the festival celebrating the tasty snack would still be going strong with 16 years of history with this year's Sweet 16: Onward & Fluffward event.

This year, the What the Fluff? festival is calling for volunteer applications to work on a team of six people to turn Union Square into what they call a "Fluff-topia." They plan on working with local artists and community members to create street installations, some that are temporary, possibly including the sugary spread, and some that will stay in the square commemorating the invention of Fluff here in Somerville for visitors of the area long after the fest is over.

People who take on the Fluff-topia Lead Job will work with all the moving pieces of the festival to ensure a smooth street Continued on page 5



The organizers of this year's What the Fluff? Festival need volunteers to help set up and maintain the Union - Photo courtesy of Union Square Main Streets Square locations where the festivities will take place.





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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.

Did you miss the Somerville Mayoral Candidates forum last week? The video from the event is now available on the Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) website (eldercare.org) and YouTube channel. The forum, which featured all four candidates discussing issues of interest to older adults, was hosted jointly by SCES and VNA Senior Living Communities.

Somerville High School class of 1971 plans 50th. Looking for classmates from Somerville High Class of 1971 for our 50th reunion on Saturday, October 23 at Anthony's Function Hall in Malden from 7 to 11. The price is \$65 per person. Please contact Rosalie DeLucia or Jimmy DelPonte, or the SHS71 page on Facebook for more information. Wave high your guilded banners as SHS 71 celebrates their 50th! Look-

ing forward to seeing everyone!

Yart Sale will take place on Saturday, August 14 (rain date August 15), from noon to 6:00 p.m. Depending on their location in the city, artists will be displaying work or merchandise at the following times: Noon to 2:00 p.m., West Zone (west of Willow Ave.); 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Central Zone (between Willow Ave. and Central St.); 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., East Zone (east of Central St.). SAC will create a Google map that art lovers will be able to access at www.somervilleartscouncil.org/yartsale starting Friday, August 13.

Our deepest condolences go out to our own Doug Holder, whose wife Dianne recently passed away. Our heart goes out to Doug, who was always by her side as she fought a brave battle with cancer. Dianne was a very sweet person. She will be missed by many.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to one of our favorite guys, Sal Ferro (husband of our photographer, Claudia). We wish Sal a very happy birthday. We hope he enjoys his day with his family, he deserves Continued on page 7

The Somerville Times

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Publisher – Somerset Valley Publishing Inc. Editor – Jim Clark Assignment Editor – Bobbie Toner

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 11 – August 17 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
	Wednesday August 11	Partly Cloudy	91°/73°	23%	19%	SW 11 mph
••	Thursday August 12	Rain	93°/74°	37%	32%	SW 12 mph
**	Friday August 13	Rain	90°/73°	31%	27%	SW 9 mph
**	Saturday August 14	Rain	85°/67°	38%	30%	W 8 mph
	Sunday August 15	Partly Cloudy	80°/64°	17%	12%	NNE 9 mph
*	Monday August 16	Sunny	82°/64°	9%	6%	WNW 9 mph
*	Tuesday August 17	Sunny	80°/65°	15%	9%	NE 10 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: SCES/VNA Somerville mayoral candidates forum on issues affecting older adults

Richard says:

Great to hear comments from all of the candidates.

I have to say, I do not understand the argument "We don't have a good transportation system like Europe, so we need more parking for cars."

Why not "We don't have a good transportation system like Europe, so let's build one"? Why do we need to settle for unsustainable, unsafe, and unhealthy options when better alternatives exist?

Response to: Somerville Poet Dianne Robitaille passes

Matt says:

I am so deeply sorry for your loss Doug. You will all be in my prayers.

Response to: A look at the races in Wards 5 and 7

Courtney O'Keefe says:

Excellent selections, Ken. I agree on both.

Leah Bloom says:

You missed one important detail readers should know: how to support Beatriz's and Judy's campaigns! Even \$5 will help them reach voters to share how they'll make Somerville better for us all. Invest in Beatriz's campaign: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/electbea

Invest in Judy's campaign: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/judypinedaneufeld

Response to: Lyrical Somerville – July 28

B. Lynne Zika says:

Many thanks, Doug. Gertrude's rather dear to me.

Bridget Galway says:

I have know a Gertrude.

Wonderful poem.

Wonderful capture and honoring.

Response to: Somerville - where the stars come out

Steve Keenan says:

Jimmy,

Don't forget Alex Rocco of Godfather fame (Mo Green) and John Fiore from Law and Order (detective Profaci) and the Sopranos(Gigi Cestone) and many movies. He was from Ten Hills.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Get in the Trunk!



This article was first published on April 2, 2008.

A lot of us remember going to the drive-in to see a movie. I can even

recall going there in my pajamas. I remember my Uncle Joe Galli taking us to the drive-in to see The Blob. It's one of my fondest childhood memories and we often bring it up at family gatherings. As soon as one of us kids got their license to drive, it was an overstuffed junk-box, full

of your buddies, heading to the drive-in.

The ones we went to the most were either The Meadow Glen or Medford Twin (Wellington?). Remember driving up over the bumps to get a good spot close to the screen? How many of you actually hid in the trunk to sneak in? Back then there was less space in the trunks of cars because most had full-sized spare tires.

I did some research (a call to my friend Charlie), and it went like this: at first, they charged by the person and then in later years, by the carload. We stared hiding in the trunk when they started charging by the person – when Continued on page 13



Somerville -Cambridge - Boston Saturday, August 14 10:00AM - 4:00PM

JOIN US for a Celebration of Makers, Creativity, and Fab Technology!

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Candidate responses to Fair Housing questionnaire – Part I

The Somerville Fair Housing Commission asked a series of six questions of the mayoral and City Council candidates concerning housing issues in the city. We are presenting answers here from the mayoral candidates of two questions presented to them. The answers from the City Council candidates can be found on our website (www.thesomervilletimes. com) following these mayoral candidates answers. The questions were presented to all of the candidates, and the answers presented here were the ones received by the Commission. The remaining four questions and answers will be published in the weeks to come.

Question 1:

Have you ever seen or personally experienced discrimination in housing (either in renting, buying, or getting a mortgage)? What did you observe, how did you handle it, and how did you feel about it?

Katjana Ballantyne, Candidate for Mayor

My personal experience, with housing discrimination includes more than twenty years of work with people living in vulnerable communities who are often denied housing unfairly. I've seen the hardship caused by discrimination in housing first hand and in response I've volunteered, advocated, worked and legislated solutions to make access to safe housing affordable and fair. I've volunteered and worked in neighborhood development corporations, and as an elected official, to help my neighbors to have better access to education and job opportunities so that they would, in turn have access to safer housing, to food security and affordable living costs. In 2001 I began what would become two decades of working for social equity, including housing as a human right, when I started working at Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation (JPNDC) to help residents of vulnerable, urban communities to have access to job training, jobs and career ladders. I continued this work as a volunteer member, a board member and as the board president of Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) where I also advocated and worked to create affordable housing and to provide programs to give residents better access to jobs, job training, housing and food security.

In eight years as an elected official, as an alderman, as a councilor and as the president of the city council, I have sponsored, supported and voted for many initiatives to make housing and Somerville more affordable such as, Inclusionary Zoning requiring 25% affordable units in new housing development, The 2000 Homes Program, The Ordinance for Condo Conversion, The Office of Housing Stability, The Jobs Creation and Retention Trust Fund, The Talent Equity Playbook, The Community Land Trust, the work of the Fair Housing Commission and more. As mayor, I will continue my leadership on these and more initiatives to make housing more affordable and more fairly accessible.

Mary Cassesso, Candidate for Mayor

While I personally have not experienced discrimination in housing, I have worked at the State's Housing Office and in safety-net services for decades and have heard countless stories of discrimination from people of color being discriminated. I want to help ensure that there is equity, inclusiveness, and fairness, as well as support services from nonprofit agencies and the City so that anyone who lives in Somerville will have access to affordable housing. This is why I have served on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for several decades. We created programs that can assist on issues of mediation and wrap-around housing services. The City's Housing Stability office has enriched resources available as has nonprofit agencies like CAAS and the Homeless Coalition to provide assistance and support to low-income and diverse families seeking housing assistance.

Will Mbah, Candidate for Mayor

I have been a victim of housing discrimination before. I do not want to go into personal details, but this past year I was forced to leave the apartment my family and I were renting.

Question 2:

What do you think are the most common forms of housing discrimination in Somerville?

Katjana Ballantyne, Candidate for Mayor

The most common reasons for being denied housing in Somerville are economic, which disproportionately effect immigrant communities, people of color, and people with disabilities. Local market rates for housing, even during the past year of the COVID19 pandemic and quarantine, exceed what many people with disabilities and low-income, and middle-income earning residents and their families can afford. The local, market rate for housing is driven by renters

who are often unrelated, young professionals or students who can pay a high price to rent for the short time they need to live here, usually two to four years, and sometimes less. Households, with only two wage-earners, and especially single-parent households simply cannot afford to pay what a group of unrelated young professionals or students can pay.

Other reasons for being denied housing in Somerville are that the existing, older rental stock, does not accommodate people with disabilities. The stock is old and built on a variety of grades. There are very limited opportunities for "zero step entry" or handicap parking. Retro-fitting for accessibility is often cost-prohibitive for home-owners.

Given the barriers mentioned above, residents in vulnerable communities, often people of color, women-lead households and immigrants with language barriers have a more difficult, if not impossible challenge to find willing landlords and reasonable prices to rent in Somerville. There are still predatory practices happening in Somerville, and some absentee landlords who rent poorly maintained housing to vulnerable renters, undocumented households and service workers in Somerville. Predatory practices harm all of us, with the majority expense and harm born by renters.

Mary Cassesso, Candidate for Mayor

In addition to issues of discrimination and systemic racism, the Somerville market is competitive and favors folks who can pay the premium amount for housing, which tends to be highly-educated young professionals. The premium housing costs are out of reach for families and individuals that may not have well-paying jobs with benefits. Overcrowded housing situations and lack of good-paying jobs with benefits contributed to the impact of COVID rates among the most vulnerable. Property owners have no lack of prospective renters so they are less likely to accept prospective renters so they are less likely to accept Section and vouchers. In addition, the high market demand can create situations where families may be evicted so owners can collect higher rents.

Will Mbah, Candidate for Mayor

We need to understand that racism and discrimination are deeply embedded within our society and as a result people of color are often denied housing. But it does not end at race, there are several other groups landlords and property managers discriminate against. People are often discriminated against because of their national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, age, source of income, disability, sex, if they are pregnant, or veteran status.

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Enjoy the outdoors at South Street Farm

By Rachael M. Hines

For those looking to spend time outdoors while the weather remains warm, Groundwork Somerville welcomes all to enjoy Somerville's very own Urban Farm at 138 South St. Currently, the space is open for volunteers, picnics, or touring from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,

on Saturdays between July and October.

Groundwork Somerville is a nonprofit organization dedicated to achieving a higher quality of life for Somerville residents through community engagement, environmental and open space improvements, fresh food access, youth education, and employment initiatives.

Groundwork Somerville regularly hosts volunteers, from their "cleaning and greening" events to clean up the city, to our drop-in farm volunteers on Wednesdays and Saturdays. More information can be found on the Groundwork Somerville website: https:// groundworksomerville.org/ get-involved/volunteer.





'Sweet 16: Onward & Fluffward'

CONT. FROM PG 1

festival that is safe for all in attendance.

According to their website, attributes necessary for the job are friendly, dynamic, organized, and full of love for Somerville and Marshmallow Fluff. The leaders will be paid a stipend of \$1,500 for their work and will be expected to work 10-15 hours a week.

Last year, the festival was held remotely due to pandemic precautions. The videos from their live stream can still be seen on their website. This year the festival will still look different from years past.

Before the pandemic, the street was shut down to drivers, and people were invited to walk around Union Square with activities in the street. This year, select businesses around the square will open their doors to Fluff Festival goers with new dishes from restaurants incorporating Fluff into their menu. People are also invited to explore street installations inspired by Fluff "to engage with art and each other."

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. And if you are not ready for the job, stop by the festival on Wednesday, September 22 through Sunday, September 26 in Union Square for Marshmallow Fluff galore. For more information and to apply, go to: https://www.unionsquaremain. org/flufffestival.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #128

Light Cream, Heavy Cream and Ice Cream

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

This article was first published on May 3, 2017

Eating something cold and refreshing on a sweltering hot day isn't an original idea. The Chinese indulged in flavored ice chips thousands of years ago. Later the Romans flavored ice gathered from the mountains. Explorer Marco Polo brought back eastern ice cream recipes to Italy in the late 1200's. This introduced the first Italian slush and French royal frozen creams to Europe. Considered a rich man's dessert, nobility kept their ice cream ingredients a secret. It wasn't until the early 1700's that sherbets began taking root in America.



It has been said that there are two types of people on earth: those who love ice cream and liars. At one time, the chant during the warm season in Somerville and beyond was, "I scream. You scream. We all scream for ice cream." It was a time when limited flavors and a minimal choice of toppings were the norm.

It was before Steve Herrell broke the ice cream ceiling by adding customized "fix-ins" to his homemade Somerville creations. Steve's novel ice cream approach so popularized Davis Square and beyond, that waiting lines of up to two hours were common. Future owner, Somerville's Joey Crugnale, who was also the founder of Joey's Ice Cream in Teele Square, later expanded Steve's Ice Cream. Crugnale was also the creator of Bertucci's restaurants.



Light cream, heavy cream, and ice cream ... they all found room along Milk Row in early Somerville's dairy history. This was the name for the path through Union Square. At first, it was called the road to Cambridge, connecting Charlestown Neck with Harvard University. Today it is known as Washington Street, named after the first leader of our nation. General George Washington raised the first American flag on Prospect Hill on Continued on page 11

Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. There were no roll call votes in the House or Senate last week. This week, Beacon Hill Roll Call reports local senators' roll call attendance records for the 2021 session through August 6.

The Senate has held 74 roll calls so far in 2021. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* tabulates the number of roll calls on which each senator votes and then calculates that number as a percentage of the total roll call votes held. That percentage is the number referred to as the roll call attendance record.

More senators have 100 percent roll call attendance records so far this year than in recent memory. Thirty-nine of the 40 members did not miss any roll calls and have 100 percent roll call attendance records. This can be attributed to the fact that under emergency rules adopted because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the vast majority of the 40 senators are not in the Senate chamber during a session. Most are watching and listening to the session from their home or business and voting remotely. Senators' votes are communicated to Senate officials during the session or prior to the session if senators are informed in advance that there will be a roll call vote.

The number of senators who had 100 percent roll call attendance records in the prior four years was 33 in 2020, 28 in 2019; 20 in 2018; 24 in 2017; and 17 in 2016.

It is a Senate tradition that the Senate president only votes occasionally. Senate President Karen Spilka follows that tradition and only voted on 35 of the 74 roll calls while not voting on 39 of them.

Sen. Spilka's office did not respond to repeated requests by *Beacon Hill Roll Call* to comment on her voting record.

We specifically asked if Spilka was in the Statehouse building for all the formal and informal sessions; how the tradition developed that the president rarely votes; has she ever thought of breaking that tradition and being recorded on all roll calls; and how does she choose on which roll calls she will vote?

If a member wants to speak on an issue under consideration, they do so on a separate "debate phone line" and their voice is then heard in the Senate chamber and by anyone watching the broadcast online.

2021 SENATE ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE RECORDS THROUGH AUGUST 6, 2021

The percentage listed next to the senator's name is the percentage of roll call votes on which the senator voted. The number in parentheses represents the number of roll calls that he or she missed.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen 100 percent (0)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

POSSIBLE 2022 and 2024 BALLOT QUESTIONS

- Sponsors of possible ballot questions for the November 2022 and November 2024 election faced their first deadline in the long process to get their proposed law or constitutional amendment on the ballot. Sponsors had until August 4 to submit the proposal and the signatures of 10 citizens.

There were 30 initiative petitions filed with Attorney General Maura Healey's office, including 28 proposed laws and two proposed constitutional amendments. Healey will decide by September 1 if the proposals pass muster and meet constitutional requirements.

If a proposal for a law is certified by Healey, the next step is for supporters to gather 80,239 certified voter signatures by December 1, 2021. The proposal would then be sent to the Legislature and if not approved by May 4, 2022, proponents must gather another 13,374 signatures by July 6, 2022, in order for the question to appear on the November 2022 ballot.

The process for the proposed two constitutional amendments is different, requiring approval by at least 25 percent of both the 2021-2022 and 2023-2024 Legislature. in order to appear on the November 2024 ballot.

Proposed laws include requiring paper ballots to be used and hand-counted in all Bay State elections; legalizing the sale of consumer fireworks; requiring the state to make legal assistance available in eviction proceedings; permitting restaurants and bars to hold "happy hours" during which some alcoholic drinks are free or the price is reduced; banning smoking of tobacco products, marijuana, electronic and/or battery operated cigarette or vaporize devices in multi-living units; requiring voters to show an ID before voting; requiring that if a child is born alive, all reasonable steps, in keeping with good medical practice, must be taken to preserve his or her life; providing a tax credit for taxpayers who buy zero-emission vehicles, heating systems or home solar-powered electricity; making it a felony to target a person's ability to make a living by posting on social media and or other media platforms; and banning the teaching of critical race theory in schools by "prohibiting any teacher from presenting the nation's history to his or her students with the specific intent of making students feel personally responsible, at fault or liable, either individually or as a member of a racial or ethnic group, for the actions or omissions of others."

One of the proposed constitutional amendments declares that corporations are not people and do not have the same rights as individuals and that money is not free speech and may be regulated. That amendment is in response to the Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission, which allows corporations to donate an unlimited amount of money to Super PACs that are formed to support or oppose candidates. The PAC is not allowed to communicate directly with the candidate or his or her campaign.

See the complete list of possible ballot questions at https://www.mass.gov/service-details/current-ballot-initiatives-filed

RESTRICT RECORDING OF NEIGHBOR'S BACKYARD (H 1783) – The Judiciary Committee held a virtual hearing on legislation that would allow a person to sue a neighbor if the neighbor records the activities in the person's backyard without the written consent of the person and "with intent to harass, annoy or alarm the person or with intent to threaten the person or property of another person." Supporters said the bill excludes front yards and side yards as those often face public ways and have a lesser assumption of privacy than does a backyard.

"I filed this bill after personally observing a situation where a homeowner's neighbor's cameras egregiously and abusively filmed his backyard," said sponsor Rep. Joe McKenna (R-Webster). "Those cameras provided no discernible purpose to secure the property, they were pointed directly into the abutting property's backyard only. The bill allows one who feels victimized in such situations to pursue private action, to sue in civil court, if reasonable measures to

resolve the issue have been taken with no result."

"To be sure, I understand and defend a homeowner's right to film and record their own property for the purpose of providing security and protection of their family and property," continued McKenna. "However, that right should not extend beyond one's own property lines and should not infringe upon one's neighbor's rights to feel safe and secure in their private backyards."

ALLOW RESTAURANTS TO SELL FRESH PRODUCE AND MEATS (H 411) – Allows Massachusetts restaurants to sell fresh produce, meats and other whole foods as long as they adhere to all federal, state and local health and safety laws regarding the sale.

"A study conducted by the Pioneer Institute last year estimated that as many as 3,600—or 22.5 percent—of Massachusetts restaurants would not be able to survive the economic impact of COVID-19," said the bill's sponsor House Republican Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "I filed [the bill] to give struggling restaurants an alternative means of generating more business and revenue during the pandemic so they could maintain their workforce and keep their doors open. As we continue to deal with the unprecedented fallout of the coronavirus, we need to continue to consider all possible options to help protect jobs and ensure a strong economic recovery."

"Family members who are left to pick up the pieces after a loved one has passed on should not have to deal with cancellation fees from the TV or phone provider of their loved one," said sponsor Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth). "They have enough to sort through and they certainly don't need to be nickel and dimed by larger corporations."

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 August 2-6, the House met for a total of one hour and 29 minutes while the Senate met for a total of one hour and nine minutes.

the Senate met for a to	tai of one flour and finite finitutes.
Mon. Aug. 2	House 11:00 a.m. to 12:11 p.m. Senate 11:19 a.m. to 12:24 p.m.
Tues. Aug. 3	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Aug. 4	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Aug 5	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. Senate 11:06 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.
Fri. Aug. 6	No House session No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Our View Of The Times



It comes as no surprise to practically everyone that we are firmly in the midst of another political season, rife with yard signs, door hangers, door knockers, cold calls, and all the rest that comes with it.

This year is more than a little busier than usual, what with a new mayor being elected and several seats on the City Council up for grabs as well. So, all the usual heavy saturation of candidate promotion is that much more intensified and multiplied.

We are also being treated to a number of candidate forums and media profiles that help shed light on the policies and the personalities of those who are running for office.

These are fine and good, but many are hoping to see actual debates between the contenders as the election days draw nearer. Presentations of polished biographies are one thing, but seeing how candidates handle themselves in off-the-cuff, freestyle debate situations.

Many bold proposals and initiatives for change in our city are being put forward by some of these candidates. They should be compelled to explain the details of their implementation, the budgeting, the real impact on the community, etc.

Perhaps the best way to get at these details is to put the candidates into a debate format. One contender challenging the other to justify and sell their ideas to the voters. Not only does the public get a better idea of how viable these proposals are, but they also get a glimpse into the depth and quality of character of those who would lead our city.

After all, this is what it's all about.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

the best day ever! Happy birthday to Brandon Wilson, the Executive Director of the Somerville Preservation Commission. We wish her a very nice day. Happy birthday to Donna Cassaro-Sides. We hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to Courtney O'Keefe of Ward 5, we wish her a great birthday. We wish all of our celebrating Facebook friends, such as Trish Bean Oakland, James Bimbo, Savanna Payne, Elizabeth Roche, Victor Martins, Joseph Amaral Sr., Caas Staff and Adam Knight a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

The deadline to register to vote or update your party affiliation or address for the September 14 preliminary election is Wednesday, August 25, at 8:00 p.m. Massachusetts voters have the option to register online or via a paper form. To register by mail, you can call (617) 625-6600 ext. 4200 and request a form be mailed to you, or you can download one from the Elections website. Don't forget that your form must be returned to the Somerville Elections Department by 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25.

The Somerville High Class of 1961 is holding their 60th reunion on September 28, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Seasons 52, 6 Wayside Rd., Burlington. The cost is \$40, you can mail checks to SHS Class of 1961 c/o 30 Murray Hill Rd., Cambridge, MA, 02140.

The City of Somerville Elections Department is hiring polling place workers for the municipal elections on September 14 and November 2, 2021. Polling place workers will be paid \$200 per day and work from 6:30 a.m. until shortly after the polls close at 8:00 p.m., with a two-hour break. You must be a registered Massachusetts voter to work at a polling place. No prior experience necessary. Email personnel@somervillema. gov or call 617-625-6600 ext. 3300 to learn more today.

Enjoy a night at the **Summer Movie Se**-

ries. Wild Hope and Marion Stoddard: The Work of 1,000 will be shown on **Thursday, August 12**, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Somerville Community Growing Center, 22 Vinal Ave. Bring a picnic dinner, and join others in watching two inspirational short films that will excite and energize, provoke conversation, stimulate actions, and connect viewers to the ways that we can restore nature as we fight climate change for our children's future. This event is co-hosted by Mothers Out Front, Massachusetts Healthy Soil, Livable Future Action Group and the Somerville Community Growing Center. Walk, bike or carpool if possible. Parking is limited.

The City of Somerville's Economic Development Division recently published its second Diversity Catalog, which highlights women-, minority-, veteran-, and LGBTQIA-owned businesses in the city. The Diversity Catalog can be found at www.somervillema.gov/diversitycatalog. The catalog serves as a marketing tool for Somerville businesses that want to offer their products and services to customers throughout the region and the information gathered to create it helps Economic Development

staff design business support programs that meet the needs of local businesses. For more information about the Diversity Catalog, contact **Daniela Carrillo**, Economic Development Assistant, at dcarrillo@somervillema.gov.

Visit the Somerville Community Growing Center for *Photography in the Garden*. Artist Reception with Iaritza Menjivar, Sunday, August 15, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., 22 Vinal Ave. First Generation, a photography exhibition from photographer Menjivar about family life will be "popping" in the Growing Center for the month of August. Menjivar will be exhibiting newer work made before and during quarantine. Join in for an artist reception. In the event of rain, there will be a virtual reception/tour of the exhibit.

Groundwork Somerville is excited to announce their 2021 South St. Farm Open Hours. Stop by any Saturday between July and September, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., 138 South St., and check out Somerville's very own urban farm. This time is set aside for our community to tour the farm, enjoy the green space, volunteer, or have a picnic. No registration is required, just come by. Continued on page 9

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's oms lio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

1. In which sport would a pommel horse be used?

8. Which member

phobia?

2. What are the three main kinds of lightning?

Who died in 1978? 9. Melrose Place was

of the rock band The

3. Who is the show Everyone Hates Chris all about?

a spin-off of which popular TV show?

4. What nut is used to make marzipan?

10. What is the official drink of the state of Ohio?

5. What is the fear of mirrors called?

11. Where is the headquarters for Porsche cars?

6. Taylor Swift grew up on what type of farm?

12. What's the more common name of thyroid cartilage?

7. What is Catagelo-

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5

9

4

promo code N7017

5

6

CRUISE & TOUR

4

Answers on page 11

2

6

6

SUDOKU

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. A cow gives nearly 200,000 glasses of milk in her lifetime.

2. In every episode of Seinfeld there is a Superman somewhere.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD FOOTBALL

ACROSS

1. Sports analyst, ex-wide receiver Randy

5. Dashboard acronym

8. Depth of an end zone, in yards

11. Fencing blade

12. Weight not charged for

13. Young hog

15. Witnessed

16. Aroma

17. Nary a soul

18. Line of _

20. Spanish earthen pot

21. Pinocchio and the like

22. Bean house

23. Antonym of descent

26. Cycle taxi

30. Greek "t"

31.50-50

34. Not happening

35. Newbies

37. Bert Bobbsey's twin

38. Like a neon sign

39. "Clueless" catch phrase

40. Not a desktop

42. Metal-bearing mineral

43. "Chim Chim Cher-ee" setting

45. Relating to nose

47. Actors' group

48. Sink hole

50. Golf club handle

52. 3-point score

56. Make a canyon, e.g.

57. Not written

58. Racing sled

59. "Purple People _____" song, inspiration for Vikings defensive line name

60. Like H. C. Andersen's duckling

61. Poet Pound

62. AFC counterpart

63. Dreaming stage of sleep

64. Daytime entertainment

DOWN

8

9

6

1. Hodgepodge

2. Oil cartel

3. Palm reader, e.g.

35			36			37				38				
39					40				41			42		
43				44					45		46			
			47				48	49						
	50	51				52						53	54	55
56						57	T				58			
59						60					61			
62	\vdash	\vdash				63	\vdash	\vdash			64	\vdash	\vdash	\vdash

CROSSWORD

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4. Old and mentally infirm

5. Weather-related Doppler tool

GUARANTEE

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6. Programs, for short

7. Insignificant

8. Hammer or sickle

9. Europe's highest volcano

10. Born, in bio

12. Marinara fruit

13. Ornamental hair net

14. Grabbing penalty

19. Breath freshener

22. Pre-game encouragement

23. Rose oil

24. One's assertion

25. Collectible in a cabinet

26. Fourth down option

27. Colonoscopy tract

28. Ancient assembly area

29. B in IBS

32. Start of a football play

33. Goo on a trunk

36. Scrimmage-related penalty

190 CHANNELS

dish 🛖

38. Plant louse

40. Yule firewood

41. By word of mouth

44. Candle shape

46. English in Spanish

48. Mourner's song

49. Camelot, to Arthur

50. Tennis great Steffi

51. College officer-training prog.

52. Number of downs to get a first

53. Anis-flavored aperitif

54. Site of Taj Mahal

55. Lambeau Field jump

56. Poetic "even""

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

TOWNS TO THE THEORY SHOULD SHADE												
2	5	3	7	8	9	1	6	4				
1	7	6	5	4	3	9	2	8				
9	8	4	2	1	6	7	3	5				
7	3	8	6	5	1	4	9	2				
6	9	2	3	7	4	5	8	1				
5	4	1	8	9	2	6	7	3				
4	1	7	9	3	8	2	5	6				
3	2	5	1	6	7	8	4	9				
8	6	9	4	2	5	3	1	7				

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

0	O	С	Α	М		Α	Р	R			R	Α	Ν	Т
Α	Τ	0	L	_		F	Т	Ε		S	0	Ν	Α	R
S	Α	L	0	Ν		ш	Ш	O		0	В	Е	S	Ε
Т	0	D	0	Ν	0	W		Т	Н	Ι	S	W	Α	Υ
			F	0	В		В	0	0	R				
S	Р	Α		8	Π	Ν	0		Р	Е	C	Α	N	S
Н	0	N	Ε		Т	Α	Z	G		Е	L	В	0	W
Ι	D	Ε	Α		S	М	Ε	Α	R		0	В	0	Ε
Ζ	-	Ν	Т	Ι		ш	ם	U	Е		G	Е	Ν	Ε
Н	Α	Т	S	_	Ν		R	Α	Z	G		Υ	Е	Т
				H	Ι	D	Υ		Е	R	Α			
Г	Α	S	Α	┙	L	Е		Т	V	0	F	Е	Е	Т
С	Ν	Т	Ι	Е		В	\supset	Υ		Α	0	R	Т	Α
S	Т	Α	R	R		H	S	Ρ		Т	0	Ν	Α	L
Н	Ε	R	S			S	Α	Е		S	Т	Е	Ĺ	Е

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8

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

 $Solution\ in\ the\ next\ edition\ of\ The\ Somerville\ Times.$

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.

Addressing climate change through cleaner transportation



By Rep. Christine P. Barber 34th Middlesex District

With this July being the wettest in Massachusetts history, wildfires raging in California, and the dire study from UN climate scientists declaring a climate emergency, we must tackle climate change through aggressive, urgent action. The Massachusetts House and Senate took an important step recently by passing the Next Generation Climate Roadmap over the veto of Governor Baker earlier this year. This law sets targets to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and defines environmental justice protections in state law, among other policies like new standards for home construction and heating. While this was an overdue and critically important step, more that must be done, centered on those most harmed by climate change.

Climate change is a health

issue, an equity issue and an economic issue. Climate change deepens health disparities for people of color and low-income communities. Residents of color are exposed to 26-36 percent more pollution from vehicle emissions compared to the exposure of white residents. Work on climate change must focus on the most-impacted communities.

At the same time, we continue to grapple with COVID-19, which has also increased inequities. People of color have higher rates of contracting COVID-19. Those who were most impacted by the pandemic are often those who suffer the gravest consequences of poor air quality and noise pollution.

Improving transportation is a critical way to tackle climate change, and to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Transportation is the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts. Yet we must center changes on people who live in housing closest to highways, those who cannot afford to have cars, and those who cannot afford to live near public transit.

I am taking these issues on

through four bills I filed to prioritize transportation and climate change. We have an opportunity for a cleaner public transportation system, decreasing our carbon footprint and cleaning air in communities hardest hit by climate change and COVID.

H.3559, An Act relative to public transit electrification will electrify public transit buses for both the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) and Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) and electrify commuter rails, with a priority on routes that travel through environmental justice neighborhoods. To further decrease greenhouse gas emissions, I filed a companion bill, H.3255 An Act to promote electric vehicle fleets by 2035. This bill requires that all municipal and state vehicle fleets (like public works vehicles, school buses and garbage trucks) be electric by 2035 and prioritizes fleets in locations serving environmental justice communities. Cleaner public transit and public vehicles in our communities provide a solution to improve health and reduce air pollution, rooted in equity, that will benefit residents of the Commonwealth.

Too often, construction of highways and unfair housing policies have forced more residents of color and low-income people to live close to high-polluting roads and to breathe polluted air, both indoors and outdoors. H.969 An Act establishing the monitoring of ultrafine particulates, filed with Representative Adrian Madaro, requires the Department of Environmental Protection to monitor particulate matter and require projects to report on air quality impacts. Currently there is little to no regulation of ultrafine particulate matter, though we know exposure to these particles, even in small doses, increases asthma and cardiovascular issues.

Air pollution in our Somerville and Medford neighborhoods is largely from particulate matter created by motor vehicle transportation. Through extensive work by the local CAFEH study, we know that the closer to busy roads or highways, the greater the exposure to particulate matter. To improve both indoor and outdoor air quality in environmental justice communities (including in Somerville and Medford), I filed with

Senator Patricia Jehlen and Representative Mike Connolly H.2230/S.1447 An Act to Improve Outdoor and Indoor Air Quality for Communities Burdened by Transportation Pollution. By improving outdoor air quality in areas with high pollution, requiring air filters in existing buildings near congested roadways and rail infrastructure, and requiring air filters in all new buildings, we take concrete steps to improve health outcomes in communities that have been plagued by pollution.

Tackling climate change must be rooted in community-based solutions and focus on those most impacted by pollutants. These bills provide tangible ways to transform Massachusetts's transportation carbon emissions while prioritizing the health harms created by environmental toxins in our communities. These are solutions that improve air quality across the Commonwealth, and promote safer and more sustainable transportation infrastructure. We need to make significant changes to address climate change and create greater equity, and let's continue to work together in that fight.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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

The **Somerville Flea** kicked off their 10th year in **Davis Sq.** on **Sunday**, **August 1**, at 10:00 a.m., 56 Holland St. The best local vintage purveyors and artisans are back. Come on out and support them

after a year-long hiatus. Shop local!

The City of Somerville's annual Somer-Movie Fest returns this year with a series of seven family-friendly films being shown in parks around Somerville. Screenings begin at sundown and the remaining schedule is as follows Thursday, August 12, Black Panther, Baxter State Park; Thursday, August 19, Guardians of the Galaxy, Seven Hills Park. While attendees are not required to wear masks, anyone who is not fully vaccinated is advised to wear one whenever they are in a crowd.

Walk-in vaccinations are available at multiple locations: You now can get a COVID-19 vaccination without having to pre-register or make an appointment. There are walk-in vaccination sites all around Somerville, and just outside

it as well. Cambridge Health Alliance vaccine clinics have larger supplies of doses and can vaccinate kids ages 12 -17. You do not need to be a CHA patient to use these clinics. They are free and open to all. Local CVS pharmacies and the **Stop & Shop** on McGrath Hwy. are also offering walk-in vaccines. Local **Walgreens pharmacies** require a brief pre-registration, but can process people quickly if they have open slots and you walk in. Here are the CHA walk-in sites: CHA Somerville Vaccine Center at 176 Somerville Avenue in Somerville, Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tufts University Gantcher Center at 161 College Ave. in Medford, Wed - Thurs. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Encore Boston Harbor at 1 Broadway Center in Everett, Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Help support your neighbors through the Somerville Cares Fund. If you're lucky enough to have some extra money, please consider a donation to the Somerville Cares Fund. This donation-based fund provides direct assistance to Somerville residents, workers, and parents of school children so that they can cover basic expenses like housing, food, and utility bills. If you're unable to donate you can still help by sharing information about the Somerville Cares Fund with your friends and family.

Don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a digital edition of our paper, go directly online to our website over to the right side and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.

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SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY 30 Memorial Road Somerville, Massachusetts 02145 Telephone (617) 625-1152

Request for Proposals-Rooftop Antennas

1.INTRODUCTION

This Request for Proposal is issued by the Somerville Housing Authority (herein after the "Authority") to solicit proposals for the lease of available rooftop and penthouse space. These spaces are available for the installation and operation of communication facilities. These facilities are not limited to ,Cellular Telephone, Personal Communication Systems, Paging , Land Mobile Radio, and Internet Antenna's. The lease of these spaces will be on a non exclusive basis.

2. PREMISES TO BE LEASED

The Authority has rooftop and penthouse space for lease at **27 College Ave.** in Somerville, Ma. Included in this document is a layout of the roof at this site. Specific locations on the roof or penthouse for installation of equipment will be viewed in the field and negotiated as such

3. LEASE TERM

Lease Terms are negotiable.

4. LEASE RATES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULES

The monthly rent is subject to negotiation as is the yearly escalator.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- A. Respondent must have been in business for at least five years.
- B. Respondents must supply a list of references complete with Names of Owners and locations of other sites where they currently lease rooftop space for antenna equipment.
- C. Respondents must supply a monthly rental rate for proposed installed equipment, an annual escalator and a length of lease.
- Installed equipment, an annual escalator and a length of lease.
 Respondents must include in their bid a full description of antenna equipment to be installed including space mounting

6. RFP Packages are available by email from BrianL@sha-web.org as of Thursday August 5th, at 11:00 AM.

RFP's will be received by email to BrianL@sha-web.org by <u>September</u> 8th, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

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2. PREMISES TO BE LEASED

The Authority has rooftop and penthouse space for lease at **15 Weston Ave.** in Somerville, Ma. Included in this document is a layout of the roof at this site. Specific locations on the roof or penthouse for installation of equipment will be viewed in the field and negotiated as such

3. LEASE TERM

Lease Terms are negotiable.

4. LEASE RATES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULES

The monthly rent is subject to negotiation as is the yearly escalator.

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8/4//21, 8/11/21 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICE:

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of **CURTIS LEE STREALY**, please contact Attorney Justin Bo West between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00p.m., Monday thru Friday, 521 E. Main Street, Suite A, Ville Platte, LA 70586 or call (337) 363-0484.

6/30//21, 8/11/21 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



BID

ADVERTISEMENT

The **Somerville Housing Authority** invites bids from contractors for the 705-1 Fountain Ave. Asphalt Roof Replacement Project and all other incidental work necessary to complete the project.

The Project consists of: The removal and disposal existing asphalt roofing and installing new ice and water shield ,replacing any damaged sheathing and installing new 50 year asphalt shingles. Work is estimated to cost \$15,000.00

Bids are subject to prevailing wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.l49 \$\$26 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until 11:00 p.m., Thursday August 19th, 2021. Email submissions only will be accepted.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available by emailing BrianL@sha-web.org on or after August 5th,2021 at 11:00 August 5th,2021</a

The Project site will be available for inspection on **Wednesday August** 11th,10:00 AM at 6 Fountain Ave. Somerville,Ma.

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

The Somerville Housing Authority reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any and all bids, or to waive any informalities in the bidding. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after approval of the award by the Somerville Housing Authority without written consent of the Somerville Housing Authority.

8/4//21, 8/11/21 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue Somerville MA 02143

The City of Somerville's Urban Design Commission will hold the following schedule of bi-weekly Tuesday evening meetings through the remainder of 2021.

August 24, 2021 September 14, 2021 September 28, 2021 October 12, 2021 October 26, 2021 November 9, 2021 November 23, 2021 December 7, 2021 December 21, 2021

Meeting notices identifying the time, hyperlink, and agenda for each meeting are posted to the City of Somerville's online calendar at least two days prior to each meeting, unless the meeting is canceled. See https://www.somervillema.gov/events.

8/11/21 The Somerville Times

Police investigating shootings in Somerville

On Monday, August 9, around 11:00 p.m. shots were fired into a white SUV on Broadway in Somerville. The back of the vehicle had several bullet holes, and the windshield was shot out. No injuries were reported.

In a separate incident shot rang out near Myrtle St and Washington St. Residents were woken with the sound of gun shots being fired. When police arrived they found multiple bullet casings scattered on the street.

Both incidents took place around the same time. Somerville and State Police are investigating both incidents.



Building Committee debates design and community use for public safety building CONT. FROM PG 1

finishing up the schematic design phase of the public safety project.

"We've been spending the summer on schematic design, where you start to eliminate your options," Woods said.

According to Woods, the project division develops design options for the rest of the team to consider. The Context Architecture team creates floor plans and massing, while the technical team removes plans which are sub optimal for the end goals of the project. There is also a pricing exercise in schematic design to see if the project will work

with budget laid out in the capital investment plan.

"It's been very valuable to get this feedback from the Building Committee as we move forward and make this project a part of the city," said Jeff Shaw of Context Architecture.

According to Shaw, the take away for the previous design option were too massive for the designated parcels of land. The project team also has the goal of ensuring that the site has enough space for emergency and tunicle vehicles.

"We will conduct a feasibility study to see what it would be like to place garage for fitting all those vehicles," Shaw said.

The Context Architecture and Capital Projects team states that they prefer their design option E, which features a front facing "jewel box" for public meeting and community space.

"Personally, I do not like Option E, it is uninviting and tucked away from the public, without offering proper community space," said City Council Community Rep Bob Schofield. Schofield's concerns with regards to the planning map and

building size on adjacent parcels

A and C, areas which Commit-

tee Chair Woods says the Capital Projects plan will not have any jurisdiction over.

"My point here is that we're going to build the public safety building in an area where now we have less options in terms of space and community accessibility," Schofield said.

According to Woods and Director of Planning and Zoning Sarah Lewis, Schofield's concerns will be passed on to the director of the public process for what happens with parcels A and C.

There were also concerns if the public safety building would have proper staffing for the advanced technology and clean energy systems that will be installed within the facility.

"Are you honestly telling me right now that you have qualified personnel to help take care of a \$300 million investment?" Schofield asked.

The Building Committee stated that they were in the process of staffing maintenance for the facility.

The Committee is targeting September 13 for a community meeting with the goal of sharing design development and making residents aware of upcoming site work.

The Somerville Times -

Dorothy "Dottie" Danielson



DANIELSON. Dorothy "Dotty" (Lanza) Of Somerville, Massachusetts passed away peacefully at her home on August 5, 2021. Beloved mother of Maryann, Kathy,

Michael, Karen and Richard. Cherished grandmother of eleven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. And a devoted sister to her twin Rose Lewis. She opened her home to anyone that needed a place to stay. No words can describe how much Dotty will be missed by her family and friends. Visiting Hours: Visiting Hours will be held on Tuesday, August 10th from 4-7pm at the Anderson - Bryant Funeral Home, 4 Common Street, STONEHAM, MA.

OBITUARY

Jean F. (Carroll) Rossi



Jean F. (Carroll) Rossi, 86, of Gardner, died peacefully Friday, August 6, 2021, in Wachusett Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Gardner, after a long illness.

Born in Somerville on December 21, 1934, she was the daughter of the late George and Anna (Finn) Carroll. She graduated from Somerville High School with the Class of 1952. Jean was a Telephone Operator employed by Bill Atlantic - New England Telephone for several years until her retirement.

Jean loved crocheting and making many gifts for family and friends who she loved and treasured.

Jean is survived by her nieces and nephews, Gene Morrill and his wife Kathleen, Jim Morrill, Paul Carroll, Brian Carroll, Stephen Carroll, and Deborah Carroll; and several cousins.

She was predeceased by her husband Albert P. Rossi; and a son Michael Rossi.

Graveside Services will be held Thursday, August 12 2021, at 11:00 a.m. in Holy Cross Cemetery, 175 Broadway, Malden, MA.

Contributions Memorial may be made to Wachusett Rehabilitation and Nursing Center Activities Fund, 32 Hospital Hill Road, Gardner, MA 01440. Please reference in memory of Jean F. Rossi.

Boucher Funeral Home, Inc., 110 Nichols Street, Gardner, MA 01440, is handling the arrangements.

Boucherfuenral.com

City urges residents to access housing assistance now

Although both the federal and Somerville eviction moratoriums have been extended, Somerville is urging low- and moderate-income tenants and homeowners struggling to pay their housing costs to seek supports now to avoid later threats to their housing security.

"We are relieved that the CDC extended the federal eviction moratorium, and Somerville's local eviction moratorium also remains in place, but no one



should be waiting to seek help making rent or mortgage payments. Falling behind month-bymonth can make it difficult to catch up, and we don't know how long federal protections will continue beyond the current extension," said Fred Berman, Deputy Director of the Office of Housing Stability (OHS).

"There are various financial resources that we can help low- and moderate-income tenants and homeowners apply for, and it's best to contact us at the City's Office of Housing Stability sooner rather than later," continued Berman. "We can talk renters and owners through the available options and either directly assist with applying for rental or mortgage assistance, or refer to partnering nonprofits that can help."

Supports available to residents unable to make rent or mortgage payments can help with overdue payments as well as provide time-limited assistance with upcoming payments. These resources can prevent tenant evictions for non-payment of rent. They can also help landlords who otherwise might struggle to pay their mortgage and other bills without their customary rental income. Under the State's Eviction Diversion Initiative, many residents who might otherwise face eviction are now being referred directly to rental assistance programs rather than proceeding to trial.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure that Somerville residents don't lose their housing as a result of this pandemic," said Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone. "We have substantial funding available for struggling renters and homeowners thanks to the American Rescue Plan. We also have an entire Office of Housing Stability and partnering non-profits prepared to assist residents who need rental or mortgage assistance. Landlords and tenants don't need to be at odds over unpaid rent. We can help you solve this problem."

Somerville residents in need of assistance are urged to contact OHS at 617-625-6600 x2581 or fill out a referral form at somervillema.gov/ohs. The City has already leveraged more than \$2 million in rental assistance during the pandemic from local, state and federal sources.

The current Somerville eviction moratorium was recently renewed through September 15. It prevents eviction orders from being executed. While landlords may file notices to quit and seek court orders for evictions, low- and moderate-income Somerville tenants may not be removed from their homes while this important pandemic protection is in place. Similarly, low- and moderate-income Somerville homeowners who may have defaulted on their mortgage payments may not be ordered to leave their home pursuant to eviction or foreclosure orders.

With the influx of the Delta variant of the coronavirus, and with Middlesex County now considered to be at substantial risk for transmission of the variant, the City's Board of Health will meet again prior to the September 15 date to consider an extension of Somerville's general pandemic emergency declaration as well as an extension of the eviction moratorium. The federal eviction moratorium was recently extended through October 3, 2021, for counties with high or substantial COVID-19 transmission, which includes Middlesex County.

"Our mission is to make sure that everybody who needs help and is eligible for assistance gets that assistance," Berman said. "The amount of arrears should be no obstacle. We understand the application process can be difficult to navigate by yourself, so we're here to help. Whether you're sharing a household or you need help in a different language, we'll make sure you get the

Somerville residents who receive a "notice of levy" eviction order or who are experiencing a physical eviction should immediately contact 311 (617-666-3311) to be connected to Office of Housing Stability staff (for residential tenants or homeowners), and the Somerville Police Department as necessary, to intervene.

From page 8 Ms. Cam's Olio

- 1. Gymnastics
- 2. Thundercloud, heat lightning, dry lightning
- 3. Chris Rock
- 4. Almond
- 5. Catoptrophobia
- 6. Christmas tree farm

- 7. Fear of being ridiculed
- 8. Keith Moon
- 9. Beverly Hills, 90210
- 10. Tomato juice
- 11. Stuttgart, Germany
- 12. Adam's apple

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

January 1, 1776, the same day the American Army was formed here. Washington led the Army through eight long years of war, followed by eight years of leadership as our first American President.

In his retirement, Washington enjoyed many visits from friends, dignitaries and former soldiers that he fought beside. For these guests, a frozen surprise dessert was often served. It was called by its Americanized name, "ice cream." George liked the sugary treat to the point that he once spent \$200 in one year, or close to \$5,000 in today's money, to fill his sweet tooth. He also collected ice cream scoops and molds and purchased an ice cream maker.

Washington's wife, First Lady Martha, is popularly credited with the introduction of ice cream to America and established it as a standard presidential dessert. Forty presidents later, Ronald Reagan named July as National Ice Cream Month. This coming July 4th will be Somerville's 175th celebration of Independence Day and the nations 241st. Enjoy saluting her and our country with the founding fathers' and America's favorite dessert ... ice cream!

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ageless Grace Program – various dates – Ageless Grace is a fitness and wellness program consisting of 21 simple exercise tools designed for all ages and abilities. These exercises, based on everyday movements, focus on the healthy longevity of the body and mind. Classes are held bi-monthly in English and bi-monthly in Spanish via Zoom. Please contact Chris at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 or email ckowaleski@somervillema.gov with any questions or for additional information.

Outdoor Exercise Group –Mondays at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Each class will meet in front of the Holland Street Center at the flag pole and will incorporate stretching, strength training and balance exercises. All classes and groups will be limited to 8 participants and will follow City of Somerville social distancing and mask policy. Pre-registration is required. For additional info or to register for the above programs, contact Chris by email at ckowaleski@somervillema.gov or by phone at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315.

Walking Group – Fridays at 9:30 a.m. The walking group will meet in front of the Holland Street Center and will enjoy walks through area neighborhoods. All classes and groups will be limited to 8 participants and will follow City of Somerville social distancing and mask policy. Pre-registration is required. For additional info or to register for one of the above programs, contact Chris by email at ckowaleski@somervillema.gov or by phone at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315.

English Conversation – Every Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (Behind the Holiday Inn.) Meet people from all over the world as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – Just friendly conversation. This program is in person; pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please contact Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

Music & Movement – Thursday, August 19 at 3:30 p.m. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. Being physically active is not just

good for our bodies, but it is also one of Mental Health America's 10 tools to building resiliency; or the ability to overcome obstacles and manage through tough times. Physical activity can improve sleep, increase energy, decrease some kinds of pain, boast our immune systems and lower the risk for stroke and some cancers. It also helps to reduce our anxiety, depression, stress and tension. Join Steve as he shows us that exercise can come in all different forms and movements. This program is in person, pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at dhiggins@somervillema. gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321

Book Club – Friday, August 20 at 10:00 a.m. - Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. Our next book is The Hundred Secret Senses by Amy Tan. Book club's next meeting will be in person. Please contact Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317. This is an in person group. Please RSVP as space is limited.

ONGOING EVENTS

Taxi Rides - Do you need a ride? The COA has a program just for you. Taxi Rides for Somerville Residents 60 and Over Rides can be used for: Grocery Shopping in Somerville Pharmacy Prescription pick up in Somerville, Routine Medical Appointments in the follow areas: Somerville, Cambridge, Medford, Boston or the V.A. in Jamaica Plain or West Roxbury. Two Days Advanced Notice Required. For more info, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600, ext. 2319.

Friendly Caller Program - Looking for a way to practice social distancing but still remain connected to other people? Look no further than the Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly Phone Caller program. We have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

EXERCISE

VIRTUAL FIT-4-LIFE SCHEDULE

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Fit-4-Life YouTube

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hd26HjpwBI&t=68s

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwHfyoEZaws&t=247s

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcl2eBSS024&t=158s

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #4: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EDtaldYSz0

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #5: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAnwfwGybTI

OUTDOOR EXERCISE PROGRAM

Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

OUTDOOR WALKING GROUP

Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22

The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF EEbgF0&t=130s

Yoga with Janine video #3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zezcj9XXBU

For questions or to register for a Fit-4-Life Zoom exercise class, please contact Chris at CKowaleski@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

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Stay connected via our Facebook page - often updated by Debby or Maureen. Informative, entertaining, lots of photos and updates. Visit our page at https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCOA/

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If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter and daily tips please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at MBastardi@Somervillema.gov. If you would like to become part of our Google Group please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@ Somervillema.gov

Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in Kistery August 11

0991 – Danes under Olaf Tryggvason kill Ealdorman Byrhtnoth and defeat the Saxons at Maldon.

1792 – A revolutionary commune is formed in Paris, France.

1856 – A band of rampaging settlers in California kill four Yokut Indians. The settlers had heard unproven rumors of Yokut atrocities.

1929 – Babe Ruth hits his 500th major league home run against the Cleveland Indians.

1965 – A small clash between the California Highway Patrol and two black youths sets off six days of rioting in the Watts area of Los Angeles.

1972 - The last U.S. ground forces withdraw from Vietnam.

1984 – Carl Lewis wins four Olympic gold medals, tying the record Jesse Owens set in 1936.

2003 – Temperatures rise to 112 degrees Fahrenheit (44 degrees Celsius); over 140 people die in the heat wave.

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Get in the Trunk! CONT. FROM PG 3

they charged by the carload, I remember squeezing four people in the front and about eight in the back. We even used to sit on the hood and roof at times.

Remember the speaker, that faded and chipped silver monstrosity on the wire that crackled and squeaked. You had to move the car six times to maneuver it close enough to fit in the window, only to scratch the glass. I can't remember when the sound started being broadcast over your car radio. You were instructed to tune to AM 1520 or something like that to pick up the movie's audio.

When I was researching additional

information for this article, I went to driveins.com. In 1972, there were 83 operating drive-ins in Massachusetts. The ones nearest to us here in Somerville were: Fresh Pond, Suffolk Downs, Saugus, Revere, Neponset and of course the two in Medford. Some of the movies we may have seen at the drive in were Superfly, Bruce Lee in Fists of Fury and The Godfather.

We stood in long lines after watching the dancing and singing food in the concession stand commercial, only to eat that cardboard pizza and those rubber hot dogs. I believe it was the Meadow Glen drive-in that had that round, horse trough-like contraption in the men's room. The same guy who is responsible for the restrooms at the old Boston Garden, and Fenway Park probably designed it. Thanks for the

In the really early days, my brother and sister and I used to sit in the back of dad's '53 Chevy and hit the drive-in. I can actually remember standing up in the back seat while dad drove. There were no seat belt laws back then, but dad's arm use to swing back to protect us if there was a sudden stop. An occasional cigarette ash also made its way into the back seat. It's a miracle some us kids weren't blinded or

burnt by our parents smoking in the car when we were kids.

I seem to have a hazy recollection of standing around Fourth Street in Medford and actually seeing Chesty Morgan starring in Deadly Weapons. It brought new meaning to the term "Medford Twin." What were they thinking showing those kinds of trashy movies at a drive-in that was located in such a populated area?

Eventually beers replaced sodas, girlfriends replaced our buddies and the mall replaced the drive-in. One last thought before I close, be sure to replace the speaker before driving away.

Cohen promoted to Director of Adult Family Care

By Nathan Lamb

Longtime Somerville-Cambridge Elder Service (SCES) Social Worker Nina Cohen has been promoted to Director of the agency's Adult Family Care (AFC) program, effective August 1.

Cohen has been with SCES for 14 years, serving as a Protective Services Case Worker, Director of Protective Services and Social Work Manager for AFC during that time.

The promotion was announced on July 21 by SCES Executive Director Paul Hollings.

"I have known Nina in her current role in AFC, where her calm, insightful, informed, compassionate, and committed approach has earned her the respect and affection of her colleagues," said Hollings. "I know she will do a fabulous job as AFC Director."

AFC is a regional program that helps adults receive the best care at home, by providing training, compensation and ongoing support for friend and family caregivers.

In accepting the promotion, Cohen spoke highly of the compassionate and collaborative team culture established by her predecessor, Jeanne Leyden.

"Jeanne has built such a wonderful culture in the AFC program, and I am so excited to carry on that torch that she's passing on to me," said Cohen.

Leyden retired on July 31, after 21 years at SCES. In announcing her departure,

Hollings spoke highly of her many contributions.

"Jeanne led AFC to grow from a small program serving only a few people to one with 250 clients and caregivers; all the while insisting on maintaining quality standards and actively championing the right of our clients to continue to live in the community."

"Jeanne will always be remembered at SCES for the warmth of her personality," added Hollings. "She doesn't miss an opportunity to give a compliment or offer a hand in support. She cares deeply about people and it shows."

Leyden said her future plans include spending more time with children and grandchildren, traveling, and enjoying her



L to R: Newly appointed Director of SCES's Adult Family Care (AFC) program Nina Cohen and her predecessor, Jeanne Leyden.

home, deck, and flowers.

"I am also going to miss the great group that we have here, at Adult Family Care," said Leyden.

Adult Family Care is a regional program of Somerville-Cambridge

Elder Services that helps adults receive the best care at home across the Greater Boston Area, North Shore, and Merrimack Valley. For more information, visit adultfamilycare.org, email AFC@eldercare.org or call 617-440-0987.

Protect yourself from mosquitoes this summer

This summer's wet weather has created favorable conditions for increased mosquito breeding. Mosquitoes can spread diseases like EEE and West Nile Virus, so it's especially important to take steps to protect yourself and your household from mosquito bites.

Avoid mosquito bites

- Apply insect repellent when outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)], or IR3535 according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under 2 months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under 3 years of age.
- Be aware of peak mosquito hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur in the evening or early morning.
- Wear clothing that covers your skin. Wearing long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors can help prevent bites.

Mosquito-proof your home

- Drain standing water. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by draining or discarding items that hold water: Check rain gutters and drains, empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change the water in birdbaths frequently. Pet owners should eliminate standing water from containers such as water bowls, buckets, tires, and wading pools, especially after heavy rains.
- Install or repair screens. To keep mosquitoes outside, make sure you have tightly fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

To learn more, visit mass.gov/dph/mosquito or call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

Changes to Powder House Circle

A series of traffic changes will be installed in Powder House Circle later this month to make this high-crash intersection safer and more predictable for all users.

Description of Work: The antiquated rotary will be converted into a modern roundabout using low-cost "quick-build" materials like paint, signage, and flex posts. These changes will help inform the eventual large-scale reconstruction of the circle.

Here are some key elements of the new design:

- $\bullet \ \ One \ clearly \ marked \ circulating \ lane \ will \ clarify \ vehicle \ movements \ and \ reduce \ speeds.$
- Crosswalks to the center island will be removed, allowing for safer and more efficient pedestrian passage around the perimeter.
- Protected bike lanes will lead into and around the circle.
- Traffic signals will be turned off and bagged.
- Bus stops will be lengthened to MBTA standards and relocated to the outer edges of the roundabout. The inbound stop on Broadway @ College Ave. will be con solidated to provide better overall spacing between stops on Route 89.
- Parking spaces on Broadway and College Ave. closest to the intersection will be repurposed to accommodate relocated bus stops.

Work Schedule: Installation is expected to take place in stages from approximately mid-August through early September, based on weather and crew availability.

- Most work is expected to take place overnight.
- + Anticipated Impacts During Installation
- Traffic flow is expected to be largely maintained during work hours.
- One or two nights of elevated noise levels are expected when old pavement markings are removed, but most operations should not result in disruption beyond typical nightly traffic conditions.

To see the full design and learn more, visit somervillema.gov/PowderHouseCircle



A COMERVILLE edited by Doug Holder

A poem by the late Dianne Robitaille.

Heat Wave

August 26, 1998

In the dining room the candles

melt over themselves,

sticking to the dark

tabletop.

The heat presses on.

Large pictures look down

on the motionless room.

Humidity gathers,

suspended and still.

Little moves through

its blanketing mass:

The cat

behind the small floor fan

licks her paw

and reclines in submission.

She lies against the wallboards,

waiting for the coolness to reach

into her fur.

— Dianne Robitaille originally published in The Christian Science Monitor

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

OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Somerville Poet Dianne Robitaille passes

Dianne Robitaille, wife of Doug Holder, sister of Denise Robitaille, daughter of Edna Robitaille, and sister to Robert Robitaille, passed away at the age of 65. Dianne was a co-founder of the noted small poetry press Ibbetson Street founded in Somerville in 1998. For 23 years she helped with the editing and production of many books and magazines that the press put out. An accomplished poet in her own right; she had her work published in the Christian Science Monitor, Bellowing Arc, and many other publications. Dianne published only one collection of her own poetry Leaving Only Impressions, that is archived at the University at Buffalo Poetry Collection. She was the secretary of the New England Poetry Club, under the late Diana Der Hovanessian. Dianne was an accomplished nurse, working at Mass General Hospital, Mt. Auburn Hospital, McLean Hospital, and other agencies with diverse populations. Dianne was also an accomplished photographer and many of her shots



appeared on the cover of the poetry journal "Ibbetson Street," and in *The Somerville Times*.

Combat Cross awarded to Christopher Collette and Steven Johnson

On Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at approximately 7:42 p.m., Somerville E911 received a call stating that a person had been shot and the shooter was still on scene. Officers Christopher Collette and Steven Johnson responded to the scene. Officer Christopher Collette, being first on the scene, observed an individual standing outside the home where the shooting had occurred, holding a semi-automatic firearm. Officer Steven Johnson arrived on location and both Officers proceeded to engage the suspect.

Officer Collette and Johnson drew their firearms and approached the suspect, ordering him to drop the firearm and to lay on the ground. The suspect bent slightly, dropping the firearm and laid on the



L to R: Officer Steven Johnson, Deputy Chief Christopher Ward, Officer Christopher Collette.

ground. Officer Johnson maintained a tactical cover as Officer Collette secured the firearm and placed handcuffs on the suspect.

While Officer Steven Johnson maintained control of the suspect, Officer Christopher Collette rushed into the house where he located a male victim suffering from a gunshot wound. Officer Collette attempted to perform lifesaving medical aid but was unable to revive the victim.

Based on the Officer's swift response to the scene, observation of the armed suspect, and their ability to take tactical advantage of the situation, the suspect was placed into custody without incident. Officer Cristopher Collette and Officer Steven Johnson demonstrated tremendous control and de-escalation techniques in a volatile situation with an armed suspect. These Officers exemplify the long history of professionalism within the Somerville Police Department. I take great pride in awarding both Officer Christopher Collette and Officer Steven Johnson the Somerville Police Department's Combat Cross.

— Chief Charles Femino Chief of Police

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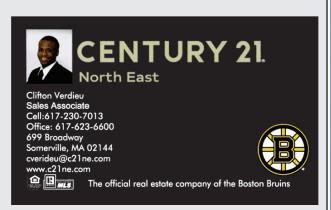
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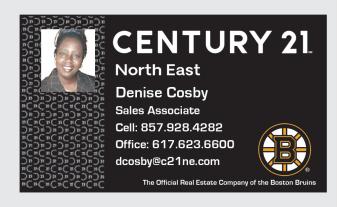
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