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The Somerville Times

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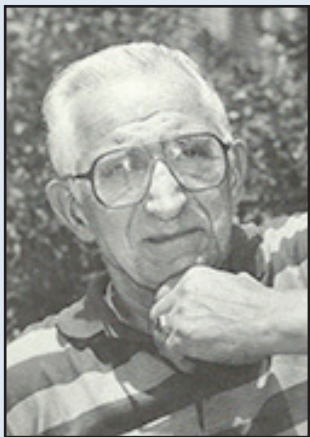


VOL. 9 NO. 33

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



Waiting for dad to
get home

page 3



Photographs in
the garden

page 11



Going to a
Yart Sale

page 11

Third supervised consumption site town hall examines local impact



A third virtual town hall meeting covered possible impacts on businesses and the community at large.

— Photo courtesy of the Dr. Peter Center

By Camille Andersen

The third virtual town hall on the proposed supervised consumption site (SCS) took place on Thursday, August 12. This meeting focused on the community and business impact of a site in Somerville.

The panelists included Mayor Joe Curtatone, Mélanie Renaud who is a Canadian business owner next to a SCS, Michael Pizziferri who works for the Quebec government from Boston, and TJ Thompson who is a harm reduction specialist.

The meeting opened with statements from Mayor Curtatone about why Somerville should open a site. "It is a health crisis," he said in reference to the number of overdoses the state sees each year. He emphasized that communities are more prosperous when their members are healthy, and this site would help all members of our community.

Continued on page 4

Controversial anti-racist artwork to debut at Hogkins-Curtin Park

By Rachael Hines

Textbook Behavior is an 8-piece visual art installation by artist and intuitive healer Julie Ann Otis. The project is set to debut in Somerville on September 8 and be displayed for 8 to 10 weeks.

The project initially debuted to some controversy earlier this summer in Medford, at Morrison Park, Dugger Park, and Tufts Park. Otis said the art was installed for less than two days before she received a concerned phone call from a Medford resident, notifying her that multiple pieces of artwork had been vandalized.

"The two pieces at Dugger Park had been ripped down, but left there. The pieces at Morrison Park were ripped down and just gone," said Otis.

Through crowdfunding, Otis was able to print and reinstall the pieces that were damaged or stolen. Less than 45 minutes after replacing the artwork in Morrison Park, the

Continued on page 6



Julie Ann Otis' Wondering, from her Textbook Behavior series, was installed at Dugger Park in Medford, then vandalized two days later.

— Photo courtesy of Julie Ann Otis



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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.

Because of rising COVID-19 cases fueled by the Delta variant, Mayor Curtatone has submitted a request to the Board of Health to reinstate a face covering mandate for indoor public spaces for anyone age two or older. If approved at the August 19 BOH meeting, the mandate would go into effect on August 20.

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. You can also visit the Elections Department in City Hall to register to vote. Please note face coverings are required in all city buildings. This year there will be preliminary votes held to narrow the field of candidates for Mayor, Ward 5 City Councilor, and Ward 7 City Councilor.








The Somerville High Class of 1971 is looking for classmates for their 50th reunion on Saturday, October 23, at Anthony's Function Hall in Malden from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. The price is \$65 per person. Please contact Rosalie DeLucia or Jimmy Del Ponte, or the SHS71 page on Facebook for more information. Wave high your guilded banners as SHS 71 celebrates their 50th!

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to local good guy and popular barber at Albraindi's, Paul McGlashing, who does a great job there. Happy birthday to Cliff Clark, who is also a great guy. We wish him the very best. Happy birthday Jenny Bonham Carter. We wish Jenny a great day. We wish all our celebrating Facebook friends, such as Roy Bertocchi, Carmine D Ambrosio, Maureen

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 18 – August 24 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday August 18	Cloudy	85°/70°	25%	16%	SW 11 mph
 Thursday August 19	Rain	76°/69°	40%	33%	W 12 mph
 Friday August 20	Rain	81°/72°	44%	25%	ENE 9 mph
 Saturday August 21	Rain	79°/69°	33%	27%	NE 8 mph
 Sunday August 22	Rain	79°/68°	31%	25%	ENE 9 mph
 Monday August 23	Partly Cloudy	82°/68°	25%	13%	N 9 mph
 Tuesday August 24	Rain	80°/66°	34%	26%	NE 11 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Somerville moves to establish public indoor mask mandate

joe says:

Absolutely not. Evidence is that only 1% of these new cases are in people who are vaccinated. The vaccinations are highly effective even against delta variant. There is no reason that vaccinated people need to wear a mask.
At this point, if you get COVID you are very likely unvaccinated and there is no excuse for that. Let those people deal with the consequences of their stupidity. If the city and the government at other levels wants to take action, then find more ways to force unvaccinated people to get vaccinated.

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Absolutely so. Even while vaccinated one can carry and spread the virus to others. The more you know the less ignorant you come off.

Bob Ross says:

Casimir is 100 percent correct.

Comrade Gorki says:

Anyone can wear a mask. Right now. You won't be put in jail. It might keep you safe. It's your right. Demanding others use a mask, through force and coercion, is performance activism by the Mayor and cannot be legally enforced, most likely, without the Gov declaring an emergency. Let the second act begin. Mayor Joe needs a new job, right? Anything to stay in the news.

Bob Ross says:

You might want to let the mayor of Salem know... they just reinstated their indoor mask mandate as well.

Some Exoert says:

I now know where to find all the virus experts who have completed school to become a doctor and expert in this field. We are truly blessed to have so many in this city to tell us what do.

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Yes. Please. Leave it to the Exoerts.

Response to: Lyrical Somerville – August 4

Bridget Galway says:

Ahh N.Y.C
I miss it from my childhood time,and now wish the same as it was.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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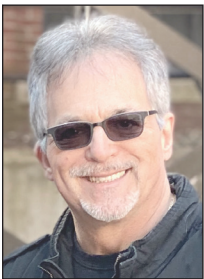


Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

Wait until your father gets home!



This article was first published on July 14, 2010.

My kids had turned just about every light in the house on and went out. When they came back, I said, “who do you think I am, Rockefeller?” They looked at me with a very strange expression. I find the same words my parents said to me as a kid, are now coming out of my own mouth. My father always threatened that someday the roof was going to fall in on me, and that my big mouth was going to get me in a lot of trouble. My mom used to say, “I hope your children treat you the same way you treat me.” There were many more. I asked my buddies to toss out a few gems from their parents that we could have a laugh about, and here they are. As always, thanks to all my Facebook friends. Don’t cross your eyes or they will stay that way. Eat your broccoli. There are children starving in China. When you live under my roof, you live under my rules. I’m going to count to 3. 1 ... 2 ... When they used your full name, you were really in trouble, like ... James Steven Del Ponte, you get over here this instant! I’ll give you something to cry about young man! Now go back down to Lionel’s Bar-

ber shop and get a real haircut! Because I’m the mother and I say so, that’s why. I didn’t just fall off of the turnip truck! Children should be seen and not heard! If your friends were jumping off the Ball Square Bridge would you jump too? When you’re old enough to have your own home you can do what you want, but, as long as you live in my house you’ll do what I tell you to. Don’t run away from me, Get over here! Why don’t you try using your head for something besides a hat rack? If you fall out of that tree and break your leg don’t coming running to me. Stop spinning that channel knob so fast, you’re going to break it. Your room looks like a cyclone hit it! Wipe that smirk off your face right now young man or I’ll wipe it off for you! Don’t get smart with me! Don’t give me any of your lip. Who do you think you are? Don’t talk with your mouth full. Next time, call when you’re going to be late. Drive slowly but hurry home! You must think money grows on trees! I’m sick of hearing MA! MA! MA! MA! I’m changing my name! “She”... has a name ... and it’s mom! You want how much? When I was a kid we could ride the trolley to Boston, see two movies, get a candy bar as big as your head, eat lunch, all for 25 cents! Here are some more: One friend told me that he said to his



dad, “Jesus had long hair, why do I need to get a haircut?” His Dad said, “Jesus also walked everywhere ... so I don’t think you really need a car.” A friend’s mother would take a situation and turn it into stern statement. For instance, If there was a matter of a broken window, she would say, “I’ll window you!” Make sure you have on clean underwear in case you get in an accident and have to go to the hospital! Don’t lie or your tongue will turn black. Don’t make me pull this car over and come back there! Put that down before you put someone’s eye out. I brought you into this world,

and I can take you out. A friend of mine who grew up in an Italian speaking home told me that his mother used to say, “Tu si bum di Somerville.” Translated it meant, “You are the bum of Somerville.” Happily, mama lived long enough to see her “bum” become very successful. Today we hear parents using the phrases, “time out” and “good job!” I heard those words also. My dad said, “If you keep getting lousy report cards you’ll never get a good job.” And, “It’s going to be a very long TIME, before you see OUT doors again, young man!”

Somerville Museum Exhibition: Penny Chronicles and The Stories They Tell

Place: Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road • Exhibit dates: September 9, 2021–January 8, 2022 • Curator: David M. Guss

They cost a penny to buy and a penny to send. They were the social media of their day, snippets of news attached to images of local buildings, monuments, and events. Big pictures in a small frame, serving as testimonies to one’s pride of place. Strung together, they tell Somerville’s unique history: a visit from a president, the impact of suffragettes, veterans marching, monuments dedicated, developers building rows of new homes.

The postcard, that popular and resilient art form that announced the arrival of the 20th Century and with it, a new way of seeing will be the star of this irreverent and surprising history of Somerville. While inspired by the postcard, “Penny Chronicles” is by no means limited to it. Organized into 18 sections, each ‘episode’ presents the postcard and accompanying material in a distinctive manner, carefully linking the reality of the original postcard – 100 plus years ago – to the social discourse of today.

In the first panel, for example, the story of President Taft’s historic visit to Somerville on July 4, 1910 is told alongside that of Jack Johnson’s championship fight on the same day in Reno, Nevada when, following Johnson’s victory, race riots took place throughout the country. In other sections, the struggle for open space in one of the nation’s most densely populated cities is tied to current conflicts surrounding housing and development. Long simmering debates around mass transit and urbanization are also revived with the imminent arrival of the Green Line, which while making room for some, is displacing others.

In addition to recently discovered treasures from the Museum’s archives, “Penny Chronicles and The Stories They Tell” also features exciting new work by a varied group of artists commissioned especially for this exhibit. Among them is lifelong Somerville resident and photographer Henry Cataldo, who has created an eye-opening series of photographs comparing current Somerville streetscapes with those of a hundred years ago. Ceramicist Kingsley Weihe, on the other hand, is focusing on a single structure: visionary Enoch Robinson’s Round House. Her detailed portrait of this extraordinary building as a giant cookie jar is as wonderfully playful as it is technically brilliant. Textile artist Kyle Huffman will create the centerpiece of the show, the axis mundi around which every element revolves. Although Huffman’s Powder House will be made of wicker, it will be easily recognized as the city’s most iconic and endearing landmark. A second piece created by Huffman will form part of the exhibit’s final panel, entitled “How To Fold a Flag.” Worn by suffragettes and other protesters leading up to the First World War, Huffman’s reimagined flag dress remains as charged today as it was a hundred years ago. The work of artist Pier Gustafson will explore another area of social justice, this one pertaining to gender inequities found throughout our education system. Stunned by the fact that in the history of Somerville only one school has ever been named for a woman, we decided to create three new ones, each honoring a remarkable individual for whom an institution should have already been dedicated. To support their existence, Gustafson is slyly creating a set of postcards for each one.

Other collaborators in this multi-vocal narrative are the students from Somerville High School’s award-winning Local History Club who are creating their own programming for the show.

“Penny Chronicles” is scheduled to open at the Somerville Museum on September 9, 2021. On September 18, there will be a large Block Party event celebrating the Penny Chronicles exhibit and the Access for All & More Capital Campaign.



THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Confessed shoplifter: 'I'm sorry'

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to an Assembly Row location last week on reports that a suspected shoplifter was being followed by a TJ Maxx security officer.

Upon arrival, officers were directed to the suspect, Brandon Tracy, who is reportedly known to Somerville Police from previous interactions.

The officers confronted Tracy and advised him to sit on the sidewalk. They explained that they were informed that he had stolen from TJ Maxx.

Tracy reportedly stated that he did so and pointed out the bags he was carrying and told them, "I'm sorry."

The officers searched Tracy's bags and found a number of

items that had TJ Maxx tags on them. The allegedly stolen items were returned to the store in order to get a total of their value.

An inquiry through police dispatch advised that Tracy had two warrants outstanding warrants in effect.

Tracy was placed under the arrest and transported to the

police station and booked on a charge of shoplifting by asportation second offense, and on warrant charges of nighttime breaking and entering of a vehicle or boat, attempt to commit a crime, receiving stolen property under \$1200, and larceny over \$1200.

Officers then went back to the store to get a full statement from them. The security officer said he began watching Tracy as he was known to him as a shoplifter. He stated that Tracy entered the area of the products, selected various items, concealed them in several bags, and exited the store, bypassing all points of sale without making any effort to pay for the items.

Annual inspection and testing of fire hydrants begins August 23

The Somerville Fire Department will begin the annual inspection of all fire hydrants on Monday, August 23, and conclude on or around Saturday, September 4. This procedure requires the flushing of water from the hydrants as well as a check of the mechanical operation of the hydrant.

As a result of the inspection and testing, some sediment may be disturbed in the water mains, potentially causing rusty water in homes or businesses. The rusty water will appear dirty or discolored but does not pose a health hazard. It could stain fabric, however, so residents are advised not to do laundry while water is discolored. This rusty condition will be temporary and should clear in a few hours.



This annual inspection and testing of fire hydrants is necessary to ensure their proper operation during an emergency.

Inspections and testing will be conducted Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and if necessary, in the evening, from 6:15 until 8:15 p.m.

Anyone with questions regarding this procedure may contact the Somerville Fire Department at 617-623-1700.

Third supervised consumption site town hall examines local impact

CONT. FROM PG 1

Since Canada has successfully launched supervised consumption sites, several people on the panel spoke about their experiences living or working in Canada to provide Somerville residents with first-hand knowledge.

Mélanie Renaud's café in Montreal is next to a supervised consumption site. She spoke about her experiences before the site opened such as people injecting in the café bathroom. After the site opened, there have not been any more incidents of people using drugs in the café. She also noted that the site had an open house for surrounding businesses and offered ongoing support to businesses and community members who have questions.

Michael Pizziferri works for the Quebec government and spoke about the community impacts of the 3 fixed locations and one mobile supervised consumption site in Montreal. The sites have been part of their health strategy to offer a suite of support for the most vulnerable populations. A common concern is that people from outside communities will congregate and flock to new sites. Pizziferri said

that they have not experienced this in Canada, because people are only willing to go a short distance.

In response to a question about the cost benefit analysis of the proposed site, Thompson noted that the site would save the city millions of expenses from overdoses, police response, wound care, and hospitalizations. Panelists emphasized that preventive measures and harm reduction alleviate strain on the healthcare system.

The location of the site remains undetermined. The proposed site will contain many services in addition to safe injection such as overdose prevention, basic medical care, recovery services, and counseling. As conversations surrounding the site continue, Thompson emphasized the need to create a safe environment at the site and continue to address racial disparity surrounding involvement in the creation of this site. For more information, read the full report on <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/programs/somerville-supervised-consumption-site-report>.

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Candidate responses to Fair Housing questionnaire – Part II

The Somerville Fair Housing Commission asked a series of six questions of the mayoral and City Council candidates concerning housing issues in the city. Last week we published the first two questions and answers. We are presenting answers here from the mayoral candidates of the next 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 two questions and answers will be published next week.

Question 3:
What is the most important thing that Somerville landlords, property managers, real estate agents, or owners selling their homes need to know to further Fair Housing in Somerville? What would you do to increase compliance with Fair Housing law?

Katjana Ballantyne, Candidate for Mayor
Landlords should be encouraged to consult with the City’s Office of Housing Sustainability at all times, but particularly when they are considering selling their property. Landlords and property owners must be made aware that their tenants have protections and that having tenants can be an asset. Landlords and owner who are selling should instruct their real estate agents not to give orders to vacate their apartments in order the make an easier sale. A great deal more public education must be provided on this issue.

I’ll use education, promotions mailings and all methods of social media to inform landlords, owners, managers and agents about Fair Housing rights and responsibilities. I’ll make sure that the initiatives of the Fair Housing Commission are appropriately funded.

Mary Cassesso, Candidate for Mayor
The most important thing for folks to know is that they should take advantage of the housing resources that are already available, for example, the educational materials and training that the Fair Housing Commission provides. The Office of Housing Stability is a great resource for Somerville, and the City budget should continue to fund and consider increasing funding for Fair Housing enforcement. Because unit repair requirements, including de-leading, can be an obstacle to leasing to families or to households with Section 8 vouchers, the City should do more to support property owners making improvements to get their units ready for these households.

Will Mbah, Candidate for Mayor
To increase compliance with Fair Housing law I will introduce a rental licensure program and make the rental process more transparent. Prospective tenants should be able to easily view complaints, lawsuits, and the history against a landlord or property manager they are considering renting from. This will incentivize property managers and landlords to follow the law when renting and treat prospective tenants and current tenants with respect.

In addition, I will fully fund and staff the Somerville Fair Housing Commission so that it has the resources it needs

to minimize and ultimately eliminate discrimination in housing. I believe that in some instances of housing discrimination, landlords and property managers are not intentionally being discriminatory, but have not been properly educated about fair housing policies and what is legal and what is not. We can eliminate these unintentional instances of discrimination through improved education and outreach.

Question 4:
What do you see as the link between affordability and Fair Housing in Somerville?

Katjana Ballantyne, Candidate for Mayor
Housing security is fundamental to having food security, safety, education and employment opportunities. Fair access to housing is the foundation that enables all other kinds of social equity, including affordability. Vulnerable community groups including single-parent households, minorities and immigrants are disproportionately excluded by the most common systems and structures that we use to secure safe housing, healthy food, good education, and living-wage jobs. Affordability and Fair Housing are absolutely linked. By working to address affordability we can make a positive impact upon Fair Housing. To create and/or to purchase affordable housing is expensive, but by improving affordability, and the regulatory requirements supporting affordability, our Fair Housing objectives can be accomplished.

Mary Cassesso, Candidate for Mayor
Fair Housing policies were created to



protect against discrimination and racism in housing but the outcomes have not been sufficient to address the needs in communities, especially Somerville, where we have witnessed a tremendous increase in home equity. Even though Fair Housing laws are on the books, the critical component often lacking is enforcement, which can keep families with portable subsidies from being able to rent in Somerville. Providing equal access to the amenities and resources in Somerville to households from diverse backgrounds is a critical goal, and in many ways a lack of affordable options can act as a de facto Fair Housing barrier. While this is an issue in Somerville, it is also an issue regionally. We must work together with Boston, Cambridge, and other neighboring cities to stabilize affordable rental and buying opportunities.

Will Mbah, Candidate for Mayor
Protected classes that are discriminated against are often forced to seek affordable housing because they are denied housing by landlords and property managers. This is wrong, and individuals and families should not be forced into affordable housing because they have been discriminated against.

CORRECTION

In the *Candidate responses to Fair Housing questionnaire – Part I* article published in *The Somerville Times* last week, the answer provided by Mayoral Candidate Mary Cassesso to Question 2 mistakenly consisted of a repeat of Mayoral Candidate Katjana Ballantyne’s answer. We regret the oversight and present Cassesso’s intended answer here:

Question 2:
What do you think are the most common forms of housing discrimination in Somerville?

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.

Docent Tour of Milk Row Cemetery

Thursday, August 19, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Milk Row Cemetery, 439 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA 02143

Sponsored by the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission & the Somerville Museum www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation & <http://somervillemuseum.org>.

Inclement weather cancels any event. Call 311 (617-666-3311) for updates and check the city’s calendar: <https://www.somervillema.gov/events>

LEGAL NOTICE

VOTER REGISTRATION



LAST DAY TO REGISTER

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

FOR THE PRELIMINARY ELECTION

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Election Department: Somerville City Hall Hours

MONDAY, TUESDAY
& WEDNESDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 4:30 p.m.
THURSDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 7:30 p.m.
FRIDAY ----- 8:30 a.m. ----- 12:30 p.m.

- To request a registration form
- CALL 617-625-6600 ext. 4200 for a Voter Mail-In Registration form
 - Download a Mail-In Voter Registration form from the City Website and mail to the Election Department
 - Register Online by visiting the City Website

All mail-in voter registration forms must be post-marked by 8/25/21.

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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.

A green economy needs expanded public education



By Justin Klekota

The recent report of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change that global temperature increases are accelerating underscores the urgency with which Somerville and Cities worldwide must transform our economy to be free of fossil fuels. Along with concerted efforts to transition to renewable energy (cleancoiceenergy.com), increase energy efficiency (masssave.com), and transition our buildings and vehicles to all-electric (masscec.com), we must prepare our students and

workforce for the green economy of the future. This means increased resources for our schools and expanding public education to guarantee after-school programs including extra courses in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), as well as life-long training opportunities for in-demand job skills as we transition to a greener economy.

Our commitment to public education needs to grow with our economic needs. Our investment in green infrastructure means we will need skilled tradesmen to build it. There are also hundreds of thousands of jobs in STEM unfilled every year. After-school programs and continued adult education could help thousands of Somerville residents find and maintain employment in those fields. For perspective, Somerville Public Schools used to have twice as many students enrolled com-

pared to today, so Somerville could potentially educate thousands of additional residents every year. This would help ensure that Somerville residents have the best opportunities to succeed in the workforce, find apprenticeships, and continue their education.

Every Somerville student, who wishes to participate, should be guaranteed placement in our after-school programs. Investment in education is the single best investment Cities can make leading to higher employment for residents, and greater tax revenue and lower costs for Cities over time. Much of this opportunity is in STEM, including in health care, life science, and green tech. After-school programs are an opportunity for students to get extra practice in STEM, complementing instruction during regular school hours: any student motivated to learn, can

learn. This will give Somerville students an advantage when entering the workforce, continuing their education, and making the right decisions as it pertains to our public health and maintaining greener households. After-school programs also give working parents more flexibility to balance careers and childcare.

Every Somerville resident deserves access to life-long, free, quality public education as well. Somerville can do its part by resourcing adult education, English as a Second Language (ESL), and training for in-demand job skills at our new high school in the evenings. Somerville can also create learning centers through partnerships with local businesses, expand the technology course offerings through the Somerville Media Center-Somerville Public Library partnership, and utilize the FabLab at Somerville High School to support local trades.

Continued workforce development is critical to our transition to a greener economy and to helping workers maintain steady employment. Oftentimes, many jobs require only one or two job skills, rather than a more costly, specialized degree, so targeted investment in adult education can pay for itself by increasing employment, helping local businesses, and growing our economy. Educational excellence can help us achieve greater economic equity.

Somerville should lead by example in its transition to a greener economy. Somerville's investment in green infrastructure, expanded public education, and workforce development could inspire similar actions in other communities. The future of our climate and our economy depends on our successful efforts today: let's create that future one City and one student at a time.

Town hall meeting focuses on COVID issues

By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

On August 5, the Somerville Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) hosted a virtual town hall in regards to the rising number of COVID cases around Somerville and throughout the Commonwealth.

The meeting, hosted by Economic Development Assistant Nicholas Schonberger and Mayor Joseph Curtatone, mainly focused on the spread of COVID in the city and vaccine statistics throughout the last couple months.

Other officials in attendance were Tom Galliani, Director of Economic Development, and Kristen Stelljes, Incident Commander for Somerville. The town hall was held through

Zoom and a recording of this meeting is available online on the Somerville government website.

After a quick introduction from Schonberger and a run-down of the agenda meeting, Mayor Curtatone gave some quick remarks on the state of the city after 18 months of the pandemic and the recent spread of the new Delta variant.

"We're in a lot better place today than we were a year ago. We know a lot more, we have a lot of tools at our disposal," Curtatone said.

In addition, Mayor Curtatone also spoke of the function of the town hall and the reason for the holding of the meeting. "Our purpose today, as we have always done throughout this crisis, is to tell you what we know, tell you

what we don't know, tell you what we're considering and why," Curtatone said.

After these remarks, Stelljes presented a variety of statistics and information on the pandemic, COVID and vaccination rates in Somerville.

Stelljes began by speaking about the recent increase in the COVID test positivity rate. "Our percent positivity has increased pretty significantly in the last two weeks, we're now up to 88 percent," Stelljes said.

Another important statistic presented during the town hall involved the vaccination rates in the City of Somerville. "72 percent of Somerville have been fully vaccinated, that is 54,713 individuals, and we have 4,339 [partially vaccinated] individu-



als who will hopefully join the fully vaccinated count soon," Stelljes said.

Although a majority of the population of Somerville is vaccinated, Stelljes asked people who are unvaccinated to do it as soon as possible. "Please, if you

are not vaccinated we encourage you to do so, and encourage your friends, family, colleagues, staff to do so," Stelljes said.

After the presentation by Stelljes, questions from the community were fielded for the rest of the meeting.

Controversial anti-racist artwork to debut at Hogkins-Curtin Park

CONT. FROM PG 1

artwork was stolen again. "This time I installed it with bolts, so it couldn't be ripped. So then they used box cutters and cut it down," said Otis.

While frustrated by the vandalism, Otis said she was unsurprised at the controversy caused by the art, as it was created to

question deeply ingrained values. With funding from the Somerville Arts Council and Medford Arts Council, Otis created the artwork to challenge white privilege and systemic racism. "For those who haven't done the work of unpacking white privilege, there's a real feeling of

being attacked."

Sometime in the fall, Otis is planning to hold a panel discussion on anti-racism public art and confronting white privilege. She welcomes all to attend, but particularly welcomes those interested in actively confronting their own biases. "I'm hoping to

have a panel conversation about antiracism art, public art, the public conversation around that. I also want to talk about how we can use art and creativity to face white supremacy, white fragility, and white guilt," said Otis. While the date is yet to be announced, Otis shared that the panel will

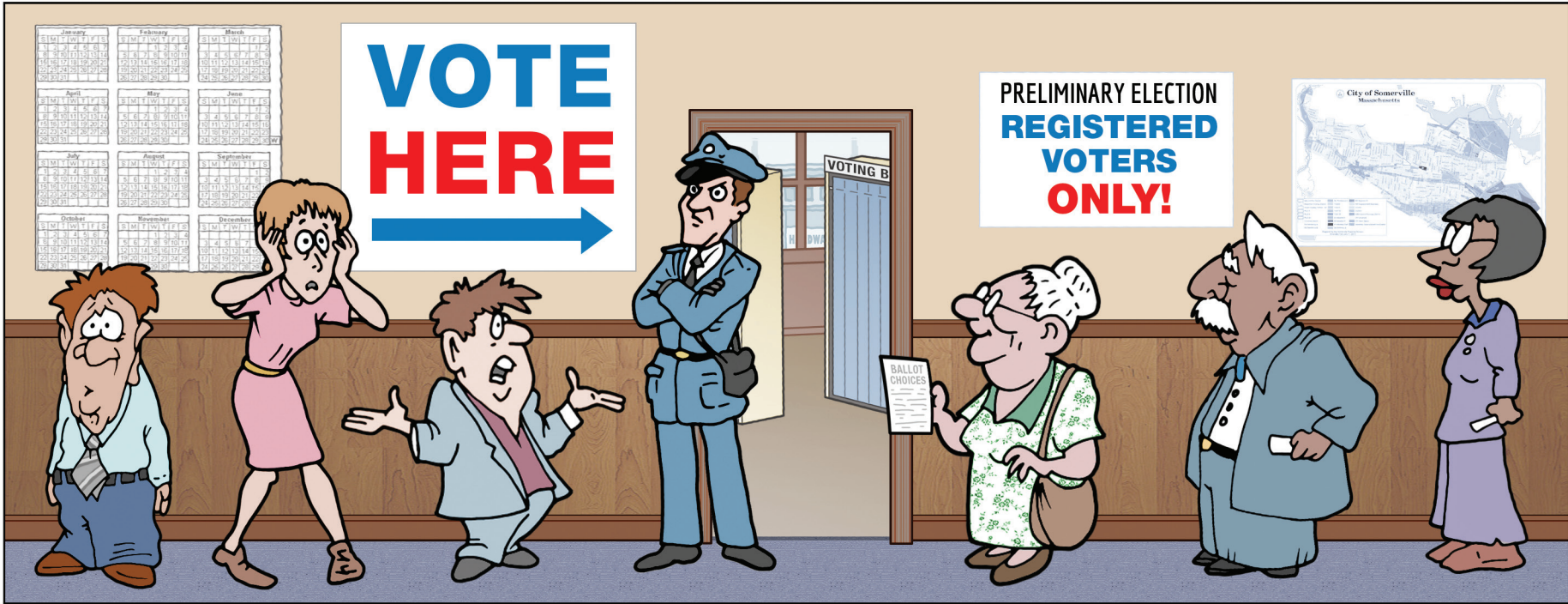
also feature Massachusetts artist Scout Coumo.

Otis says she plans to take a break from making controversial public art, and wants to focus on her intuitive healing practice. To learn more about Otis and her art, check out @therealjulieanotis on Instagram.

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Remember to register to vote in the Preliminary Election by August 25.

Our View Of The Times



Those in public service must be ready willing and able to rise to the occasion when called upon to do so. Each one of us, whoever we may be supporting in this year’s local election races, is searching our heart to determine whom we feel will best fill those roles.

Most of us seem to be very confident that our favored candidates are up to the task. Others bemoan a lack of integrity or skills required to do the job well among those who are running.

Either way, if we feel passionate enough in our convictions then it is clearly incumbent on each of us to do our part and make sure we make our voices heard by voting in the upcoming Preliminary Election on September 14.

There’s a lot at stake this time around, what with the selection of a new mayor and several City Council seats up for grabs. The choices made in these upcoming elections will have a big impact on the city and its residents.

This means that we must have the foresight and capability to register for voting if we have not already done so. The process is quick and easy, and is an absolute requirement for being allowed to cast a vote. There really is no excuse for not voting. Registration continues through August 25 via the usual means. Specific info is available at www.somervillema.gov/departments/elections.

Let us hope that the those elected will rise to the occasion and realize the potential they may have to become as great as others who have gone before them. Now, it is time for us to rise up and do what we must to make sure our votes are counted.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Marennna, Anna Rosella, Anita Dill Fusco, Laureen DeBrase, Pat Lane, Pam Keith, Debbi Hession, Alicia Marie and Arthur Copelanda 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 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.

Seek housing assistance before eviction moratoriums expire. Somerville’s residential eviction moratorium is in place until September 15, 2021, and the federal moratorium has been extended until October 3, 2021. In light of these extensions, the city is urging anyone who may need it to proactively seek financial support now to avoid later threats to housing stability. Support is available through the Office of Housing Stability (OHS) for tenants who need help making overdue payments or upcoming payments. Services are also available to help landlords pay mortgages and bills that would be covered by rental income. Somerville residents in need of assistance can contact OHS at 617-625-6600 ext. 2581 or fill out the referral form at somervillema.gov/ohs.

The City of Somerville seeks three residents to serve on the city’s Traffic Board. The Traffic Board is an appointed body that reviews decisions of the city’s Traffic Commission upon appeal petitions. If a decision of the Traffic Commission is appealed, the Traffic Board is required to hold a public hearing, accept public testimony, and issue a ruling to approve or disapprove the action of the Traffic Commission. Members will serve in a volunteer capacity for a term of one to three years. Applicants should submit a short statement of interest with their name and home address to TrafficBoardSearch@SomervilleMA.gov by Monday, August 16, 2021.

The City of Somerville Elections Department is hiring polling place workers for the municipal elections on September 14 and November 2. 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.

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.

Kitty Connection, an all-volunteer non-profit dedicated to rescuing and finding safe, loving homes for local cats and dogs, will hold an End of Summer/ Back to School Online Auction from 4:00 p.m. Friday, August 20, through 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 22, at www.myminiauction.com/kittyconnection. Auction rules and logistics are posted on the auction website, and items up for bid will appear there at the auction start time (4:00 p.m., Friday, August 20). To learn more about Kitty Connection’s mission and pets available for adoption, visit: www.kittyconnection.net.

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

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

Continued on page 10

Free Savvy Caregiver dementia training returns in October

By Nathan Lamb

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

Offered through a partnership of Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES), Mount Auburn Hospital, and Paine Senior Services, Savvy Caregiver emphasizes practical training that helps family caregivers navigate challenges of dementia.

The curriculum includes an overview of dementia and its various stages, along with how its progression can impact dai-

ly life. The training includes a lecture component, but it also highly interactive, with a focus on developing practical tools and strategies that fit the participant's needs.

The class will be led by longtime SCES Social Worker Nathaniel Myer and Paine Senior Services Director Elizabeth Aguilo.

The six-session class will meet on Fridays from 1:30-4:00 p.m., starting October 8, 2021. The classes are held at Mount Auburn Healthcare – Waltham, 355 Waverley Oaks Road in Waltham.

Savvy Caregiver is open to

a limited number of participants, allowing the caregivers to work closely with the facilitators. Subsidized respite options are available to some caregivers. The class is open to residents of Cambridge, Somerville, Waltham, and the surrounding communities.

For more information about Savvy Caregiver or to register call 617-628-2601 extension 3123 or email Nathaniel.Meyer@eldercare.org.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of



L to R: Paine Senior Services Director Elizabeth Aguilo and SCES Social Worker Nathaniel Myer.

older adults in Somerville and Cambridge. For free advice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving or disability, contact

our Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601, email info@eldercare.org, or visit our website eldercare.org.

Absentee ballots available for September 14 Preliminary Election

Absentee ballots are now available for voters who qualify to vote absentee. In order to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot in Massachusetts, a voter must be prevented from voting at the polling place on election day due to absence from the city on election day, physical disability, or religious belief.

Deadlines:

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot for the Tuesday, September 14 preliminary election is noon on Monday, September 13. If you are requesting a ballot be mailed to you, make sure to apply with enough time for your ballot to come through the mail. The deadline to return your absentee ballot is 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14. If you are returning your ballot by mail, make sure you leave enough time for it to reach the Elections Department.

How to apply for an absentee ballot:

- Download a request form at somervillema.gov/absenteevoting.
- Contact the Elections Department at 617-625-6600 x4200 to have a request form mailed to you.

How to return your request form or ballot:

Drop boxes – Use one of the drop boxes located around the city to return your request form or ballot. Drop boxes will be installed by Friday, August 13, at:

- City Hall concourse, 93 Highland Ave.
- East Somerville Community School, across from 68 Glen St.
- In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.
- In front of the Somerville Community Baptist Church at 31 College Ave.
- In front of the West Somerville Neighborhood School at 177 Powder House Blvd.

City Hall drop-off – Voters can return request forms or ballots directly to the Elections Department in City Hall, 93 Highland Ave. Please remember that face coverings are required in all City buildings. In-person absentee voting can be arranged by contacting the Elections Department at 617-625-6600 x4200.

Mail – Voters can return request forms and ballots by sending them to the Elections Department, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143. Make sure to leave plenty of time for mail to reach the Elections Department before the deadline.

Email or fax (for request forms only): Completed request forms can be emailed to vote@somervillema.gov or faxed to 617-625-5643. Ballots cannot be returned by email or fax.

As a reminder, all Somerville voters are eligible to vote by mail in this fall's elections. More information about voting by mail is available at somervillema.gov/votebymail.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Homemade Corn Tortillas

Just a few weeks ago I picked up a package of store-bought corn tortillas and was extremely disappointed with the texture, taste, and overall quality of the product. Then I thought, how hard could it be to make my own? Let me tell you, not hard at all!

Since I make my own arepas using PAN corn meal, I thought to look up how to use the same corn meal to make tortillas. They came out great. A fresh corn flavor, a pliable texture in just minutes. I then tried a second brand, Maseca. I actually prefer the Maseca for the tortillas. It has

an intense corn flavor, very pliable, and enhances whatever filling you add to the taco.

There is no need for a tortilla press to make them, but it can be used for many other things like, naan, pitas, pizzas, and other flatbreads. You can use the recipes on the packages or go to the websites with numerous suggestions and recipes.


You can even check out recipes in general to come up with countless ideas from independent sources. My next recipe search will be for the best flour tortilla I can come up with. Go ahead and give it a try!

Visit Dorothy's website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix.com/thymethief>.



LEGAL NOTICES

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



**Section 00.11.39
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID**

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from **Contractors** for the **667-2 Site Improvements, #274139** in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **CBA Landscape Architects**. The Project consists of: This site improvements project includes tree removals; the installation of new paving; the planting of lawns, trees, and shrubs/perennials; installation of site furniture; the installation of a new concrete ramp and stairs, both with metal handrails; and repair/painting of an existing fence as base bid OR the installation of a new fence as an add alternate.

The work is estimated to cost **\$138,713**. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30B §39 & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L.c.149 §52B to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer). General Bids will be received until **2:00 PM on Thursday, September 2nd, 2021**, and publicly opened online, forthwith.

All Bids should be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com and received no later than the date and time specified above.

General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority**.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167). There is a plan deposit of **\$50.00** per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc.

Plan deposits may be electronically paid or by check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders and for one set for sub-bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional sets may be purchased for **\$50.00**


Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **\$ 40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), nonrefundable, payable to the BidDocs ONLINE Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:
Date and Time: Thursday, 19 August 2021 at 9:00 AM
Address: 32 Jaques Street, Somerville, MA

Instructions: Attending contractors are required to follow Covid-19 protocols as dictated by the CDC, Commonwealth of MA, or the Somerville Housing Authority, whichever is strictest.

SITE VISIT BY APPOINTMENT: NONE
The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:
Somerville Housing Authority
30 Memorial Road
Somerville, MA 02145
617-625-1152
Nashoba Blue Inc
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167

8/18/21 The Somerville Times



**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Removal of Public Shade Trees
City of Somerville**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 87, the City of Somerville will hold a **virtual public shade tree hearing on August 31, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.** using GotoWebinar software. Eight (8) public shade trees on Grand Union Boulevard between Great River Road and Foley Street have been proposed for removal to restructure the sidewalk in order to protect and expand adjacent landscape areas. The trees proposed for removal are all London Planetrees, ranging in size from 6 to 7 inches in diameter (DBH). New trees will be planted in the area.

The trees identified above have been posted for public inspection. In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 87, any objections to the removal of any of these trees must be submitted in writing to the Tree Warden prior to or at this public hearing. Documents may be sent via email to: trees@somervillema.gov, or mailed to: 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. 02143.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this Public Shade Tree Hearing will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of this hearing will be available upon request to trees@somervillema.gov.

TO USE A COMPUTER
Webinar ID
169-672-499
Registration URL
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4633157698158459661>
TO CALL IN
UNITED STATES
+1 (631) 992-3221
Access code: 310-190-199

8/18/21 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenant at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on **9/8/2021 at 12:00 PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Andrew F Zen unit #0631. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

8/18/21 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices
can be downloaded
from our website:
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
RFP # 22-04**


90-92 Union Square Property Lease and Renovation

The City of Somerville invites sealed proposals from qualified applicants for the renovation and lease of 90-92 Union Square, ("Property" or "90-92 Union Square" or "historic fire station" or "Premises"). The City seeks a qualified tenant who can come to mutually agreeable terms for the lease of the site and then work with the City on a renovation plan that provides adequate facilities for the applicant, fiscal benefits to the City, and long-term protection of the structure. The property is being offered "as is."

Interested parties must respond to a request for proposals (RFP) by September 14, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. The RFP is available online as of August 11, 2021 at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> and by contacting purchasing@somervillema.gov or calling 627-625-6600 ext. 3400. The initial term of a lease would be ten (10) years with the option to renew.

Dispositions of real property by lease are subject to approval by the Mayor and City Council. Refer to the RFP for further details.

8/18/21 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, 8/18/21 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICE:

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of **CURTIS LEE STREALLY**, 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, 8/18/21 The Somerville Times

**TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES,
CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY PHONE: 857-488-5138**

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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 SomerMovie Fest** returns this year with a series of seven family-friendly films being shown in parks around

Somerville. Screenings begin at sundown and the remaining schedule is as **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.

'Photography in the Garden' at the Somerville Community Growing Center

The Somerville Community Growing Center, located at 22 Vinal Ave. in Somerville, hosted *Photography in the Garden* last Sunday. An Artist Reception with Iaritz Menjivar featured *First Generation*, a photography exhibition from photographer Menjivar about family life will be “popping” in the Growing Center through the month of August. Menjivar is exhibiting newer work made before and during quarantine. See more of Menjivar's work at www.iaritz.com. — Photos by Monica Calvo



Somerville’s first annual Yart Sale

Yart Sale took place on Sunday, August 15 (delayed by rain from Saturday). This unique event, organized by the Somerville Arts Council’s (SAC), invited artists, craftspeople, and anybody else with a creative bent to display their works outside of their own homes for spectators to enjoy and art lovers to make some fine acquisitions. A Google map to participant’s locations was prepared by SAC for use by attendees. — Photos by Claudia Ferro



From page 8

Ms. Cam’s

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Tendons | 7. Dogs |
| 2. 1993 | 8. A period |
| 3. Luke Danes | 9. Anastasia and Drizella |
| 4. The Netherlands | 10. Eddie Albert |
| 5. Woodstock | 11. Samsung Electronics |
| 6. June 29, 2007 | 12. Sake |

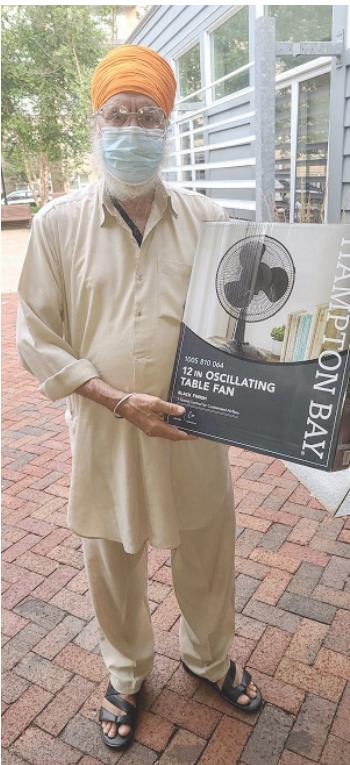
Six Somerville organizations awarded grants to improve community heat resilience

Six Somerville organizations received “Keep Cool Somerville” grants to pilot projects improving resilience to extreme heat this summer.

Keep Cool Somerville, a partnership between the City of Somerville and Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), invited groups to propose small-scale projects to address the health impacts of climate-driven heat.

The 2021 Keep Cool Somerville grantees are:

- ♦ **Bent/Haus Arts** – Bent/Haus Arts is hosting “Mystery Machine,” a free, interactive outdoor cooling art installation that incorporates music, mist, and colorful animations that are refracted and reflected in the mist. Installation events are planned for Friday, August 20, in partnership with Groundwork Somerville, and Saturday, August 28, from 8 to 9:30 p.m. at Chuckie Harris Park. allisontanenhaus.com/benthaus
- ♦ **Clarendon Hill Towers** – Clarendon Hill Towers Resident Services is distributing fans to older adult building residents this summer. Heat health safety information is being shared with all other residents. clarendonhill.org
- ♦ **Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS)** – CAAS is connecting eligible households to discounted utility and low-income energy programs to help overcome cost barriers associated with home cooling this summer. The agency is also distributing air conditioning units to individuals at greater risk of experiencing heat health risks. caasomerville.org
- ♦ **Groundwork Somerville** – The Groundwork Green Team will integrate heat health outreach and education with an outdoor shading installation. The team is partnering with local artists on temporary, structural shading features. groundworksomerville.org
- ♦ **Somerville Fresco!** – This Spanish-speaking resident group is conducting community outreach on heat health and developing bilingual booklets with tips, recipes, and information to help families in Somerville find ways to keep cool this summer. They are also distributing cooling kits containing the booklets, water bottles, and small coolers.
- ♦ **Somerville Housing Authority** – The Housing Authority is piloting an air conditioner lending program to distribute and install air conditioning units in its buildings. The lending program complements other Housing Authority community cooling efforts, including distribution of Keep Cool Toolkits to all households. sha-web.org



“We’re excited to support community organizations that are educating Somerville residents about extreme heat, helping them access cooling systems and pay for utilities, and incorporating art with outdoor cooling installations,” said Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone. “With more extreme weather, we will need to look to short-term solutions like these projects to keep residents safe, as well as longer-term solutions that address climate change – the root cause of our increasingly hot summers.”

“Last summer was among the hottest on record, and this summer we’ve already experienced long stretches of days over 90 degrees,” said MAPC Public Health and Climate Planner Jeanette Pantoja. “These grants will help Somerville residents and institutions proactively prepare for increasingly hot summers.”

In 2020, Keep Cool Somerville conducted stakeholder interviews, resident focus groups, a public survey, and a PhotoVoice project to understand how extreme heat affects Somerville residents. This research informed a Cooling Strategies Toolkit, which outlines evidence-based and community-supported strategies for long-term summer heat preparedness. Grantees used this toolkit to propose project ideas and interventions.

The initiative is advised by the Keep Cool Advisory Committee, an interdisciplinary group of city staff and community representatives, and is supported by a grant from the MAPC Accelerating Climate Resiliency Grant Program. For more information on Keep Cool Somerville and the grants, visit mapc.org/keep-cool-somerville.

— Photos by Yetsenaria “Jessie” Alvira, Resident Services Coordinator at Clarendon Hill Towers

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



When I was growing up I was told I could be whoever I wanted to be. Turns out, identity theft is a crime.

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Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning
Power Washing
Licensed and Insured
in Massachusetts
We travel all over
Massachusetts
Call today to find out
our weekly specials!
Call Jimmy 857-366-3761

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**The
Somerville
Times**
call
Bobbie Toner
617-666-4010

On This Day in History

August 18

- 1587 – In the Roanoke Island colony, Ellinor and Ananias Dare become parents of a baby girl whom they name Virginia, the first English child born in what would become the United States.
- 1590 – John White, the leader of 117 colonists sent in 1587 to Roanoke Island (North Carolina) to establish a colony, returns from a trip to England to find the settlement deserted. No trace of the settlers is ever found.
- 1914 – Germany declares war on Russia while President Woodrow Wilson issues his Proclamation of Neutrality.
- 1939 – The film The Wizard of Oz opens in New York City.
- 1965 – Operation Starlite marks the beginning of major U.S. ground combat operations in Vietnam.
- 1969 – Two concert goers die at the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York, one from an overdose of heroin, the other from a burst appendix.
- 2011 – Gold hits a record price of \$1,826 per ounce.

CLASSIFIEDS

Place your classified ad today – only \$1 per word! E-mail: ads@thesomervilletimes.com

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CASH FOR CARS! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled-it doesn't matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! Call 844-813-0213

EDUCATION

Train online to do medical billing! Become a Medical Office Professional at CTI! Get trained & certified to work in months! 888-572-6790. (M-F 8-6 ET)

FINANCIAL

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Kitty Connection Online Auction: August 20 – 22

Kitty Connection, an all-volunteer non-profit dedicated to rescuing and finding safe, loving homes for local cats and dogs, will hold an End of Summer/Back to School Online Auction from 4:00 p.m., Friday, August 20, through 9:00 p.m., Sunday, August 22, at www.myminiauction.com/kittyconnection.

Kitty Connection provides critical high-cost medical care, including surgeries, for 30 to 50 cats annually, and provides funds for low-cost medical care to 30 to 50 adopters following adoption of their pets. Volunteers provide foster homes for animals until they are adopted, and Kitty Connection ensures that pets are spayed/neutered, tested for common illnesses, and vaccinated prior to adoption.

In addition, Kitty Connection runs a low-cost spay/neuter program for pet owners in need and provides education and outreach in the community about the importance of responsible pet ownership. The organization anticipates restarting its feral cat trap/neuter/return program when it's safe for volunteers, after the pandemic has subsided.

Dozens of items will be up for bid during the End of Summer/Back to School Online Auction, including baskets in various themes perfect for the season, and many gifts and items for kids, pets, and adults.

Auction rules and logistics are posted on the auction website, and items up for bid will appear there at the auction start time (4:00 p.m., Friday, August 20). Please direct any questions to stephanie@kittyconnection.net. To learn more about Kitty Connection's mission and pets available for adoption, visit: www.kittyconnection.net.

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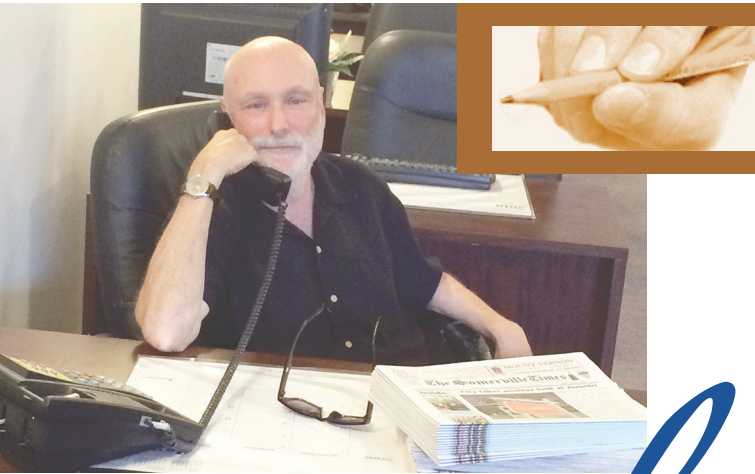
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Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Kentucky native CD Collins follows the storytelling traditions of the South, both as a solo artist and when accompanied by musicians. Her work is represented in five compact discs, one of which won Best Spoken-Word album at the Boston Poetry Awards. She is the author of three books: a short fiction collection, *Blue Land* (Polyho Press), a poetry collection (Ibbetson Street Press) and a novel, *Afterheat* (Empty City Press). Her work has appeared in numerous literary magazines including *StoryQuarterly*, *Phoebe*, *Salamander*, and *The Pennsylvania Review*. Ms. Collins was guest at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. for a pilot conference to advance the development of innovative technologies that support the inclusion of people with disabilities.



Champs-Elysées

Every day I walk the bridges in the city,
Among sand-colored and pink-tinged buildings,
past storefronts and sidewalk cafés,
banks of round marble tables,
with gold-back chairs,
all facing the same direction.
I see faces: human, animal, mythical.
Everywhere you look there’s always a face.
And sometimes it is your face.

Along the Champs-Elysées,
The homeless men lie in the middle of the sidewalk.
They are staggered at intervals every block or so.
They lie on their sides or they crouch on their knees.
Each has drawn a chalk balloon above his head,
And inside the balloon his story written in chalk.

“S’il vous plaît,” they all begin,
Then a brief history of their misfortune--
I am without a home in Paris.
I have no job.
I am a poor Frenchman.
I am Jamaican.
They all end, “Merci.”

The men wear suit coats;
They have no belongings or even shopping bags,
Only a small metal can placed beside them,
Empty or containing a few centimes.
They wear dark leather shoes,
and cotton pants with creases down the front.
They wear suit jackets.
Which they pull over their heads,
Hiding their faces.

They are impeccable and formal,
Bowed down in the middle of the street,
Just the men,
Lying on their sides,
Or in uncomfortable positions.

— CD Collins
— Photo by Babette Meyers

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

The Mystic River Festival

A Showcase for Artists of All Stripes



I caught up recently with Laura Brereton, the new director of the Mystic River Celebration that is to be held on September 25. This celebration, by the waters of the Mystic River will be open to Medford and Somerville artists, as well as regional artists. Its main focus is to bring the arts to Medford.

From talking with Brereton there seems to be quite an eclectic mix of participants. For more info about the festival go to: <https://cacheinmedford.org/mystic-river-celebration/>

Doug Holder: What is your connection to Somerville?

Laura Brereton: We are neighbors! And we share some things like the Mystic River and Tufts University, so we feel a special kinship with Somerville.

DH: Can you give me a brief history of the event, and its mission statement?

LB: The Mystic River Celebration began 11 years ago as the brain child of Allie Fiske who used to be the Director of the festival as well as the Program Director for CACHE, a non-profits arts organization in Medford. She recently stepped down in her role, and I am the new Director for the festival.

Allie and the CACHE board members wanted to bring more arts to Medford and also make good use of the Condon Shell, which is a huge asset to our community.

The goals for the festival are to highlight local bands and musicians by featuring live music, and to showcase other types of performers like dance troops, poets, and circus performers. We have also included interactive art installations.

Additionally, there are many artisan vendors and local organizations who have booths at the event. We also have activities for children and

food vendors.

DH: Any Somerville artists of note who participated over the years?

LB: We have artists from all over the region participating, and I am sure there have been some from Somerville but I don't know specific names.

DH: Why is the Mystic River such an inspiration, in your opinion?

LB: To me, the river is not only a wonderful natural resource but it also represents life, movement, flow, change, and beauty – all qualities that are equally present in art and community.

DH: This is an outdoor exhibition, as well as a juried event. What criteria will the judges use to judge a painting?

LB: This is not actually a juried event. Only the application process for artists is juried so that we have diversity and variety in the type of art at the event.

DH: You are a music teacher. Any music included?

LB: I am a musician and teacher. Music is a key part of the festival as it not only makes for a fun and lively vibe, but it also allows us to highlight some musicians from our incredible Boston-area music scene. And, as an added bonus, the Condon Shell has just been updated with a gorgeous new mural by local artist Meagan O'Brien so the stage area looks phenomenal!

DH: If someone asked you, "Why should I attend?" what would be your answer?

LB: Now more than ever, we need the arts and a sense of community to bridge divides and help people heal. The Mystic River Celebration strives to do just that. Through music and art we bring a fun, safe, and community-minded celebration of the arts to the banks of the beautiful Mystic River.

Household Hazardous Waste Community Collection Day

(Residential Pickup, No Drop-Offs)

Due to COVID-19, the City of Somerville, in collaboration with ACV Enviro, will be hosting an alternative program for residential pick up of Household Hazardous Waste on Wednesday, August 18, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Instead of coming to a drop-off site, we are coming to you!



Hazardous waste pickup events will happen from April to November on the second Wednesday of each month. Registration is required. Visit somervillema.gov/HWPickup to sign up. Registration opens three weeks prior to each event and will close when the maximum number of requests is reached. So clean out the garage, empty the basement, and get rid of Oil –Paint –Cleaners –Antifreeze – Poisons – Pesticides – Batteries – Fluorescent Lamps – Electronics – and more!



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