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SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



Our Somerville
nicknames

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New rideshare
pickup location

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Live jazz is back
at the Armory

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Somerville implements indoor face covering mandate



A new face-covering mandate for all indoor public spaces has been approved by the Somerville Board of Health.

By Jim Clark

Last week, the Somerville Board of Health (BOH) approved a face-covering mandate for all indoor public spaces that took effect on Friday, August 20.

According to a public release issued by the city, the mandate applies to anyone two years of age or older, and face coverings can be removed when people are actively eating or drinking. The mandate decrees that masks should have a snug fit and cover the nose and mouth. The order can be read at <https://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19-Mask-Order-Proposed-8.21.pdf>.

The public release further indicated:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends everyone in areas of high or substantial COVID-19 transmission wear face coverings when in

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Urban Forestry Committee makes plans for city trees

By Rachael Hines

Somerville's Urban Forestry Committee met virtually on Thursday evening, August 19.

The meeting focused on city and private tree removals, planting plans, and their upcoming urban forest management plan. The committee also approved the upcoming removal of three large trees on Irvington Road, as well as plans to remove salt-damaged trees on Grand Union Boulevard.

The committee also discussed their ongoing Adopt-A-Tree program. With this program, Somerville residents can care for, name, and receive updates about trees near their home.

The program helps to encourage community care of young and vulnerable trees, but co-chair and landscape designer Althea Northcross said citizens do not need to be a part of the program to aid Somerville's forestry.

"Just care for the trees in your yard or park, no matter how old they are," said

Continued on page 5



The Somerville Urban Forestry Committee is continuing its work of managing the city's trees and shrubs.



IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE



WILLIAM "BILLY" TAURO

*****IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE*****
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The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

The Somerville Board of Health (BOH) approved a **face-covering mandate** for all indoor public spaces at its August 19 meeting that is in effect as of **Friday, August 20**. The mandate applies to anyone two or older, and face coverings can be removed when people are actively eating or drinking. Masks should have a snug fit and cover the nose and mouth. The order can be read at <https://www.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-19-Mask-Order-Proposed-8.21.pdf>. The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** recommends everyone in areas of high or substantial COVID-19 transmission wear face coverings when in indoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status. Currently, all Massachusetts counties have either high or substantial transmission. For more coronavirus and vaccine information, visit [somervillema.gov/COVID19](https://www.somervillema.gov/COVID19) or [somervillema.gov/vaccine](https://www.somervillema.gov/vaccine) and sign up for City alerts at [somervillema.gov/Alerts](https://www.somervillema.gov/Alerts). We urge you to sign up for every alert method you are able to receive phone call, text, email. Also please follow [FB.com/SomervilleCity](https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCity) and [@SomervilleCity](https://twitter.com/SomervilleCity).








The **deadline to register to vote** or update your party affiliation or address for the **September 14 preliminary election** is today, **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.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy Birthday to our own **Bob "Monty" Doherty** is

Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 25 – August 31 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>August 25</i>	Sunny	90°/71°	5%	2%	NW 10 mph
 Thursday <i>August 26</i>	Sunny	92°/73°	23%	13%	ESE 7 mph
 Friday <i>August 27</i>	Sunny	85°/65°	14%	7%	NNW 10 mph
 Saturday <i>August 28</i>	Partly Cloudy	74°/62°	11%	4%	ENE 8 mph
 Sunday <i>August 29</i>	Partly Cloudy	77°/67°	15%	6%	SE 9 mph
 Monday <i>August 30</i>	Partly Cloudy	81°/71°	25%	9%	SW 13 mph
 Tuesday <i>August 31</i>	Rain	81°/66°	41%	22%	SW 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*

JT says:

Vaccination not regulation... Get vaccinated, period, heck, get a booster if you are worried. There is no evidence mask use post vaccination does anything, but we do know that vaccination is highly safe and highly effective – and free!

Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

Regulation not wishful thinking. Anyone who has the intellectual capacity to tie their own shoelaces knows that many Americans are NOT going to get vaccinated. Not under the current circumstances. So we have to do whatever is necessary to protect ourselves until they either wise up or die off. Here's the current CDC guideline:

"In areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated."

Whether we are in an area with high numbers of COVID-19 cases or not, common sense dictates the obvious. And we could get those high numbers at any time, considering the potential for even worse variants to arise because of the anti-vaxxers.

Just do it. 'K?

Response to: *Candidate responses to Fair Housing questionnaire – Part I*

Bob Ross says:

Very curious as to why Billy Tauro's responses to these questions aren't represented here. It's actually very telling.

albert says:

I think several candidates are quite misguided about what constitutes discrimination. Not making enough to afford market rate housing is not discrimination. Credit / previous evictions / immigration status are also very fair criteria.

The raw counts of various races that were approved for home loans was quoted a few times and held up as evidence of discrimination. This is improper use of statistics. The question is, first, what proportion of various races get approved, and in analyzing whether evidence of differences in proportions exists one needs to control for income, credit, and other valid criteria for making a loan decision. It is a multivariate problem.

Fair & Balanced says:

Neither he nor his campaign submitted answers to the questions. I know because I work with the commission. If you need convincing, check the several other outlets that have published the same material. He's not in any of them.

Please don't accuse the Times of censorship, that is simply not the case.

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

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Life in the  by Jimmy Del Ponte

Murph the Surf and other Somerville nicknames



This article was first published in the July 21, 2010 edition

No one’s name was safe from the teasing kids unleashed on each other back in the day – everyone’s first or last name became a source of adolescent taunting. They called me Jimmy the Pimmy. I still don’t know what a pimmy was but it sure used to tick me off. Then there was my family’s name. The teasing came pretty easily. It was “Del Monte Beans” or “Del Ponte Fruit.”

One of my particularly cruel nicknames was “Jimmy the mini- (insert rhyming derogatory slur for Italians).” With the last name of Wood, “woodpecker” seemed appropriate. My pal Scott Leake ... well, need I say more? They also called him “sneaky Leaky.”

Some nicknames were okay. Knowlton Brown, who worked at the YMCA for years was known affectionately as “Brownie.” Jane was “Jungle Jane” and “Jane Jetson.” My dear friends, the Baldassaris, had their nickname built right into their name (you figure it out). Phyllis was “Philadelphia Cream Cheese” and “Phyllis Diller.” Chris, Michelle and Andrew heard ... “Maoi-li ravioli!” Teddy Bates had a few good

nicknames, as did Mike Bonanno. Everyone named Sullivan, Fitzgerald and O’Brien became “Sully,” “Fitzie” and “O’B.” Those were automatic nicknames. Murphys were “Murph,” “Murph the Surf” and even, “Murph the Smurf.” We sometimes assigned names for how we thought people looked also. I remember my dad went to school with a guy named “Stretch.” There was a very fair and decent police officer that we dubbed “Barney Fife.” Of course, no one ever said it to his face!

"I still don't know what a pimmy was but it sure used to tick me off"

My friend Tony was known as “Ton.” And to this day, I don’t know why our friend Steve became known as “Harry.” I was talking to my friend Charlie, who we now call “Chuck,” and he never knew that Harry’s real name was Steve. I bet a lot of you Somerville readers know “Joe the Toe.” All I remember is that he lost a toe somehow, a long time ago, and thus, his nickname was created.



That reminds me of the mean names my brother and sister used to call me. Because one of my ears folds over on the top, they called me Dumbo. They got punished when they called me that. My aunt Marie was known as “Wee Wee” because someone somewhere couldn’t pronounce Marie.

I have a friend who we have been calling “Bones” for years and it’s not for the reason you think. When he was only four years old he got hit in the head five times in one hockey game playing goalie. His brother later noted that after a haircut his head looked like a bone.

A couple of our friends’ nicknames were

“Bolo,” “Ment” and “Bone Rack.” Don’t forget Moose Mason.

Sister Margerlaine became Sister Margarine. Teachers had a lot of cruel nicknames. My friend Pat was Patrick Joseph, so he was known as PJ. He actually had a band called the PJ Five. There was DJ Sullivan too. I think everyone has a friend named DJ. I had two friends named Richy Collins. One became known as “The other Richy Collins.”

Nicknames could be cruel when we were kids, but today, we can laugh about them.

I have a friend, that to this day still calls me “Del Panty.”

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Mutual assaults lead to mutual arrests

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to a Broadway location last week on reports of an assault.

Upon arrival, the officers spoke with Jose Dubon, who explained that he had given \$10 to another man, Luciano Delira, to pay for some food.

After a few minutes, Delira returned to the bus stop where the three were seated without the food. He reportedly acted as if nothing had happened.

Dubon confronted Delira about the missing food, and at this time Delira allegedly struck Dubon over the head two to three times with a large wooden stick that he carries.

The two men wrestled on the ground until they were separated. Eventually, Delira left the area with the stick. A witness who was with the two men corroborated Dubon's statement.

The officers requested an ambulance to assess any injuries which Dubon may have sustained. He declined any medical treatment on scene.

While Dubon was having his injuries evaluated, he pointed across the street and pointed out Delira, who appeared to an animated individual who was yelling and waving his arms.

The officers approached Delira and asked him to to explain what had occurred. He reportedly stated that he was at the park with Dubon and the witness when Dubon started an argument with him.

Delira said that at one point, Dubon removed a knife and swung it at him. Delira then spit on the ground to show the officers that he was bleeding from his mouth. The officers observed a very small cut on the side of Delira's tongue.

The officers asked Delira to describe the knife that Dubon allegedly was in possession of. He stated it was a black knife and used his hands to show the size, which was approximately 6-8 inches.

Upon learning this information, the officers walked Delira across the street to be evaluated separately by for his injury. Delira also declined any medical treatment.

While Delira was being evaluated, the officers asked Dubon if he had a knife on him. He stated he did and it was in his pocket motioning towards his front left pocket. An officers patted the exterior of the pocket and could feel what he believed to be a knife. He retrieved an all-black folding knife, matching Delira's description.

Due to the statements made by all parties involved, the officers placed both Dubon and Delira under arrest and had them transported to the police station where they were each booked on a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG				
Arrests:	Carvel Curry, of Boston, August 17, 6:35 p.m., arrested at McGrath Hwy. on warrant charges of miscellaneous municipal ordinance violation and	possession of a class B drug.	Luciano Delira, of Boston, August 18, 7:02 p.m., arrested at Broadway on a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.	James Eastman, of Dorchester, August 20, 6:10 p.m., arrested at Canal St. on charges of unarmed robbery and assault and battery.
	Paul Maguire, August 17, 10:15 a.m., arrested at North St. on a charge of disorderly conduct.		Jose Dubon, August 18, 7:02 p.m., arrested at Broadway on a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.	

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Somerville Police Department incident reports

Assault Log August 10 to August 16

On 8/12/21 at approximately 12:00 a.m., Somerville Police responded to Cleveland St. for report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated while walking on Highland Ave and Cedar St., he was approached by two young white males who proceeded to attack him. The victim suffered injuries to his face and wrist.

On 8/16/21 at approximately 1:40 p.m., Somerville Police responded to the area of Powder House Blvd. and Harden Rd. for a report of an assault. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated while crossing the street, he was nearly struck by a white van. The van then stopped and the operator exited then approached the victim and proceeded to strike him multiple times. Officers were able to identify the suspect.

Break In Log August 10 to August 16

On 8/11/21 at approximately 10:20 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a multi-family residence in the area of Broadway and Melvin St. for a report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated she was out of the house and when returning at approximately 2:00 p.m., she noticed money and a jewelry box were missing.

On 8/15/21 at approximately 8:40 a.m., Somerville Police responded to a multi-family residence on Mt. Vernon St. for a report of a breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated that while lying in bed, he observed two males sitting on his couch. Officers were able to identify the two male suspects.

On 8/14/21 at approximately 12:30 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a multi-family residence on Munroe St. for a report of a past attempted breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated an unknown party tried to force their way into his residence. The victim yelled and the suspect left the area.

On 8/15/21 at approximately 2:00 p.m., Somerville Police responded to a multi-family residence on Gorham St for a report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated on 8/12/21 at approximately 7:00 p.m., he observed his backyard shed was open and his bicycle was missing.

On 8/15/21 at approximately 8:00 a.m., Somerville Police responded to an apartment complex on Weston Ave. for a report of a past breaking and entering. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the victim who stated money was missing from his bag.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of *The Somerville Times* do not reflect the views and opinions of *The Somerville Times*, its publishers or staff. Readers are invited to send letters to the editor to *The Somerville Times*. Please email your letters to News@TheSomervilleTimes.com or mail them to 699 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144. *The Somerville Times* Reserves the right to edit letters for style, grammar and length. All letters must include an name and contact information. Contact information will not be shared with the public. We look forward to hearing from you.

Letter of Support: Beatriz Gómez-Mouakad for Ward 5 City Councilor

Some of you may recognize us from years of working for the betterment of our neighborhood, Ward 5 and for our City. Some of you may not recognize us because you may be a recent arrival. And some of you who know us, gasped when you saw this photo of us together considering some long ago public disagreement we had with each other.

But we are here now, standing together and with one voice, to express our support for Beatriz Gómez-Mouakad as the next City Councilor from Ward 5 in Somerville.

When we think of the challenges our neighborhood, our ward and our city and beyond will face in the future, we need a person with vision, fairness, compassion, and the leadership skills to help us craft and execute a plan for success. Beatriz Gómez-Mouakad is that person. Her professional skills, her dedication to all the ward and city issues, her determined can do attitude, (finished off with a tough as nails exterior) and her engaging personal style, is just what we need at this moment in our community's progressive path forward.

We two have been working for our neighborhood, ward and city for a long time. We know who has stood beside us in the past. And we



L to R: Joe Lynch and Courtney O'Keefe.

know Beatriz has been there. We also know she is the best choice to continue to stand with us, to help lead us, and to work for us as the next Ward 5 City Councilor. We ask you to please vote for Beatriz Gómez-Mouakad on September 14, 2021, Councilor, Ward 5.

Thank you and please stay safe.

Courtney O'Keefe – *Former Ward 5 Alderman, Founder, Ward 5 Online.*
Joe Lynch – *Former Ward 5 Democratic City Committee Chair*

Letter of Support: Todd Easton for Ward 5 City Councilor

Ward 5 will benefit from choosing Todd Easton for City Council, as will the entire City. Todd has been an advocate for youth and families for many years, volunteering in the Schools, assisting families struggling with food security, and donating countless hours to support youth sports in our community.

Todd understands what Ward 5 has been, what it is now, and what it can be. Even more importantly he knows the people whose lives will be affected by decisions made at City Hall, and he understands the diversity of the community in total. Todd understands that serving that diverse community does not always mean prioritizing what outside activist organizations prioritize in their platforms.

Todd has thoughtful ideas regarding what the City Council can do to protect and improve the quality of life for Ward 5 residents, yet he is always willing to listen to the concerns of his neighbors without judgment.

Todd has been active and involved in so much of what makes our City great over the past 20 years. His passion for protecting and improving the quality of life in Ward 5 - as well as his unique ability to effectively and genuinely engage with neighbors



Steve Roix.

and community members from all walks of life - makes him the ideal candidate to represent Ward 5 on the Council going forward.

I encourage voters in Somerville's Ward 5 to consider and cast their ballot for Todd Easton for City Council.

Steve Roix
Somerville

Urban Forestry CONT. FROM PG 1

Northcross. "We're looking for any help we can get."

For more information on the city's Urban Forestry Committee and its Adopt-A-Tree program, visit them online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/urban-forestry-committee>.



The Somerville Times
Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #235

Flight #93
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

One hundred fifty years ago this year was a fire wake-up call across the United States. The reason was the Great Chicago Fire of October 8 and 9, 1871. This remained the worst fire in American history until the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City.



The Chicago fire killed over 250 people, burned over 200 acres and destroyed over 17,000 buildings. The World Trade Towers' loss was over 3,000 people killed on 16 acres in two 110-story towers and buildings housing 31 million square feet of the most valuable property in the world.

One insurance loss estimate was over \$43 billion, but the emotional loss to America was incalculable. If you were old enough to remember that crucial day two decades ago, you will never forget where you were and what you were doing that Tuesday morning.



Thousands of innocent Americans were lost, and thousands were rescued by emergency workers and daring civilians who stood tall that day. They stood tall at the New York towers, the Pentagon and the flight over Pennsylvania. It was the most destructive terrorist strike in history.

Two weeks from now the country will observe the 20th anniversary of the attack. For the last eighteen years, Somerville firefighters, police officers and city officials have marched from Cedar Street to Davis Square to honor the victims and the rescuers of "911."

The World Trade Center attack was the deadliest terrorist attack in history and the single deadliest incident for firefighters and law enforcement officers in the history of the United States with 343 and 72 killed respectively.

The next time you are frustrated in traffic on Route #93, think about that day and the passengers on United Flight #93. We can thank them for whom and what they saved for our country that day, and especially remember their final message for us, the U.S. ... let's roll!



Candidate responses to Fair Housing questionnaire – Part III

The Somerville Fair Housing Commission asked a series of six questions of the mayoral and City Council candidates concerning housing issues in the city. Over the past two weeks, we published the first four questions and answers. We are presenting answers here from the mayoral candidates of the final 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.

Question 5:

If you are elected, what will you do on the following issues to address systemic housing discrimination against protected classes and to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing in Somerville?

- a. Policies and programs Somerville can use to diversify neighborhoods*
- b. Continuing to protect and enforce condominium conversion restrictions and other measures to ensure housing for families with children*
- c. Preventing discrimination against disabled individuals in need of housing that have emotional support animals*
- d. Preventing discrimination against households with Section 8 Vouchers or other rental subsidies*

Katjana Ballantyne, Candidate for Mayor

- a. Policies and programs Somerville can use to diversify neighborhoods*
 - I will be a leading advocate for more education about Fair Housing in the public schools and I'll advocate for funding for Fair Housing education initiatives.
 - I'll broadcast on all available public media to publish affordable housing opportunities and I'll advocate for adequate funding for this effort.
 - I'll continue my leadership in supporting programs like the 2000 Homes program, which prioritizes purchases of housing in areas where affordable housing opportunities are not available.
 - I'll will lead in supporting and funding the Office of Housing Sustainability
 - I'll increase funding for Affordable Housing, including City Bond funding against CPA funding stream.
 - I'll continue my leadership to establish the Institutional Master Planning (IMP) Requirements, that I proposed, and to pass the home rule petition that I sponsored, to allow us to require IMPs in our zoning ordinance. These initiatives will improve our PILOT agreements and encourage local residential schools to house their resident students on campus in campus housing.
 - I will lead in supporting, promoting and funding the Community Land Trust.
- b. Continuing to protect and enforce condominium conversion restrictions and other measures to ensure housing for families with children*

- I will protect and enforce the Condo Conversion Ordinance.
- c. Preventing discrimination against disabled individuals in need of housing that have emotional support animals*

I will work to protect the rights of disabled individuals in need of support animals. The presence of an ESA is an accommodation that should not be prohibited by no-pet policies. I'll work with the FHC, as mayor, to provide landlord outreach and education about the importance of emotional support animals.
- d. Preventing discrimination against households with Section 8 Vouchers or other rental subsidies*

I will use information and education to help landlords and tenants to understand and to maintain their rights regarding Section 8. I'll also push for the highest rent that the Section 8 authority can pay in Somerville. I'll support adequate funding for education about the Section 8 program. It is a great resource for tenants and our landlords.

Mary Cassesso, Candidate for Mayor

 - a. Policies and programs Somerville can use to diversify neighborhoods*

First, I would create new affordable housing stock across all neighborhoods, creating new affordable housing through 20% Inclusionary Zoning and new publicly subsidized affordable housing utilizing existing resources—Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LI-HTC), Section 8, the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP). I also will support city and non-profits' programs that allow existing housing to be removed from the speculative real estate market and have permanent affordability restrictions (100 Homes (and beyond), Community Land Trust). Second, I also want to consider tax breaks for landlords who rent to households at below-market rents so that affordable housing isn't just in new buildings but also mixed into the existing neighborhood. Third, I will fund programs coordinated by the Office of Housing Stability—education for tenants and landlords, enforcement for landlords who violate fair housing, and incentives for landlords to fix up units so they are suitable for families.
 - b. Continuing to protect and enforce condominium conversion restrictions and other measures to ensure housing for families with children*

I would continue to enforce condominium restrictions and tenant "right of first refusal" rights, which the current administration and City Council have done a great job strengthening. I would explore rent stabilization legislation. I would actively protect all "community-owned" housing: public housing, publicly subsidized housing, non-profit owned housing, affordable housing with deed restrictions that are expiring. I would ensure that new residential construction includes family-size units with 2- and 3-bedrooms, especially in the affordable and inclusionary units.

- c. Preventing discrimination against disabled individuals in need of housing that have emotional support animals*

I am an advocate for mental health and therefore I am support of allowing community members to get the services they need. I would work to create solutions with pet owners, and property owners, and health care services, so that emotional support animals can be allowed. Accessibility—both in retrofitting our existing buildings and ensuring best practices in new buildings—is critical to a welcoming, inclusive, equitable community.
- d. Preventing discrimination against households with Section 8 Vouchers or other rental subsidies*

I will work to increase the accountability of property owners, coordinated through the Office of Housing Stability, and continue to advocate and educate renters to know their rights. Folks who report discrimination need to be supported throughout the process with resources that allow them to fully exercise their right, for example providing translation services, legal guidance, and housing search assistance when needed.

Will Mbah, Candidate for Mayor

 - a. Policies and programs Somerville can use to diversify neighborhoods*

I will enact policies that create more affordable housing and units throughout Somerville, not just concentrated in a few neighborhoods, specifically historically low income neighborhoods where affordable housing has traditionally been placed. We can expand the 100 Homes program and buy properties for affordable housing in areas like Ball Square and Teele Square. We can also improve the affordable housing overlay and allow developers to build more densely so that there can be more affordable housing on a structure's physical footprint.
 - b. Continuing to protect and enforce condominium conversion restrictions and other measures to ensure housing for families with children*

I will fully fund and if necessary expand the Condo Review Board so that it has the tools necessary to ensure property owners converting rental units to condos are following the law. We should also increase the powers of the Condo Review Board and do more to penalize those who do not follow the law. I am in favor of increasing the amount of relocation costs and extending the relocation notification period for tenants impacted by condo conversion. I will also continue the city's lead abatement program so that there are more housing units that are safer for families with young children. Finally, we should consider zoning ordinances that require more family units in large developments.
 - c. Preventing discrimination against disabled individuals in need of housing that have emotional support animals*

We need to increase the purview and power of the Fair Housing Commission so it can actually enforce penalties and issue fines against property owners that



are discriminating against individuals with emotional support animals. A rental licensure program that provides prospective tenants with a landlord or property manager's history will also incentivize landlords and property managers to not discriminate.

- d. Preventing discrimination against households with Section 8 Vouchers or other rental subsidies*

Again, we need to increase the purview and power of the Fair Housing Commission so it can actually enforce penalties and issue fines against property owners that are discriminating against individuals with Section 8 Vouchers and other rental subsidies. I would also try to get more Section 8 voucher holders into the inclusionary housing units in the city by changing the tenant selection policies for inclusionary housing to prioritize households that have an expiring Section 8 voucher.

Question 6:

What reforms do you see as feasible to ensure that older housing stock is maintained in a manner that supports the health and safety of all residents, including low-income residents?

Katjana Ballantyne, Candidate for Mayor

I'll use all of the tools that the city has, such as zoning, for better pedestrian ways, accommodating people with disabilities. Funding and incentives for owners and landlord to provide adaptive reuse accommodation, to eliminate lead paint hazards, and for converting housing from fossil fuel heating and air-conditioning to clean energy sources. I will work hard for funding of all these efforts as well as affordability!

Mary Cassesso, Candidate for Mayor

Bringing together our offices of Sustainability and Housing Stability, I would promote funding for energy-efficient building systems that use cleaner energy, are more efficient, ensure better air quality and health outcomes, and lower utility bills for residents. I would work with ISD to make sure older units are meeting health and safety standards. In addition to health and safety, I would work to avoid displacement from older housing stock at risk of condo conversion through non-profit acquisition, resident-led right of first refusal acquisition, or other strategies to support Somerville community members in remaining here. Upon acquisition by a non-profit or other group, buildings can

Continued on page 10

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Back to school...again.

Our View Of The Times



So, public school in Somerville begins again on September 1, and with it a new slew of rules, regulations and guidelines to follow in the shadow of the lingering threat from COVID-19 and its Delta variant to both students and faculty.

This time around, the schools will not offer remote learning options for the 2021-22 school year, meaning that all enrolled students will return to full in-person learning this fall. This is considered to be an important advantage by many, in that they feel the in-person option offers the best opportunity for learning as well as social development for the kids by way of personal interaction with their peers.

In spite of the ongoing threat from COVID-19, the schools have vowed to do everything in their ability to put appropriate safeguards in place for a safe return for all students and staff.

Both the City of Somerville and the schools want to do everything they can to encourage full vaccination for eligible staff and students. They will begin the year with a comprehensive multi-layered approach to COVID-19 safety, including masks, physical distancing, ventilation, handwashing, testing, and vaccination.

All educators, staff, and any other individuals providing services in SPS buildings have been asked to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Masks or face coverings will be required for all students and staff working in our buildings, regardless of vaccination status, while inside school buildings. The schools are doing everything they can to provide safe learning environment.

We thank them for it.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

celebrating this week. You can enjoy his historical columns in our paper every other week. Ask him anything about the history of Somerville and he will have the answer. We wish him the best. Happy birthday to **State Representative Christine Barber**, who is also celebrating. We hope she has a great day with her family and friends here in the city. Happy birthday to **Jonathan Bowers**. We wish him a great year ahead. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Bob Osborne, Kathleen Goss, Louise Cruz-Partee, Ellie Loder Chute, John McDermott, Bob Baxter, Cheryl Endicott-Ribeiro, Leesette Bengar, Michael Madden and Isabel Mercauto** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

A walk-in clinic for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be held Wednesday, August 25, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the East Somerville Community School, 50 Cross Street. No appointment is necessary, but pre-registration is highly encouraged. You can pre-register at somervillema.gov/vaccine. The clinic is free, and open to all people 12 years or older, regardless of immigration status or health insurance. Identification is not required. All minors must have parent or guardian permission. Anyone 12-15 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Permission forms will be available onsite, or you can download one here. If you need assistance, please call 311 (617-666-3311).

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!

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.

Davis Square is hosting **Hostess & Little Debbie Milkshake Month**. Grab a milkshake with your favorite Hostess/Little Debbie treat. Each week through mid-September, a different dessert will be showcased: Twinkies from August 22 to August 28, Cosmic Brownies from August 29 to September 4, HoHos from September 5 to September 11, and Nutty Buddies from September 12 to September 18.

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.

Please join Zili Misik and musician Peniel Guerrier for the third workshop in their series *In A Somerville Yard*. Zili Misik and featured guests Solomon Murungu, mbira; Harrison Tei, Ghanaian drum and dance; Peniel Guerrier, Haitian drum and dance; and Becky Bass, steel pan are spotlighting music and dance from Ghana, Zimbabwe, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago are inviting all into a space to be created together to learn a little bit, play music and dance and most of all to have fun with each other. All events will take place at the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse Park, on the grassy area. Reserve for the workshops here: www.projectmisik.com/somerville-events Guest artists throughout the series along with dates and times from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.: August 25 (rain date August 26) is Peniel Guerrier; September 1 (rain date September 2) is Becky Bass; final event on September 11 (rain date September 12) with Harrison, Solomon and Becky.

The City of Somerville Elections Department is hiring polling place workers for the municipal

Continued on page 13

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olío

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#791

1. Which actor was in both *A Few Good Men* and *Jerry Maguire*?
 2. What was the name of the cook in *Bonanza*?
 3. Who is a vocalist for Cheap Trick?
 4. What show asks "Is that your final answer"?
 5. Blanche is the leader of what team in Pokemon GO?
 6. What actor plays the role of Paulie in the movie *Rocky*?
 7. What is an ailurophobic person fearful of?
 8. Where was the setting for the TV sitcom *Barney Miller*?
 9. What dance was performed in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*?
 10. Where would you find the Yangtze River?
 11. Where does arabica coffee originate?
 12. Which *The Price is Right* stage game is always played for a car?

Answers on page 15

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. You are more likely to be killed by a champagne cork than by a poisonous spider.
2. Despite the white, fluffy appearance of Polar Bears' fur, it actually has black skin.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

EMMY AWARDS

ACROSS

1. Emmy Awards attendees or celestial bodies
6. "He _____ and drank the precious words..."
9. Skier's transport
13. Move like ivy
14. What Alex and Lexington have in common
15. Power glitch
16. White condiment
17. Schiller's "_____ to Joy"
18. Movie "The _____ of the Chicago 7"
19. "Last Week _____ with John Oliver"
21. "Lovecraft _____"
23. Excessively
24. Invitation request
25. Part of graduate's ensemble
28. South American indigenous people
30. Lung pouch (2 words)
35. Giannis Antetokounmpo's target
37. Stain on Santa
39. Take exception to
40. Highland tongue
41. Bar, legally
43. Tropical tuber
44. Time on the job
46. Grey tea
47. Make a picture
48. Satellite Navigation System, for short
50. Mr. Eugene Krabs, e.g.
52. X
53. Compilation of nominees, e.g.
55. Uh-huh
57. "Swingers" actor turned "The Mandalorian" director
61. Ewan McGregor's role
65. Soviet entity
66. Flightless bird
68. Princess of #34 Down
69. Type of weasel
70. Lady or Tramp, e.g.
71. Improvise
72. Young herring
73. Printing unit, pl.
74. '90s TV sitcom "Boy _____ World"

DOWN

1. Sing like Ella Fitzgerald
2. Jack, Janet and Chrissy from "Three's Company," e.g.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19					20			21	22				
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29			30		31	32	33
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41				42		43		
44				45		46					47		
48					49		50			51		52	
				53		54			55		56		
57	58	59	60					61				62	63
65						66	67			68			
69						70				71			
72						73				74			



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3. Long time
4. Rekindled
5. Faucet
6. Loads (2 words)
7. Jason Sudeikis' role
8. Golden parachute recipients
9. U, on the road
10. One from Great Britain
11. Culture-growing turf
12. Bank on
15. Like an ignoramus
20. Hugh Laurie's medical drama, nominated 25 times, that ended in 2012
22. Egg cells
24. Great Britain's anti-mob law (2 words)
25. "The Queen's Gambit" game
26. Blood carrier
27. Suggest
29. Drag ball culture drama
31. Retired, shortened
32. "Get _____," Outstanding Comedy

- Series winner in 1968 and 69
33. Sainly glows
34. Royalty chronicles, with The
36. Philadelphia's Ivy
38. Millimeter of mercury
42. "Vamos a la ____"
45. What one needs to be
nominated
49. Itinerary word
51. Old crone
54. Like Elvis's famous shoes
56. Digression
57. Much ado
58. Against, prefix
59. Violin's Renaissance predecessor
60. One less traveled
61. Os in XOXO
62. The Handmaid's "story"
63. ____ top of ____
64. Captures
67. Allison Janney's show

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

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

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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.

Traffic Commission approves rideshare pickup location

By Bella Levavi

The City of Somerville Traffic Commission unanimously approved creating an Uber and Lyft pick up location at the Somernova complex located at the corner of Properzi Way and Tyler Street in their meeting on Tuesday, August 17.

Justin Schreiber, Transportation Planner for Somerville, explained that the intersection is often crowded with traffic and pedestrians, and creating designated spaces for loading to enable quick arrival and departure will decrease traffic in the area.

In the same resolution there is also a clause that creates a loading zone for other instances of drop offs at that intersection.

Mark Chase, a transportation planner working with Somernova, explained that he interviewed many tenants in the area to arrive at the resolution brought forward to the Council. “All the tenants agree that that corner is just kind of a mess,” Chase said. Mark Niedergang, Ward 5 Councilor, agreed that this intersection needs something done to solve the problem of traffic.

Chase went on to say that he spoke directly with Uber and Lyft, and they agreed to install a geofence in the area. Geofences create one spot in the area for drivers to pick up passengers and block all other pick-up locations in the app.

Also in the meeting, the Commission unanimously approved

three parking spots in front of Seven Hills Wine & Spirits located at 288 Beacon St. to be converted into a loading zone.

Schreiber explained that currently there is one 24 hour 20-foot loading zone. The change would increase the loading zone threefold and make it active only during business hours. Visitors of the area would be able to park in this spot overnight. Businesses in the area were consulted before the proposal was made.

Additionally, safety zone speed limits were unanimously approved east of Davis Square. The borders of the safety zone are Cedar bounded by Elm and Morrison. The safety zone location lowers the speed limit to 20 mph. “We are making our way



The Somerville Traffic Commission has approved the installation of a rideshare pickup location at the Somernova complex. — Photo courtesy of Google Maps

around the city creating these safety zone areas,” Alexandra Kleyman, Senior Transportation Planner of Somerville said. The proposal added 27 new lo-

cations to the safety zone. Traffic Commission meetings are held monthly. The next meeting will be held on September 9.

Somerville implements indoor face covering mandate CONT. FROM PG 1

indoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status. Currently, all Massachusetts counties have either high or substantial transmission.

For more coronavirus and vaccine information, visit somervillema.gov/COVID19 or somervillema.gov/vaccine and sign up for city alerts at somervillema.gov/Alerts. We urge you to sign up for every alert method you are able to receive: phone call, text, email. Also please follow [FB.com/SomervilleCity](https://fb.com/SomervilleCity) and @

[SomervilleCity](https://twitter.com/SomervilleCity).

On Tuesday, August 23, seventeen Greater Boston mayors and managers released the following statement on their responses to the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19:

“For the past several weeks, COVID-19 case numbers have climbed steadily across the nation due to the more transmissible Delta variant. We are encouraged that Massachusetts has among the nation’s highest vaccination

rates and has therefore experienced less serious impacts of this new variant than other states in our nation.

“Nevertheless, we remain deeply concerned about the Delta variant and its potential public health impacts, especially among residents who are not yet vaccinated, residents who are vulnerable because of their age or health status, and children who are below the allowable age for vaccination.

“We are committed to providing clear and consistent guidance for our residents, grounded in the most up-to-date data and science. We, the undersigned Mayors, City and Town Managers, and Town Administrators, are working collaboratively to address the current surge in COVID-19 cases.

“These are some of the additional public health measures we have already undertaken or are currently exploring:

(or a medical or religious exemption), or submit to regular testing, demonstrating our mutual commitment to keeping all staff and visitors as safe as possible and reducing the likelihood of community spread; and

Encouraging people to consider masking in public indoor spaces. We will strongly encourage masks in publicly accessible indoor spaces where individuals gather, including places such as shops, restaurants, hair salons, gyms, halls, and function rooms.

“As we implement these steps, we will continue to work with state and federal officials to adjust our guidance in response to emerging scientific data, encourage and help all residents to become fully vaccinated, and ensure that adequate testing remains available to all who may need it.”

Signatories to the statement include:

Arlington Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine
Beverly Mayor Michael P. Cahill
Boston Mayor Kim Janey
Brockton Mayor Robert F. Sullivan
Brookline Town Manager Melvin A. Kleckner
Cambridge City Manager Louis A. DePasquale
Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui
Chelsea City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino
Everett Mayor Carlo DeMaria
Framingham Mayor, Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer
Lynn Mayor Thomas M. McGee
Malden Mayor Gary Christenson
Melrose Mayor Paul Brodeur, Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition
Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller
Revere Mayor Brian M. Arrigo
Salem Mayor Kimberley Driscoll, Chair of the North Shore Coalition
Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Chair of the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition

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**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.30§39 & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L.c.149 §526 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 **Nashoba Blue Inc**
30 Memorial Road 433 Main Street
Somerville, MA 02145 Hudson, MA 01749
617-625-1152 978-568-1167

8/18/21, 8/25/21 The Somerville Times



ADVERTISEMENT

The **Somerville Housing Authority** invites sealed bids for Pest and Rodent Control Bid # P-PES-092021 for multiple locations in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by the Somerville Housing Authority Purchasing Department.

This is a Three (3) year contract

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.30 § 39M & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

General Bids will be received until **11:00 a.m., September 8, 2021** and publicly opened forthwith, at the Somerville Housing Authority, Administration Bldg., 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 01245.

General Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit or bid bond that is not less than 5% of the greatest possible bid amount (considering any alternates) and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority in the form of a bid bond; cash; or a check certified by, or a treasurer's or cashier's check issued by, a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Any bid bond shall be (a) in a form satisfactory Somerville Housing Authority, (b) with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth and (c) conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the Bid.

Bid Forms and Specification Documents will be available for download on SHA website www.sha-web.org under our opportunities tab at **11:00 A.M., on August 23, 2021**. You must register with Anthony Crespo at Tonymc@sha-web.org and leave contact information including an email to receive changes, or updates if bidding. There will be no charge for these documents. You will receive a reply if your email has been received confirming that you are registered. Bidders\ Contractors are responsible for insuring that their email and bids are received. Bidders are responsible to insure they submit addendums(if any) with bid. Addendums which will be posted on web site

A site visit is scheduled for **9:00 a.m. August 26, 2021**, at SHA Administrative offices, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA.. You are not required to attend. Attendees must wear a PPE facemask which covers the nose and mouth, and maintain social distancing when entering sites, failure to do so may result in rejection of your bid. Attendees are required to provide notification that they will attend. Please notify Anthony Crespo by email at Tonymc@sha-web.org or at 617-625-1152 extension 336 if you are attending. If received, a reply to your email will be sent. All interested parties will meet at outdoors of Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Building, 30R Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

Mailed or delivered bids should be sent to Somerville Housing Authority, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145, PEST CONTROL BID P-PES-092021 , Attn. Anthony Crespo, Purchasing/IT Manager, and received no later than the date and time specified above. SHA not responsible for bids lost or not received on time.

8/25/21 The Somerville Times



**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."

A Pre-Submission Briefing and Site Visit is scheduled for **September 2, 2021 at 1:00pm** at 90-92 Union Square, Somerville, MA.

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, 8/25/21 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.

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Registration URL
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4633157698158459661>

**TO CALL IN
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Access code: 310-190-199

8/18/21, 8/25/21 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB # 22-05**

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

Urban Horticultural Management Program

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids, or Procurement & Contracting Services Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **08/25/2021**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **09/08/2021 2:00PM EST**. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

The contract term shall be for a period of 1 year with 2 optional renewals.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

**Andrea Caruth
Deputy CPO
617-625-6600 X 3400**

8/25/21 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.storage-treasures.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, 8/25/21 The Somerville Times

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

Candidate responses to Fair Housing questionnaire – Part III CONT. FROM PG 6

be rehabbed funded by affordable housing resources to ensure long-term quality homes and affordability.

Will Mbah, Candidate for Mayor

Most of the older housing stock homes and apartments are also public housing where the state and federal government

control a lot of the aid and money to maintain the properties. Building regional partnerships and working with other cities and towns to pressure the state is one strategy I would pursue on that front. In cases where more direct funding isn't available for retrofitting,

like in the case of the environmental justice issue at the Mystics (noise and air pollution from I93 and McGrath, one reform I am interested in implementing involves a pilot program that provides residents who cannot afford to retrofit their homes with a free HEPA indoor

filters. We also must upgrade homes by removing toxic paints and lead pipes. Again, this is something the city can fund for low-income residents. I think the city can put together bold programs that incentivize this work for homeowners and landlords.

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COMMENTARY

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The Yin and Yang of Bloodletting



By Dr. Ian Halim

What happens to our bodies when we bleed? Looking at how we've answered this question across time gives us a way to chart the progress of medicine as a science. And in hospitals throughout the world, this question is not history, but a daily matter of life and death.

Since ancient times, healers would drain their patients' blood on purpose in order to try to help them. The theory was that the body consisted of different fluids, and that health required the right balance of these fluids—humors, as they used to be called. These humors were believed to be responsible not only for health, but even for personality and temperament. We get the phrases “ill humor” and “sense of humor,” from this old idea. Black bile was one such humor and gives us the modern word melancholy for sadness (from the Greek for “black” melan- “bile” chol-).

Even though it was wrong-headed, there was a kind of logic behind blood-letting. Blood is hot and wet. A person who is sick and feverish and sweating is also hot and wet. This made it more plausible to think of blood-letting as removing the hot and wet humor in order to counteract alarming fever and inflammation. But this plausibility didn't make blood-letting any less dangerous. In reality,

blood-letting is an assault on the body, starving it of nutrients and the power to supply the tissues with oxygen. When a patient is already sick, bleeding them makes them sicker and more likely to succumb to disease.

There are other reasons why blood-letting lasted for so long: there were few treatments that were any better, nobody was measuring whether it worked, and doctors thought that the body constantly generated and used up blood – making blood seem less scarce and precious than it really is.

It wasn't until 1628 that an English doctor figured out that our blood flows through our bodies in a continuous circuit, getting recycled over and over. And now we know that it normally takes about 120 days for the body to replace a red blood cell – far too slow to make up for a fast bleed. So controlled bloodletting is now only used for a couple of rare diseases.

One of these, polycythemia vera, is an excess of red blood cells often caused by a genetic mutation. The treatment, intuitively enough, is removing these excess red blood cells – a kind of modern blood-letting. This is done by using a syringe to draw off blood. As usual, the term for this is from Greek – from words meaning “vein” (phleb-) “cutting” (tom-). In modern hospitals, phlebotomy also refers (in a much more general sense) to the team that handles all blood draws. When you order laboratory studies for a patient, they are added to the “phlebotomy queue.”

Hemochromatosis is another disease treated by phlebotomy. It can result from an inherited problem in the way our bodies process iron, and it's a disease

not of red blood cell excess per se, but of iron overload. Iron is a necessary ingredient in the hemoglobin pigment that colors our red blood cells and allows them to carry oxygen. But too much iron is not good. As the saying goes, the dose makes the poison. Over time, if hemochromatosis is untreated it can cause liver failure, diabetes, heart failure, arthritis, and a tell-tale bronzing of the skin. One of the main places that our body stores iron is in our red blood cells, making removing blood via phlebotomy the best, simplest way to lower the body's stores of iron and treat the disease.

Except for polycythemia and hemochromatosis, though, we now know that losing more than a little blood is usually harmful. And nowadays doctors are well practiced at estimating the amount and speed of blood loss. We can start by considering blood pressure and heart rate.

Imagine a balloon filled with water, taut and stretched out. The pressure on it is great. If it's drained, the pressure will drop, and the surfaces will sag and tent inwards. This is a rough approximation of what happens in blood loss. The body can compensate by narrowing blood vessels and using the heart to pump the blood harder and faster. But eventually, if the blood loss is too rapid or too great, these compensatory strategies will fail and the blood pressure will start to drop.

When a patient comes into the emergency room after a car crash or a stab wound, or after starting to vomit blood, having a way to track blood loss is critical. Nearly the first thing that happens is the vital signs are taken – temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, and the oxygen level in

the blood. An increase in heart rate followed by a dip in blood pressure is classic for blood loss (although these changes are not unique to blood loss). This pattern will immediately raise concern about the patient, depending on how much the blood pressure has dropped and how much the heart rate has risen. As the balloon grows flaccid – in our model – the heart pumps harder and faster to counteract this. And eventually, if too much blood is lost, no matter how hard the heart works to counteract it, the blood pressure will keep dropping. Without enough blood pressure, the tissues will be starved of oxygen-rich blood.

Another way that doctors monitor blood loss is by measuring the hemoglobin and hematocrit—H&H for short. When someone is actively bleeding, the H&H may be taken at regular intervals, to track the rate of blood loss. The hematocrit is the relative volume of red blood cells within a given amount of blood. Hemoglobin is the metal protein complex that transports oxygen within our red blood cells, making up the bulk of their non-water weight.

When there is a brisk bleed, at first there will be a loss of total blood volume. Since all the components of blood are lost in roughly equal proportion, the fractions of hemoglobin and hematocrit in a sample of blood will appear normal. This is called volume contraction. But as the body continues to lose blood, it may not be able to make enough red blood cells to keep up. The body will retain fluid to try to maintain the same total blood volume, even as red blood cells are lost. Over time, as the body loses blood but retains fluid, there will be fewer and fewer red

blood cells in a given sample of blood. This progressive dilution shows up in declining hemoglobin and hematocrit numbers, allowing clinicians to estimate how much blood has been lost.

Hemoglobin, hematocrit, blood pressure, and heart rate are all very useful ways for doctors to estimate blood loss. The clinical situation is important too, of course, and the idea is to figure out why someone is losing blood and to stop it. The urgency of intervening will often depend upon the rate of blood loss and the total amount of blood loss, which can be estimated with our four objective measures. These objective measures are especially meaningful when combined with the story about what's happened to the patient, since other things can cause high heart rate and low blood pressure, for example, such as an infection.

These days, we can set aside the theory of the humors. We know that our red, oxygen-transporting blood is precious life-giving stuff. And we are often in a pretty good position to make sure that someone has enough of it. As it happens, there is a severe national shortage of stored blood right now. So even though blood-letting is mostly for the history books, blood-giving is here to stay – and more needed than ever.

Somerville Bagel Bards member and physician-humanist, Ian Halim, writes about how medicine relates to everything from ethics to botany—aiming to make science accessible to the widest possible audience. Ian earned his PhD in Greek & Latin literature and his MD at Columbia University in New York City and is now training at a hospital in Boston.

Reminder: Register to vote in the September 14 preliminary election by August 25

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. You can download one from the Elections website or visit the Elections Department in City Hall (93 Highland Ave.) to register in person. Please note face coverings are required in all City buildings. Don't forget that your form must be returned to the Somerville Elections Department by 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25.

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. For more information on the upcoming elections, visit somerville-ma.gov/elections.

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Podcast to follow nine international runners in the Boston Marathon

By Jessica Sisavath

In her podcast, Cherie Louise Turner, Somerville resident and long-time athlete in cycling, in-line skating, and running, will be running in the Boston Marathon on October 11 alongside eight other runners in their journey to the Boston Marathon, Strides Forward.

After cycling for a couple of years, running was always Cherie's way to keep herself occupied when she couldn't cycle. After her run-in cycling and living in Ireland, she moved to Somerville three years ago.

Cherie started her writing career in college, writing about sports and in the Sierra Nevada Mountains at Tahoe Quarterly, where she was assigned to write a story about ultra-distance runners. Not knowing anything about competitive running, she befriended a woman who did 50K marathons and learned more about the sport. She had completed her first marathon in the early 2000s and has completed a couple of marathons since then.

Over the past ten years, Cherie became a serious runner, completing ultra-running distances,

50Ks herself. "I love doing races, I love doing events, it is what keeps me motivated I don't understand the concept of fitness without training without having a goal like it just I," she says. "That is not how I operate, so I always look for something, you know, some challenge to inspire me and keep me motivated and keep me aiming for something."

She learned the benefits of running expanded beyond running itself. Her writing and athlete skills came together on her podcast, Strides Forward. What inspired the podcast was the 4% percentage of women represented in mainstream media. Strides Forward's mission focuses on narrative stories about competitive athletes that are not typically spotlighted in mainstream media. In addition, the podcast is a topic-based show that is concentrating on health and wellness.

Cherie understood and knew how to be an athlete and runner, so naturally, Cherie wanted to have the podcast focus on long-distance running, 5Ks and up, health, and spark confidence through stories.

The series dedication to nine runners across the globe from Massachusetts, Minnesota, Cal-

ifornia, Canada, Serbia, Thailand. The Boston Marathon has been on pause for in-person races since April 2019. Runners will share their thoughts on the Boston Marathon's Virtual Marathon in 2020 and excitement for the in-person marathon in October.

Rochelle Solomon, Patty Hung, Yaowapa Hoisungwarn, Marija Desivojević, Nicole Spaulding Pinto, Zarah Hofer, Amanda Watters, and Jonna Maas all are coming from different entry points and occupations. Patty Hung from Orinda, California, who has completed 34 Boston Marathons, enters the race as a quarter-century runner. Amanda Watters from Ashland, Massachusetts, completed 15 Boston Marathons.

Cherie had completed one Boston Marathon; both qualified on time, and others such as Zarah Hofer from Canada and Yaowapa Hoisungwarn from Thailand are first-time runners. All runners come from various work occupations, such as editors, teachers, medical doctors, and nurses.

The first part of the series will show how they live their marathon life, started running, re-



covering, sleeping, eating well, and healthy living. Also, what motivates the runners is staying healthy, being less competitive, prioritizing mental and physical health, and women's health issues. In a previous series, Strides Forward covered women's health issues such as RED-S and other problems that come with running, such as cutting calories and stopping menstruating. The new series will take listeners through an in-depth journey to look into the lows and highs of the run-

ners' who are training to run the upcoming marathon.

After October 11, Strides Forward will also cover post reactions from the runners. Strides Forward hopes to inspire runners and non-runners who stumble upon the podcast to follow these nine women runners on her new series, Roads to Boston 2021: 9 runners, 1 finish line. To listen to upcoming episodes, listeners can go on to the following website: <https://stridesforwardpodcast.com>.

Live Jazz Event - Arts at the Armory

Modern-Creative Jazz – Live indoors is back! Saturday, August 28, 8:00 – 10:15 p.m., Arts at the Armory, The Mezzanine, 191 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA 02143.

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1765 – In protest over the stamp tax, American colonists sack and burn the home of Massachusetts governor Thomas Hutchinson.

1830 – The "Tom Thumb" steam locomotive runs its famous race with a horse-drawn car. The horse wins because the engine breaks down.

1921 – The United States, which never ratified the Versailles Treaty ending World War I, finally signs a peace treaty with Germany.

1948 – The House Un-American Activities Committee holds first-ever televised congressional hearing.

1981 – Voyager 2 spacecraft makes its closest approach to Saturn.

2012 – Severe flooding in Myanmar.

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Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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.

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!

With the spread of the Delta variant on the rise, don't delay getting the

COVID-19 vaccine. The Cambridge Health Alliance Vaccine Center is right here in Somerville at 176 Somerville Ave., open for walk-ins five days a week to anyone 12 years and older. Monday, Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. No insurance needed, no ID needed. Free for all, regardless of immigration or health insurance status. No appointment necessary, just walk right in. Open to anyone, you do not need to be a Somerville resident or CHA patient

Help support your neighbors through the Somerville Cares Fund. If you're lucky enough to have some extra mon-

ey, 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.

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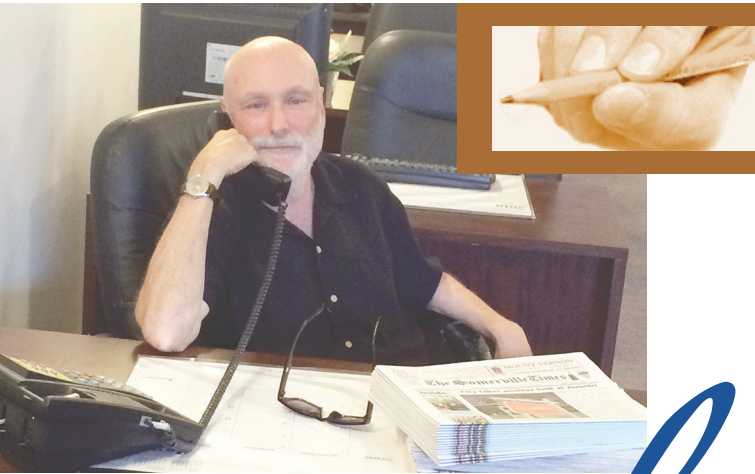
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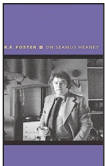


OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'On Seamus Heaney'

by R. F. Foster



On Seamus Heaney
By R. F. Foster
228 pages \$19.95 (hardcover)
Princeton University Press, 2020
("Writers on writers" series)

Review by "Off the Shelf" Correspondent Denise Provost

R.F. Foster needs no attention from me to burnish his reputation, any more than Seamus Heaney needs Foster to add luster to his. *On Seamus Heaney*, however, adds welcome layers to our understanding of Heaney as a poet and of the kind of public intellectual who attains moral standing in the wider world. This review aims mainly to draw attention to a valuable book possibly overlooked in the chaos of COVID, and to alert US readers to the merit they will find in Foster's other writings.

Robert Fitzroy (Roy) Foster is currently Professor of Irish History and Literature at Queen Mary University of London. He was formerly, and remains emeritus, Professor of Irish History at the University of Oxford. As this progression indicates, his academic roots are as an historian. Foster, though, is Irish, and Ireland's history and literature are intertwined to a degree uncommon among nations. With the publication of Foster's magisterial two-volume biography of William Butler Yeats, his literary sensitivity and insight became as apparent his exacting scholarship.

On Seamus Heaney is a quite different undertaking than the encyclopedic Yeats biography. It benefits, however, from the same basic methodology. Foster sifts through diaries, correspondence, lecture notes, letters, and early drafts of poems to construct a full view of Heaney's poetic enterprise. Foster braids together Heaney's biography and writing with the history of his place of origin, giving us a rounded view of how these elements come together in his art.

Foster connects Heaney's early life on his parents' farm – along with his classical education as a scholarship student – to the virtuoso ease of his first major poetry collection, *Death of a Naturalist*. Publication of that collection set up a "remarkable connection between Heaney and his readership," which later grew more complicated. Foster charts Heaney's growing success in the North of Ireland, even as violence against civil rights protesters and other targets – including some of Heaney's own kin – provided painful new subject matter.

Foster notes that Heaney's friend, the poet Derek Mahon, "claimed in 1970 that Northern poets operated in a milieu of broader relevance than the 'narcissistic provincialism' of the South." Such a claim may seem astonishing, considering that the Republic of Ireland was at that time not yet fifty years past its war of independence and even bloodier civil war. Yet some poets of the North and others excoriated Heaney for his treatment "of ancient, repetitive, sacrificial violence" in subsequent poetry collections.

Insisting on the "privacy and independence" of the poet, Heaney gave up his teaching post at Queens University, Belfast; moved to the Republic of Ireland, and published his galvanizing fourth major work, *North*. Heaney's later international acclaim makes it easy to forget that at this point his writing career, some reactions to his work were "viscerally antagonistic." Foster examines criticism of Heaney from this period, parsing out critiques based on professional jealousy or political disapproval to provide a clear-eyed and fair-minded assessment.

Foster goes on to examine the influences of Heaney's religious faith, devotion to Dante, friendships with other poets, and rising international profile in "his remaking of himself in middle age." In demand as a lecturer,

Heaney became a literary essayist. He joined the Field Day cultural cooperative for which he wrote his celebrated play, *The Cure at Troy*. Around this same time, he composed his collection *Station Island*.

In the long eponymous poem in that volume, Heaney meets the ghost of James Joyce, who says:

...Your obligation
Is not discharged by any common rite.

What you do you must do on your own

so get back in harness. The main thing is to write

for the joy of it. Cultivate a work-lust

that imagines its haven like your hands at night...

On Heaney's poetic and temporal journeys, Foster is a reliable guide. Of the collections *The Haw Lantern* and *Seeing Things*, written in these later years, Foster sees "a chastened and profound investigation into the depths of death and life. The roof had lifted off his world, opening it to new intimations." One of these was Heaney's arrival in the post of Professor of Poetry at Oxford, which yielded a series of extraordinary and wide-ranging lectures, in which "Heaney demonstrated his analytical command over different modes of poetic expression..."

Years before, Foster reports, "Heaney remarked that he thought it necessary, as an Irish Writer using the English lyric tradition, 'to take the English lyric and make it eat stuff that it had never eaten before.'" Heaney, in turn, later would – metaphorically speaking – eat the Old English epic poem *Beowulf*, translating it into modern English. By his doing so, Foster observes "Heaney's work and reputation were now positioned at the center of the English canon, while operating emphatically from a base in Ireland (North and South.)"

In this same period, Heaney was exploring "the line that divides the actual conditions of our daily lives from the imaginative representation of those conditions in literature, and divides also the world of social speech from the world of poetic language." He also began to speak of the power of poetry to redress the world's injustices and imbalances. Yet, at the same time, in Heaney's work, the "tension between public responsibility and artistic freedom is framed over and over again, decisively and defiantly refusing a simple answer."

Then, in 1995, Heaney was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. His remarkable acceptance speech, "Crediting Poetry" was separately published in book form and has become widely read. Foster reflects, however, that its backdrop of "the blood-spattered infliction of tribally decreed violence...has largely faded from consciousness...over the last quarter-century, if indeed it was ever in clear focus."

Heaney's tenure as Nobel Laureate expanded his life as a public figure. These demands came at a time of his life about which Heaney wrote: "I think that the political urgency is past for me. This is more the moment of mortality." It is during the time which Heaney wrote the poems in his extraordinary final collection, *Human Chain*, a work about which Foster writes with poignant insight.

I credit Foster with finding exactly the right observations in the other writings of Heaney and his contemporaries to illuminate Heaney's body of poetry from multiple angles. I hope that others who care about our literary inheritance will use *On Seamus Heaney* as a standard for writing about writing. Its combination of meticulousness and soul can only enrich our understanding.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Dona Luongo Stein, a former Stegner Poetry Fellow at Stanford University, has had poems printed in U.S. and world literary journals. Her fifth poetry collection is *Leaving Greece* (Shanti Arts Press, 2018).



Country Music

Listening to country music for stories
of lives worse than mine, I wasn't qualified

hadn't been an addict, an alcoholic
or coke fiend, or now white-haired lover and clean
though I was invited to Janis Joplin's house

in San Francisco, an ordinary
house with no trace of Janis as she'd already died.
I was too late taking care of a baby

and a husband whose needs outdid the baby's.
When the baby got to be three Mother said,

"When are you going to have another baby?"
I was astounded. What an absurd idea!
Another baby! As if one weren't

already enough mischief loose in the world.

— Dona Luongo Stein

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2. Hop Sing

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4. Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?

5. Mystic

6. Burt Young

7. Cats

8. New York City

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11. Ethiopia

12. Money Game

From page 8



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