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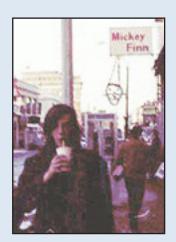
The Somerville Times

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

VOL. 8 NO. 31

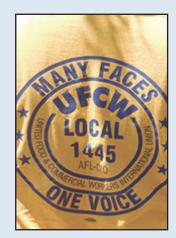
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After extended deliberations, school reopening plan emerges



Teachers, administrators and civic leaders are currently hammering out a plan to get kids back in school this fall.

By Rachel Berets

Five weeks before the school year is set to begin, the Somerville Teachers Association (STA) and the district are debating the safest and most effective way to start teaching in September amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

At a Town Hall on Wednesday July 29, the Mayor of Somerville, Joe Curtatone, Superintendent Mary Skipper, and other administrators presented an update on the Somerville Public Schools Reopening Plan.

They are leaning toward a hybrid model a half in-person, half remote system - even though 85 percent of the Somerville Teachers Association supports a phased-in approach, starting school in the fall completely remote and moving into a hybrid system when community health numbers and building safety allow it.

"None of these choices are Continued on page 4

Volunteers deliver back-up meals for at-risk older adults

By Nathan Lamb

Volunteers braved a heatwave on July 27 to help Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) deliver 840 shelf-stable meals to older adults at risk for food insecurity.

The meals were provided by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) and distributed to 120 households by a dozen SCES volunteers. SCES Nutrition Director Meghan Ostrander thanked everyone who turned out to help, saying the extra food will help some of their neighbors prepare for the unexpected.

"One benefit of these meals is that they don't require refrigeration," said Ostrander. "Many clients have homes with small freezers and can't store extra meals. If there is a severe weather event and clients can't get out or lose power, they will have seven meals on hand."

SCES Nutrition programs have been in demand throughout the pandemic. Referrals to Meals on Wheels have Continued on page 10



Volunteer Sasi Muthurajan packs boxes of shelf stable meals for delivery to at-risk older adults at Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services on July 29. Each box contained seven meals.

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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 end of the additional \$600 per week unemployment benefit will likely create new financial hardship for people in our community. 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.

Registered voters in Somerville should have received their applications for mail-in voting. If you fill it out and return it, you will be able to vote in the September 1 primary and November 3 general election without having to go to a poll site. Mayor Joe Curtatone explains this simple process here: https://youtu.be/k8mH7g0Z5ww. Anyone not registered to vote or registered voters who have not received their mail-in voting application can go to https://www.somervillema.gov/ ELECTIONS for easy registration and to download a mail-in voting application.

****** Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to a local guy who is very well known, Zach Zasloff. We wish him a great day. Happy birthday to Maria Mancini, formerly of Winter Hill. We hope she has a great birthday. Wishing a very happy birthday to our own Bobby Potaris' daughter Natalia. To Kaitlin Norton, we wish her a very happy birthday. And finally, happy birthday to Alicia Lafuente, a very nice lady and professional businesswomen. We wish her the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Tori Antonino, Ron Newman, Zach Corey, Keith Anderson, John Alan Roderick, Heather Hanson, Heather Marie Driscoll, E F Marie Wilson, Dale Hodgkins, Trish Bean Oakland and James Bimbo a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have Continued on page 7

The Somerville Times

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of August 5 – August 11 as provided by the National Weather Service

	DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
*	Wednesday August 5	Sunny	91°/66°	9%	6%	SW 12 mph
	Thursday August 6	Partly Cloudy	84°/68°	10%	17%	W 11 mph
	Friday August 7	Partly Cloudy	81°/67°	21%	16%	ENE 9 mph
	Saturday August 8	Partly Cloudy	82°/66°	19%	15%	ENE 8 mph
*	Sunday August 9	Sunny	85°/69°	10%	9%	SE 9 mph
	Monday August 10	Partly Cloudy	87°/70°	21%	22%	SSW 12 mph
35	Tuesday August 11	Thunderstorms	87°/73°	39%	31%	SSW 10 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Our View of the Times – July 29

LindaS says:

Perhaps a two-week in, two-week remote schedule might help, or perhaps having barriers put between desks to turn them into cubicles might at least mitigate things, but it's not going to be easy for anyone. How about even having teachers teach remotely to kids physically in the classroom, to keep them safe? Who knows?

No matter how cautious the City is being about anything during this time, ultimately, as long as people continue to be reckless, selfish and inconsiderate by gathering together in huge numbers (just watch the news lately), we may never get anywhere close to normal for at least another year, possibly longer, depending on how quickly they can distribute a vaccine.

For those who think they've waited long enough and just want to go back out and "have fun," I say, grow up and understand that it's not about YOU, it's about US. Let's hope you and your loved ones are still here in a year's time so that you can laugh about how you rebelled against the virus and did what you wanted anyway.

If we have to roll back anything because of the lack of consideration we have shown to others, we have nobody to blame but ourselves at this point. Everyone loses, and it simply doesn't have to be this way.

Response to: Rep. Barber files bill to protect families receiving long-term care services

Norman Spier says:

Let me make real the key quote from Rep. Barber's press release:

'Current federal law requires MassHealth (the Commonwealth's Medicaid program) collect its costs from estates of members who received long-term care services in nursing homes. Massachusetts is among one of the few states that goes beyond this mandate and collects money from all MassHealth recipients over age 55, regardless of whether they were in a nursing home.

Let me make real the "Medicaid estate recovery on much ACA coverage obtained by applying at the Health Connector" with a recent example caught in the Washington Post in another state, Maryland, which like Massachusetts, is as another among the few states maintaining the estate recovery on non-long-term-care expenses. https://live.washingtonpost.com/color-of-moneylive-20200723.html. If you scroll down to "Q: Medicaid estate recovery", you will see that Dad, living in Maryland, ages 62 to 64, got ACA's expanded Medicaid after he lost his job, and Maryland Medicaid paid the bills for his illnesses. Dad thought he had real insurance. But, alas, when he died, at age 64, his 3 children, who also had though he had had real insurance, discovered that although Dad was among the 91% of people counted as "insured" by the U.S. Census Bureau, he actually had just a loan until death for medical expenses, and actually, had no insurance at all. (All bills paid out had to be paid back to the Maryland Medicaid Department by Dad's 3 kids-

that's not insurance in any sense of the term.) This should also help straighten out many the common misconception that Medicaid estate recovery is only done for long-term-care and nursing home expenses. In maybe 10-14 states, including our own Massachusetts, it is done for all Medicaid medical expenses for people 55 and over.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments



Life in the VILLE by Jimmy Del Ponte

Mickey Finn's: Menswear and much more!



This article was originally published on March 8, 2014. In 2009, I did a story about shopping in Davis Square. Someone left this

comment: "I had a

relative, Hyman Kimmel, who owned a store called Mickey Finn's in Somerville. Do you know how I could find more data about this store or the owner?"

I couldn't find anything about Hymen, but I sure gathered a lot of info about Mickey Finn's. It was one of my favorite stores in the square back in the '60s and



'70s. We seem to recall that it was right next to the Smoke Shop.

Mickey Finn's was the place to go for Dad's Christmas, Father's Day or birthday gift. You could get a belt, a shirt, a hat and pretty much anything else a man could need. I don't know how they fit so many different types of merchandise in that medium-sized store. They sold these funky things called "jac-shirts." It was a shirt that you wore untucked, like a jacket. They came in a variety of gaudy fabrics and prints. I can still see the revolving rack of shiny sparkling and very loud vests. These items were great for bands and other performers. Of course I had a few! You could also get your official Somerville jacket with your name embroidered on the sleeve at Mickey Finn's. You just had to be careful when you wore it in Medford (Meffa.) It was one of my prized possessions.

They sold work clothes and Dingo boots there. A friend of mine told me that she bought every single color of Levi corduroys that were ever made for her boyfriend. You could buy swanky neck scarves, bandanas and even Western bolo ties at Mickey's. Many Somerville kids got their first pair of Converse All Stars at Mickey Finn's. My friend Jeff bought his pants with a "continental cut" there along with a snazzy leather jacket.

For Christmas and birthdays, my cousin Carol bought her dad initialed handkerchiefs-and every year he loved them. They carried Boy Scout gear, as well as camping necessities like canteens. If you needed a compass/whistle, you went to Mick's. You could also buy your "pegged pants" there. Pegged pants were what we called slacks that were very tight. You could buy them that way or have the tailor peg them for you.

A young Somerville athlete in the '60s probably got his first baseball glove or pair of ice skates at Mickey Finn's, along with other sporting goods. My cousin Butch bought his "engineer boots" there, and I got them when he outgrew them! What a sweet deal! They sold all kinds of cool hats there, too. When painter's pants, farmer's jeans and overalls were the rage, Mickey's was the place to get them. It was quite the haberdashery!

In the '60s, Mickey Finn's was the mop top shop ... that is ... it's where my friend Pat's dad bought him and his brother Dennis their authentic Beatle suits, which included the jacket, pants, shirt and thin tie. The Beatle boots, or "Gauchos" as they were called, were purchased next door at Highland Shoe. The official Beatles wigs sold for \$2.00 across the street at Woolworths. Pat remembers that the suits cost \$25 and the boots



were \$15. With a little help from Mickey Finn's, the O'Neil boys looked fab!

Common opinion seems to think that Mickey Finn's was gone by the '80s. There was also a Mickey Finn's in Boston's Combat Zone area.

So chalk up another great store from the past that a lot of Somerville people remember. I bet if you look in the back of your closet (or your dad's), you may find one of those loud, sparkly shirts that came from good old Mickey Finn's in Davis Square.

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12:00 to 8:00 p.m. until further notice.

Be safe and stay healthy – The Mount Vernon Restaurant

By Jim Clark

Unlicensed driver's stunt driving brought to a halt

Somerville Poilce officers were dispatched Third Ave. location last Sunday evening on reports of a large car group.

According to reports, over the course of the previous two Saturday evenings there had been similar calls for service to

Upon arrival in the area, officers encountered approximately 400 cars lined up on both sides of the street and in private parking lots along Inner Belt Rd.

There were approximately 800-1000 people either in the middle of the street or standing beside vehicles listening to loud music, with some consuming drinks out of red cups.

Several units from surrounding agencies assisted in disbursing the large crowd from the area. Some officers were assisted on Third Ave. and Inner Belt Rd., while other officers were at the intersection of Inner Belt Rd. and Washington St., getting the cars through.

At one point, officers heard a motor vehicle revving its engine, tires screeching and glass being broken coming from the parking lot at 59 Inner Belt Rd.

Officers proceeded to the parking lot and observed a vehicle finishing a partial circular burn out, almost hitting a parked motor vehicle.

Police blocked the vehicle and ordered the driver, later identified as Renan Santos, of Rutland, to place the vehicle in park and shut it off. His stereo was playing at an extremely high volume as he got out of the vehicle to attempt to speak with the officers.

Santos reportedly left the vehicle in drive and it rolled into a police cruiser, striking the driver's side tire and fender.

Renan was asked for his driv-

er's license, but he stated he did not have one and could only produce his Brazilian passport.

Police queried Renan's name and it was confirmed that he did not have a Massachusetts driver's license.

Renan was subsequently placed under arrest on charges of reckless operation of a motor vehicle, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and improper operation of a motor vehicle.

Arrests:

Robert Carney, of Haverhill, July 25, 2:24 a.m., arrested at College Ave. on a and battery.

charge of aggravated assault land, August 2, 2:16 a.m., arrested at Inner Belt Rd. unlicensed operation of a hicle.

Renan Santos, of Rut- on charges of reckless op- motor vehicle, and improperation of a motor vehicle, er operation of a motor ve-

After extended deliberations, school reopening plan emerges CONT. FROM PG 1

good choices," said Rami Bridge, President of the Somerville Teachers Association and a teacher at the West Somerville Neighborhood School. "But we can't enable this reopening to push forward if it's not healthy and safe."

In June, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) asked all the state's school districts to create three plans: a fully in-person plan, a hybrid plan with both remote and in-person elements, and a fully remote plan.

The district must turn in complete plans for the three different scenarios to the state by August 10, but they have already ruled out a fully in-person option.

"DESE asked all the districts not to be explicit about what they are doing until August 10, said Carrie Normand, the Chair of the Somerville School Committee. "But I believe strongly that the more transparent we can be, especially when there's so many uncertainties, the better."

Both the STA and the district have expressed frustration about the lack of guidance from the state. "To say something like 'make schools safer' without more specificity is challenging at best and I think every district is struggling with it," said Normand.

At the Town Hall Superintendent Skipper laid out Somerville's reopening guidelines that go beyond those of the state. The safety measures for the hybrid model include six-feet of social distancing space, required face coverings for all students and staff, health screenings, and limited material sharing.

The district is also exploring unconventional use of outdoor space and attempting to equip all students with devices and internet access.

One of the main concerns for the district and the STA is the condition of the building's ventilation systems. There is some evidence that coronavirus can linger in the air and poor ventilation could exacerbate the spread of the virus.

The state has not put in place any specific air standards, but the district has been conductventilation assessments to determine if the air flow in classrooms and bathrooms is adequate or if the buildings need to be outfitted with filters, box fans, or air purifiers.

Bridge expressed skepticism that the district will be able to evaluate air flow and make the necessary infrastructure changes by the start of the school year.

"We have many classrooms that don't have windows in them, we have many classrooms that have windows that don't open," said Bridge. "School is supposed to start in five weeks. It's just unrealistic that all the changes are going to get done in the timeframe that we need to get them done in."

Bridge would like the district to announce their plan as soon as possible so that teachers and



students will have more time to prepare for remote learning.

Jur position is that the sooner we decide we are beginning remote, the sooner we can work to make remote learning better. It doesn't mean we are going to be remote all year, it means we can continue building capacity in the buildings and looking at what a hybrid model could look like," said Bridge.

But even as teachers work to improve remote learning, research suggests that remote learning is not always effective and can lead to achievement gaps.

The district is particularly concerned with what it sees as its more "vulnerable student populations" - English Language Learners, special education students, low-income students and grade students.

There are concerns that parents working outside the home will not be able to help with technology, that children will not have access to mental health services including counselors and therapists, and that young students are not able to engage with remote learning resulting in learning loss.

"Remote learning will not solve all of their problems, no matter how rugged or how good the remote learning is," said Superintendent Skipper. "For our most vulnerable students, we need to find a way to get some in-person instruction for them."

Any hybrid model that the district chooses would mostly likely prioritize in-person learning for

pre-kindergarten through third the most vulnerable populations.

Bridge acknowledges that remote learning leaves many gaps, but also points out that life in the classroom in September will not look at all like it did in February - desks will be spread apart, there will be no papers to pass around. "The question is," he said, "does it add enough value to make it worth the risk?"

According to a letter sent out to student families on Tuesday, the school year will begin on a remote basis, with a hybrid of remote and in-person classes gradually phased in as ventilation and filtration issues in school buildings are worked out. Go to our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com to read the full text of the letter.

Phase 3 reopening in Somerville remains on hold

As members of the medical community note rising case counts and urge a rollback of the state's phased reopening, Somerville's Phase 3 Step 1 reopening will remain on hold. Local officials continue to review the situation in two-week intervals, with the next update coming on or before Monday, August 17. In Somerville, indoor and outdoor gatherings also remain in Phase 2, with no more than 10 persons allowed until further notice, unless specifically permitted in city activity-specific guidelines. To provide safer options for gyms and fitness centers to offer some services, the city is encouraging and supporting outdoor alternatives.

Businesses in the state's Phase 3 Step 1 reopening include large indoor venues and activities generally considered to be at high risk for viral spread such as performance venues, movie theaters, gyms, cultural centers, and indoor gatherings. Phase 3 Health and Human Services categories opened in Somerville according to statewide plans on July 6. Phase 3 grocery store capacity limit increases also went into effect in tandem with the state on July 17.

"We are watching as the virus rages and businesses are shut back down in states that ignored clear warnings that they were opening too quickly. We are also watching state and local data head in the wrong direction. At the same time, testing and contact tracing concerns and challenges continue to rise. This is a dangerous mix," said Mayor Joe Curtatone. "Pressing pause on this next phase is painful, but necessary as we strive to protect our residents and give ourselves a fighting chance of getting our kids back into schools."

To provide fitness centers and gyms alternative, safer options, the city is allowing those that fall under the state's Phase 3 Step 1 reopening plan to operate outdoor fitness classes and group activities of up to 25 participants after their safety plans are approved by City of Somerville staff. Businesses can operate outside on private property or in a public open space with approval from the Somerville Parks and Recreation Department. Public spaces can be used by these impacted businesses at a significantly discounted rate of \$25 for up to four hours. (Details at somervillema.gov/

outdoorgyms)

"Even outdoors, these fitness activities will only be safe if everyone - patrons, staff, and owners - fully commits to following all safety and hygiene requirements. I cannot stress enough how important face coverings, social distancing, hand washing, not sharing equipment, and surface disinfection are to enabling us to resume some normal activities while keeping the risk of spreading this deadly virus lower," said Doug Kress, Director of Health and Human Services. "It's really up to us whether we control COVID-19 or it controls us. So we must stick to the routine we all know: stay home if you feel even mildly unwell, always wear a face covering in public over your mouth and nose, wash your hands, cover your coughs and sneezes, and clean high-touch surfaces often." Somerville monitoring multiple factors

To guide reopening decisions, Somerville is monitoring an array of factors including but not limited to the 7-day and 14-day moving averages of positive cases, testing and positivity rates, as well as any acceleration of trends statewide, regionally, and locally. Officials are also monitoring testing and contact tracing capacity and efficacy, which have recently raised concerns, as well as trends in other states driven by reopenings.

Locally, Somerville is seeing an increasing trend for both the 7-day and 14-day moving average of daily positive cases, in a period marked by shortages in testing reagents and inadequate state contact tracing infrastructure. According to the Mass. gov data dashboard, the statewide 7-day-weighted-average positive molecular test rate has also been creeping up since mid-July, moving from 1.7% to 2% between July 14 and July 29. The state initiated the Phase 3 reopening on July 6.

During that same time period, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, Massachusetts' 3-day-moving-average of daily new case counts has also been on an overall upward trend rising from 250 to 349 daily between July 14 and July 28.

"You can slice the data a lot of different ways and each source uses a different method for calculating and reporting, so we try to look carefully at a range of data. It's also just as important to look at the situation on the ground," said Mayor Curtatone. "So the questions we continually ask include do we have enough testing capacity and is it reliable, do we have effective contact tracing in place, are people regionally and statewide complying with safety guidelines, is there sufficient access to supplies and PPE, what are medical and scientific experts advising, what is happening in states on earlier timelines like California which flattened the curve early but is now seeing a significant surge prompting authorities to revert back to shutdowns? We also look at the risk factors for specific activities like gyms and theaters. All of this combined points toward caution now on Phase 3."

Booking public open space for outdoor fitness

If you are the owner of a gym or fitness facility and would like to use public outdoor space such as a city park for a class, please visit somervillerec.com to create an account, then click on "Click here to make a Facility/Field Reservation Request" to fill out a permit application and submit a COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan and a social distancing plan for your activity. More details can be found at somervillema. gov/outdoorgyms.

Using private property for outdoor fitness

If you would like to host a class or activity on private property, please email your Health and Safety Plan and social distancing plan to ISD@somervillema.gov. If the property is not your own, please include a letter/email from the owner granting you permission to use the property. For more information on guidelines for outdoor fitness activities on public or private property please visit somervillema.gov/ outdoorgyms.

If you have further questions or need assistance, please email economicdevelopment@somervillema.gov or call 311 to be connected to Economic Development staff.

For more information and regular COVID-19 updates, visit www.somervillema.gov/ coronavirus and sign up for city alerts at www.somervillema.gov/Alerts. We urge you to sign up for every alert method you are able to receive: phone call, text, email. Also follow FB.com/SomervilleCity and @ SomervilleCity.

— City of Somerville

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #210

Our Mystic Shores

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

The seven-mile Mystic River meanders down from the lower Mystic Lake into Boston's historic harbor. She flows immersed in her own American history. Some say the name Mystic is gleaned from the Native American language.

Some think it alluded to her constant tidal change, while still others thought that its shores produced medicinal herbs with mystical properties. In any case, Americana floods the shores of our Mystic River.



Somerville's nautical history and its environs go way back. It is believed that Vikings explored the Charles and Mystic shores from the year 1000 to 1004, five hundred years before Columbus.

+ Since 1631, when Governor John Winthrop built the first New England ship, the Blessing of the Bay at Ten Hills, local citizens have had the taste of Mystic waters in their veins.



• The 1844 Thanksgiving poem, Over the River and Through the Woods, was written in a house abutting the Mystic's shore. It projects a Norman Rockwell feeling to the holiday.

+ James Pierpont wrote the famous Christmas song, Jingle Bells, in 1850 on the Mystic's shore. It was jotted down at

> the Simpson Tavern during sleigh races out of Medford Square.

> + On September 1, 1774, eight months after the Boston Tea Party, the British conducted its own raid by attacking the Powder House from the Mystic River in Charlestown, today's Somerville. Continued on page 12 It was an

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.

Letter to Somerville School Committee and Somerville Teachers Association

Dear Somerville School Committee and Somerville Teachers Association,

We are Somerville parents of PK-high school students. We work in education, science, public health, and medicine. Using published scientific evidence as our guide, we ask that Somerville prioritize an option for the return of our most vulnerable students to the physical classroom setting. We support the option of remote learning for any family that chooses it, and we stress that our most vulnerable students - including elementary aged children, children with special needs, and English learners - deserve the chance to go back to school in-person. This matters not only for our children, but for all children in Somerville. Although we may not represent all vulnerable children within the city, we value and are focusing here on equity for all students.

It is not possible to wait for a vaccine or zero risk. COVID-19 will be a global reality for years to come. Even when a first-generation vaccine is available, it will not be 100% effective, nor will it entirely stop the spread. Waiting until there is zero risk of COVID-19 in our state to resume any in-person education is not a realistic or evidence-based goal.

There are substantial, irreversible risks to fully remote learning. Children will miss out on essential academic and social-emotional learning, peer and adult relationships, opportunities for play, and other necessities for healthy development.

- ment. Risks to children include:

 Learning loss. Students fell behind academically in the spring and will continue to fall behind this year. PK-3 children particularly struggle with remote learning, as they are still developing the skills needed to regulate behavior and emotions and to maintain attention. If in-person school begins in January 2021, students will have already lost between 3 and 14 months of learning.
- Widening gaps. Systemic racism and baseline inequities will result in learning loss that

is greatest for students who are Black, Latinx, or experiencing poverty. Formation of exclusive "pods" for families with the most resources will further exacerbate gaps.

- Loss of essential support for children with special needs. A remote experience that meets IDEA requirements is not feasible for many support services (e.g. physical or occupational therapy).
- Mental health risks. Real-time engagement and interaction with friends and supportive adults cannot be replicated remotely. Losing access to these important relationships has a significant impact on children's social and emotional wellbeing, with this isolation increasing levels of toxic stress.
- Unreported child abuse. Increased isolation and stress on families throughout this pandemic puts children at a greater risk of maltreatment. Without teachers as safe harbors and mandatory reporters, increasing child abuse goes unreported and children continue to suffer.

We recognize that there are risks to reopening schools. Diligent adherence to health protocols is required to prevent transmission of COVID-19 between students, teachers, staff, and the community. We support Somerville's decision to exceed DESE guidelines with a 6' distancing requirement and mandatory masks for all students K-12. We also empathize with teachers and acknowledge the fear of returning to work after quarantine. Among us are clinicians who worked through the height of the Massachusetts surge, at a time when the best protective measures were in question. Experience and scientific study have demonstrated what we did not know then: masks, 6' spacing, frequent handwashing, and outdoor practice dramatically reduce the risk of transmission. Many of us continue in-person work, and we are confident in the effectiveness of our PPE (personal protective equipment).

Although we acknowledge that the risk of child infection is not zero, a plurality of research indicates that compared to adults, children are less likely to both contract or transmit COVID-19, with children under 10 years old the least likely to transmit. Countries that have reopened elementary schools as a first step of reopening did not see an uptick of cases of COVID-19. In France, there has been no evidence of virus transmission from young children to adults in the school setting. In a large study in South Africa - during return to schools with no masks, no personal distancing, and during exponential growth of the outbreak - 70% of schools did not have cases, learner cases in grades under 12 did not predict educator cases, and educator cases were not significantly higher than cases in the general population. Learner cases did predict educator cases in schools with grade 12. In the United States, the YMCA operated day programs throughout the initial surge of the pandemic that employed appropriate infection control measures, with no outbreaks and no cases in 40,000 children that attended. We trust in these data, as many of us have put our own children into both in-person indoor and outdoor Somerville-based camps and preschools over the past month.

While "zero-risk" reopening does not exist, Somerville has steadily maintained low community rates of infection. Our community meets WHO criteria for a safe opening based on public health expertise. These low rates provide an important opportunity for teachers to build in-person relationships with their new rising students in each grade at the beginning of the school year. We view elementary schools as essential and believe we can and should prioritize them.

Proposed strategies:

In addition to universal masking and 6' distancing, in order to further minimize infection rates, we can:

• Limit cohort size and interaction with other cohorts. Evidence supports limited cohort size. Models indicate that when students are split into two cohorts with around 10 students per cohort, nearly all infections in a school will come from community transmission – in other words, infections that would happen if students were learning fulltime at home.

- Utilize outdoor space during the school day. Have school outside as long as possible, as often as possible. Maximize school time during temperate seasons, erect tents on outdoor school or city property, and make full use of outdoor classroom spaces (such as at WHCIS, Capuano, and Argenziano). Consider contracting with external local after-school clubs such as Parkour, Drumlin Farm, Brooklyn Boulders, Somerville Recreation, etc. to enhance innovative, atypical outdoor learning.
- + Minimize adult interactions. Transmission rates are highest among adults. Interactions between teachers and parents can be minimized by staggering drop-off and pickup times and keeping parents outside the building. Interactions between teachers and staff can be limited with dedicated substitute teachers assigned to specific cohorts, virtual specialist classes, and virtual staff meetings. Another important strategy is to offer young children as much in-school time as possible, which will minimize the number of adult caregivers that families interact with outside of school.
- Protect teachers and staff with appropriate PPE and introduce thorough hygiene protocols. Like all essential workers, teachers and other school personnel deserve appropriate PPE and thorough education and training on how to use it. There is growing evidence that masks not only protect others from infection, but also protect the wearer. Remote work accommodations may be made for vulnerable teachers and staff.
- Implement a district-based testing initiative. We know that children are relatively spared from serious illness related to COVID-19, but we must protect our teachers and staff by taking precautions to limit outbreaks. First and foremost, we need equitable access to rapid testing for individuals experiencing symptoms (and their

contacts). We should also consider regular, voluntary surveillance testing of staff. We have the opportunity to leverage our neighbors who are leaders in this field, such as The Broad Institute, as well as our many strong healthcare organizations that are needed to organize testing and reporting of results.

With your support, Somerville can lead the path to a data-driven, science-based approach to opening schools with profound community benefits and less risk to our students, teachers and staff.

Thank you for your consideration,

SPS Parents supporting an evidence-based phased reopening

R Julius Anastasio, MS, Argenziano parent (Ward 2) Sunita Arora, M.Ed., Brown parent (Ward 6)

Amy Bantham, DrPH, MS, MPP Brown parent (Ward 6) Aine Blanchard, LICSW, Kennedy parent (Ward 5) Julie Bruch, MPA; WHCIS parent (Ward 5)

Elise Audrey Carpenter, MD, PhD; ESCS & Unidos parent (Ward 4) Erica Dwyer MD, PhD; Brown parent (Ward 5)

Liz Gaskell, PhD; WSNS parent (Ward 7)

Anna Goldman, MD, MPA, MPH; Kennedy parent (Ward 5) Allison Goodman; ESCS and Capuano parent (Ward 1)

Lara Hall, MD; Argenziano parent (Ward 1) Lauren Hittner, MD; Argenziano parent (Ward 2)

Rebecca Inzana, MS, CCC-SLP, Brown parent (Ward 5) Gabrielle A. Jacquet, MD, MPH; Brown parent (Ward 6) Daniele Lantagne, M.Eng, PhD; Argenziano parent (Ward 5) Caitrin MacDonald, NP; ESCS & SHS parent (Ward 3) Amar Majmundar MD, PhD; Brown parent (Ward 5)

Rana McLaughlin, MS; Brown parent (Ward 5) Elizabeth Pinsky, MD; Kennedy parent (Ward 6) Dana Sackton, MD; Brown parent (Ward 6) Katharine Sackton, PhD; Brown parent (Ward 6)

Lisa Schweigler, MD, MPH, MS; Healey parent (Ward 5) Amy Yule, MD; Kennedy parent (Ward 4)

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Summer activities are fun, but keep your distance and the masks on.

Our View Of The Times



Even though the summer weather is inticing and it draws us out into the open for social and athletic activities, it is important to remember that the risk of catching the COVID-19 virus is still very real.

More than ever, it is important to follow the established safety guidelines as we continue our efforts to flatten the curve, lower infection rates and ultimately defeat the scourge that has rendered our lives heavily restricted and our patience taxed to the very limits.

The euphoria felt with the season is natural and completely understandable, especially considering all the staying at home we underwent through the earlier part of the year. We have felt pent up and eager for action, freedom of movement and social interaction. The season inspires us to live life to the fullest and be as

active as we can be.

It feels like something of a wet blanket to have to restrict our activities and hold down those impulses. But deep down we know that we have to do whatever it takes to protect ourselves and others while the pandemic is still in full force.

In fact, infection rate resurgences have made it clear that we need to remain as vigilant and cautious as we can be. Without a doubt, this is not the time to be letting our guard down.

The current situation cannot go on forever, and we can surely hold the line when it comes to practicing social distancing and wearing face masks whenever it is appropriate to do so. By following these guidelines, we'll all be doing our part to bring this nightmare to a close. In the meantime, enjoy your summer.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

******* Sad news for Slumbrew fans. The following was just released: "Today we say THANK YOU and goodbye. It has been the honor of a lifetime to bring you Slumbrew beers, the outdoor beer garden, our brewery and American Fresh Brewhouse. Having plenty of time to think, rest and reset we have decided to close for good. Thank you for the good times, great conversations and celebrating the many special moments of your lives with us. Thank you to the hundreds of staff that have served our guests, opened and closed our doors day after day. (You know you work at Slumbrew, when someone you love, picks a mustard seed off you and then asks "What the eff is that!?") Thank you to our colleagues, wholesalers, retailers, draft accounts and partners. We'll look in on you from time to time and share our next chapters. Stay

safe & be well. Slainte!"

The Somerville City Council will hold a virtual public hearing on Tufts University's reopening plan on Wednesday, August 5, starting at 7:00 p.m. There are two ways residents can submit

testimony: To attend and be heard, enter the following link into your internet browser at any time before the meeting: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/ register/6975948688038741262. You will be asked to register for the meeting, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the meeting/webinar when it starts. Testimony can also be sent via email to cityclerk@somervillema.gov or mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, 02143. The comments must arrive no later than noon on Wednesday, August 5, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning that some hand sanitizers containing methanol, which can have toxic effects, are being sold in the U.S. The FDA is keeping a list on its website of brands that contain methanol and the list was recently expanded. Take a look at the list to make sure the products you are using are safe.

Although there have not been any human cases of **West Nile virus** reported this summer, mosquitoes that tested positive for the virus have been found

in neighboring towns, so it's important to protect yourself when you're outside. Mosquitoes are most active at **dawn and dusk**; if you will be outside during those times consider using bug spray and/or covering up with long sleeves and pants.

******* Just Us Somerville (JUS), a group of **People Of Color** living in Somerville, is looking for local Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) artists to assist with the development and implementation of a Black Lives Matter mural street project. The plan is to create large text on Broadway. According to Google, the roadway stretch is about 530 feet, starting from after the Medford Street intersection towards Central Street in Somerville. They are seeking an experienced visual artist who is willing to collaborate with the community in the making of a street mural of the "Black Lives Matter" as text and implementing additional graphics within the boundaries of the large text. How to apply: Fill out Google Form: https://forms. gle/9McbuxPEem5Py9VD7 Deadline for submission: August 17. The goal is to have the project done by Sept 12 and 13. If interested, please contact iaritza Menjivar: imenjivar@somervillema.gov.

The City of Somerville Council on Aging is now accepting donations of new games, puzzles, books, arts and craft supplies, and other fun items to deliver some cheer to local seniors. Sudoku books, word searches, adult coloring books, sketch pads, playing cards, and stationery are especially popular. Donations will be used to create care packages that will be delivered directly to seniors' residences. During the pandemic, while in-person programming has been on hold, these small but meaningful gestures are one way the Council stays connected to its patrons and continues to support seniors in our community. Donated items should be dropped off in the designated box inside the front door of the Holland Street Senior Center, 167 Holland St. Items are being collected through Friday, August 7. Questions can be directed to Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator, at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or (617) 625-6600 ext. 2321. ******

The City of Somerville Constituent Services (311 Somerville) is seeking three Part-Time Customer Service Representatives for temporary work through June 30, 2021. Continued on page 10

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#742

1. When did the Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals take effect?

7. What was the first toy advertised on

Stock Index contain?

2. How is Dutch Elm Disease spread?

8. What artist painted Girl with a Pearl Earring?

television?

3. Which is the world's most expensive spice by weight?

9. Who played Big Daddy in the film Cat on a Hot Tin Roof?

4. In what year was the original Air Jordan sneakers produced exclusively for Michael Jordan?

10. What type of dog produces a unusual yodel-like sound?

5. What culinary flavor is called the "stinking rose"?

11. In Bingo, what number is called "two little ducks"?

6. How many stocks does the Dow Jones Industrial Average

FREE!

3

4

5

12. What is the lowest army rank of a US

soldier?

American Standard

7

3

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6

5

SUDOKU

4

2

9

1

4

Answers on page 10

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

2. A large flawless emerald is worth more than a similarly large flawless diamond.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD BACK TO SCHOOL

ACROSS

1. Egg-like curve in math class

5. a.k.a. stand-up paddleboard

8. Not in good health

11. Flick part

12. Roll ____

13. Aerosol can emanation

15. On the mountain peak, e.g.

16. Arm bone

17. Grind down

18. Proud jacket owner

20. Trident part

21. "Walking _____

22. Blazer or Explorer

23. Unit of money in Norway, pl.

26. Semiconductor additives

30. Farm layer

31. Agave alcoholic drink

34. Amos or Spelling

35. Analyze

37. Geisha's sash

38. South Korean metropolis

39. Capital of Ukraine

40. T.S. Eliot's "Old _____'s Book of

Practical Cats"

42. Get firm

43. Temporary

45. Table linens

47. Where bugs are snug?

48. Nostradamus and such

50. Type of rich soil

52. Where one graduated

56. Boatload

57. Chemistry classrooms

58. Lake in Scotland

59. Arabian chieftain

60. Corset rod

61. Encore!

A BATED

5

7

6

2

5

62. Former Chinese leader

63. "____ the ramparts..."

64. Arctic jaeger

DOWN

1. Type of spoken test

2. Class president candidate wants it

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				34			
35			36			37				38				
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43				44					45		46			
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	50	51				52						53	54	55
56						57					58			
59						60					61			
62						63					64			

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3. Loads, two words4. Greek money

5. Game ragout

6. Of #16 Across

7. Architect's drawing

Q I load to aliminate while

8. Used to eliminate wrinkles

9. Serve soup, e.g.

10. Sodium solution

12. Arrow poison

13. Establish, two words

14. As opposed to public

19. Hostile force

22 "I "

22. "La" precursor

23. Shade of Dockers

23. Snade of Dock

24. Pine juice

25. Beginning of illness

26. Valedictorian's spot27. Gallows' rope

28. Comparative form of "true"

29. Muddy or sandy

32. 2020 classroom venue?

33. NCIS network

36. GPA, technically

38. Ingratiating behavior

40. George Orwell's Napoleon

41. On pins and needles

44. Grapevine news

46. Part of Old Testament

48. Olden day notebook

49. Imprison

50. Dharma teacher

51. Three-layer cookie

52. "The Sun ____ Rises"

53. Pippin's last name, "The Hobbit"

54. Boring hue:

55. Actress Perlman

56. Eric Stonestreet on "Modern Family"

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

S	Р	Α	S	М		В	В	С			Η	Α	D	J
Α	┙	0	Ι	Α		0	Е	R		Ι	ш	┙	_	0
S	Α	Z	ш	R		Z	Е	Е		Α	R	_	S	Е
S	Т	Е	Ш	┙	Ш	ם		D	0	R	0	Т	Η	Υ
			Р	Е	Р		W	0	R	D				
F	L	U		Υ	0	G	Α		O	Е	Ν	S	Е	R
R	Α	Т	S		С	0	R	Κ		Ν	I	Τ	R	0
0	М	Е	Ν		Н	0	М	Е	R		Т	0	R	С
S	Е	R	U	М		D	_	Ν	Е		S	0	0	Κ
Т	R	—	В	Α	┙		Z	0	_	┙		Ρ	R	Υ
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В	┙	Α	Z	O	Ι	ш		Α	Z	U	ш	┙	0	כ
Α	כ	ם	—	0		Ш	┙	F		Ι	ш	Α	Р	S
G	R	Α	Z	Τ		ם	_	Ш		Τ	כ	Т	Е	Е
S	Ε	R	Е			S	Е	W		S	Р	Ε	Ν	D
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2

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.

 $\label{thm:constraints} Answers \ in \ the \ next \ edition \ of \ The \ Somerville \ Times.$

6

0

BLM and the state of Black-owned restaurants in Somerville

By Alberto Gilman

The pandemic is proving to be a challenge for the few Blackowned restaurants in Somerville, but the Black Lives Matter movement has created a new sense of direction.

Across the country, the outpouring of support for the African American community through the Black Lives Matter movement has brought about reform and change to the social landscape. Cities and smaller towns all over, including Somerville, have taken part in supporting one another through this difficult time.

Somerville's main population appears to mainly be white residents both now and back in 2017. During that year it was reported in Somerville that Black or African American residents made up 6.6 percent, Asians made up 9.56 percent and white people made up 77.2 percent. Thus it shows the difference in resident make-up.

The Black Lives Matter movement has had a unique impact on Black-owned businesses. However, lack of Black and people of color owned businesses can be concerning.

A Reddit thread titled "Black owned Somerville restaurants and businesses" revealed that there are nine restaurant businesses listed in the direct Somerville community that are Black owned.

Speaking to these restaurant owners about the current pandemic and the social climate surrounding the community, they offered their own input and thoughts about how the pandemic has changed their businesses and how the new social landscape has affected how they operate their businesses.

Here are some of the owners responses:

Tipping Cow: Serving good quality ice cream in Somerville On Medford Street in Somerville there is Tipping Cow Ice Cream, co-owned by David Lindsey and his wife, Gerly Adrien. Tipping Cow, known for serving high-quality ice cream, offers a variety of flavors, completely nut free. The reason for this model is that Lindsey said it allows people to enjoy quality products without the worry of allergies.

Before the pandemic, Tipping Cow would normally be open six days a week. Now, Tipping Cow is operating with limited hours and days as the reopening phases continue in Somerville. Phases one and two are currently in effect.

Yet even in the early days of the pandemic, the future of Tipping Cow seemed unclear, said Lindsey. "We actually probably closed two weeks before they mandated that people close," said Lindsey. "We didn't know the severity of what would take place."

With reopening phases one and two bringing customers back to Tipping Cow, Lindsey is appreciative and grateful to the community for the continued support pre and post closure. "We're thankful to be a part of this Somerville community," said Lindsey.

As the continued calls for social justice continue into the summer, the support that Somerville has for its diverse communities, in a variety of areas such as small minority owned restaurants, makes Lindsey proud to be a part of the community.

"We really appreciate people knowing and acknowledging that we're a Black-owned business. I can't even put into words how wonderful the community and the people have been, even without people knowing we were a black owned business," said Lindsey. "Even as a Blackowned business, they don't see us as black owned business, they see us as a good quality business. Go to https://soundcloud. com/a-gilman/d-lindsey Lindsey's continued thoughts on the Black Lives

Matter movement.

Tanám: A New Take on Com-



On a cloudy day in June, a young man holds his Black Lives Matter sign at Powder House Square.



Tipping Cow Ice Cream's David Lindsey prepares a birthday cake wearing a mask and gloves.

- Photos by Alberto Gilman

munity Dining

In January 2019, Tanám, known for its Filipinix American cuisine, opened in Union Square at Bow Market. Tanám is coowned by Sāsha Coleman, Kyisha Davenport and Ellie Tiglao.

Tanám is mainly known for their storytelling dinners. These dinners bring together a variety of people into the restaurant. While this may not seem like the conventional business model or style for eating, the impact of the storytelling dinners on the customers make it stand out, says Tiglao.

"Tanám is also named the way that it is, because it was really important to not focus it on a particular food but really focus it on the storytelling power of food," Tiglao said.

The current situation makes it more complex for the business. Tanám's dedicated staff and owners now have to navigate through the current social distancing procedures and health precautions. "As a place that is really focused on bringing strangers together into a space, we really focus on bringing together people around a communal table," said Tiglao. "That was just not going to be possible anymore."

In order to sustain their business and increase revenue, Tanám is reinventing itself with tables for casual focused dining, serving food and drinks at designated areas, while narrative dining parties are still available with varying set prices. More importantly, the support of grants that Tanám has applied for may yield a better source of stability in the long run.

Each of these women co-owners take on a variety of roles and

responsibilities in going about the running of the restaurant. Cooperative ownership is important now more than ever, according to Davenport. "What was really core to me coming on to the collective to open Tanám as a business is that it's a cooperatively owned business," Davenport said. "I don't want to get ahead and not see my community get ahead with me."

However, Davenport spoke on the toll the industry can have on one's self. As a worker and co-owner, many may see this pandemic as a struggle, but Tanám's owners say they see this as a relief. "Having run this business, having run Tanám over the past year, Black and brown people are exhausted," said Davenport. "We have been conditioned to do a lot with a little all the time."

Tanám offers variety and inclusion among all of the guests that come through their doors. However, the difficulty with their model is that many do not find this style of dining ideal or attractive. Furthermore, Somerville is predominantly white/Caucasian resident based. For Davenport, she recognizes this difficulty. "We've had many a table where we were essentially just serving white folks," Davenport said. "Your people are your people."

Tanám as a black and brown business, hopes to see growth and change in their business and in their industry following the pandemic. Joining the Tanám group helps bring more inclusion and more community together. With a new hopeful sense of reevaluating for the business, Tanám can succeed further down the road.

The concept of diversity now could be better currently, according to Coleman. "It's an interesting time, it's a pivotal time," Coleman said "Redefining what it means to own a business in a predominately white city."

Tanám has remained closed for the duration of the pandemic. Now with cases rising rapidly across the country, the increasing apprehension over safety makes reopening even more uncertain. "I don't have a strong sense to open, like obviously we need to pay bills we need to operate as a business," Coleman said. "I don't feel safe, I don't feel for any one of us to go into a space where nothing's really sure."

Yet the idea of reopening is hopeful when the pandemic ends and people can return to work and Tanám can serve people once more. "I miss cooking," Coleman said. "I miss the people who actually took in our stories."

Being together again will make it worthwhile to reopen, says Tiglao. "I miss this group being together," Tiglao said.

Each of the owners wants to get back to doing what they love because customers make the experience and work worthwhile for Tanám. "I don't think any of us opened a restaurant just to sling plates," Davenport said. "We opened a restaurant to support our community, to house our community."

To hear more go to:

Sāsha Coleman - https://soundcloud.com/a-gilman/

Kyisha Davenport – https://soundcloud.com/a-gilman/davenport-interview

Ellie Tiglao – https://sound-cloud.com/a-gilman/tiglao-in-terview

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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public meeting and public hearings on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 6:45pm on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 - 7-28.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public meeting and hearings will be conducted via remote participation.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3412991153959918607

Webinar ID 903-308-483

TO CALL IN

Phone # 1 (631) 992-3221 Access code: 295-816-297

DETERMINATIONS OF APPROPRIATENESS (PUBLIC HEARINGS)

HPC.ALT 2020.15 - 8 Aldersey Street

Applicant: Matt Ball Construct rear deck

HPC.ALT 2020.15 - 15 Campbell Park

Applicant: Contempo Builders Owner: Victor Del Porto

Construct left elevation dormer; re-build front porch

HPC.ALT 2020.22 - 56 Bow Street Applicant: Ashley Blum

Remove second story front porch

HPC.ALT 2020.23 - 50 Spring Street

Applicant: Sara O'Neill of Sunbug Solar Owner: Jeff & Clair O'Neill Install 18 solar panels on roof

HPC.ALT 2020.24 - 50 Spring Street Rear

Applicant: Sara O'Neill of Sunbug Solar Owner: Jess Torres & Arian Davisson Install 22 solar panels on roof

DETERMINATIONS OF "HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT" (STEP 1 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS) (NOT public hearings)

HPC.DMO 2020.18 – 40 Dickinson Street

Applicant: Honi R. Sanders & David A. Sanders Owner: same as applicant Demolish principal structure

HPC.ALT 2020.19 - 42 Webster Avenue

Applicant: The 24 Webster Building Trust Owner: same as applicant Demolish principal structure

As cases may be continued to a later date, please check the agenda (posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting) on the City website or email historic@somervillema.gov to inquire if specific cases will be heard. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide public comments to the Historic Preservation Commission at the public hearing or via e-mail to historic@somervillema.gov. All written comments must be received by NOON, one week prior to the date of the HPC meeting.

8/5/20 The Somerville Times

City of Somerville **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 6:00pm. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

The meeting will be held using GoToWebinar. TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/regis-

ter/2478733924794022927 Webinar ID: 804-316-059

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422 778-196-025 Access code:

The Zoning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

374a Medford Street

15 Mossland, LLC, under §5.3.8 of the SZO, seeks a revision to a previously-granted special permit (previous case # ZBA 2018-124). RB zone. Ward 5.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at https://www.somervillema.gov/ departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

8/5/20 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the Somerville Licensing Commission on Monday, August 17, 2020 at 6:00PM, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for a Common Victualler License and Entertainment by Devices License, for By The Street, LLC d/b/a Hen Thai Chicken Rice, 24 Union Sq., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying at this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office.

> For the Commission Christopher Allen Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

Attest: Lori Batzek Administrative Assistant

8/5/20 The Somerville Times

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Volunteers deliver back-up meals for at-risk older adults CONT. FROM PG 1

increased by 20 percent since March, with the program providing approximately 1,100 meals per day. SCES has also delivered more than 8,500 frozen and shelf-stable backup meals for at-risk older adults.

The following volunteers helped with the delivery: Pamela Hersch Gonzalez, Colin Kirkland, Meglu Yang, Leslie Davis, Jose Gallegos, Zoe Land, Caitlin Mugford, Sasi Siddharth Muthurajan, Joelle Renstrom, Anne Taylor, and Michelle Mazzola.

Kirkland, of Somerville, was one of four first-time volunteers that day. He heard about SCES Volunteer Programs online, and thought it would be a good use of some free time.

"I work in the restaurant industry, and we are not too busy right now,

so I thought it would be nice to help out," he said.

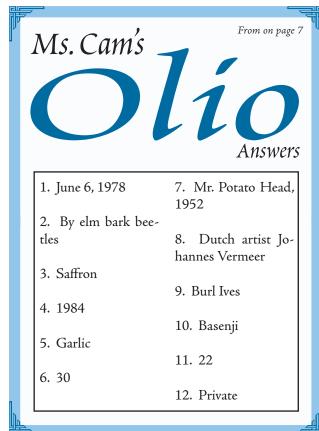
To learn more about SCES Nutrition Programs, call the SCES Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601 or email info@eldercare.org. For more information about volunteering with SCES, call 617-628-2601, x3214 or e-mail vol@eldercare.org.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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

As of Monday, July 20, the COVID-19 testing site previously located at the Somerville Hospital has moved to 133 Middlesex Avenue (near the former Kmart site) in Assembly Square. The testing site is part of a larger COVID-19 mitigation strategy by the City of Somerville in partnership with Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA). Patients can arrive at the site via vehicle, walking, or bicycle, and testing procedures will be the same as at the previous location: Patients must have an appointment to be tested. To make an appointment, call 617-665-2928 (Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.). CHA patients can also use their MyCHArt account to set up an appointment. Testing is free and insurance coverage is not a requirement, although CHA may ask for insurance information for administrative purposes. You will not be turned away if you do not have insurance. You do not need to have symptoms to be tested. Immigration status will not be checked. Please bring a photo ID. Patients will receive a phone call with their results, which could take up to five days to come in. There is also a mobile testing unit that accepts patients at roaming locations throughout Somerville. To see the mobile site's upcoming schedule, visit the "Symptoms, Testing, & Medical Info" tab on www.somervillema. gov/covid19 or call 311. To make an appointment at the mobile testing site please call 617-682-0583 (English); 617-398-7770 (Spanish); 617-684-5625 (Portuguese); 617-735-5553 (Nepali); or 617-625-6600 ext. 2622 (Haitian Creole).

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



Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

Stop & Shop employees rally for pandemic hazard pay

Stop & Shop workers rallied Saturday August 1, 2020 at the Stop & Shop at McGrath Highway in Somerville. Workers are demanding their hazard pay be reinstated. Workers, members of the community, union leaders, political supporters such as Joe Kennedy III and Somerville City Councilor Kristen Strezo came out Saturday to demand hazard pay be reinstated to the workers, hazard pay was stopped on July 4. There is an online petition to show support www.ufcwlocal1445petitions.org. By signing this petition you are sending a strong message to Stop & Shop not to put profits before its workers and to extend the HAZARD PAY until the COVID-19 pandemic is over. — Photos by Bobbie Toner



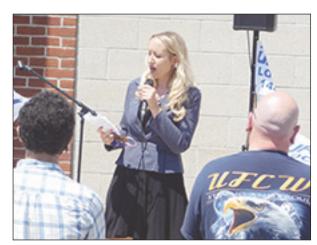


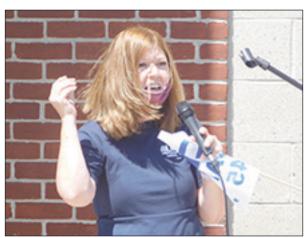














Making 18 Billingham St. their special home

By Marian Berkowitz

In 2015, Dylan and Jamie Welsh noticed an old single-family Victorian period house for sale on Billingham Street just outside Davis Square where Dylan is involved in the hospitality field. Even though the property had been renovated in the past, it had been on the market for some time and clearly needed a lot of work.



The Welsh family happily enjoying their newly refurbished home.

They were not deterred, but rather excited to take on the challenge of restoring the exterior of this turn of the century Victorian period house to its original architectural beauty.

Over a period of roughly six months, the interior was basically gutted and the exterior was fully tackled.

Dylan shared some photos of how the house looked before and after the restoration work. The first step required removal of the asphalt shingles siding. Underneath they found the original clapboard and fortunately it was in relatively good condition.

They replaced some boards where necessary and decided to paint the clapboards a striking historic blue. They then considered how to treat the windows. Dylan said, "we walked around the Somerville-Cambridge area and noticed that a number of historic homes had very dark window frames," so they resolved to go that route.

Copper gutters were installed, as well as a new roof using architectural shingling that looked like slate. The porch needed significant repair and restoration with new decorative moldings. To highlight it and the trim details all over the house they chose a cream paint color. The house is now a beautiful example of the Queen Anne style with some Colonial Revival design elements.

Dylan and Jamie now thoroughly enjoy their restored house and love living on Billingham Street which Dylan noted at the end of our meeting, "It's a great street, quiet and full of longtime residents, making it really feel like home."

For all of their hard work the young family is delighted to have





Before and after the renovation at 18 Billingham St.

been nominated by a nearby neighbor and then to receive a 2020 Director's Award from the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission.

Marian Berkowitz is a freelance writer in Somerville with a love of older houses and community involvement.

The Somerville Historic Preservation Commission gives out up to twelve awards each year to owners of designated historic properties (Preservation Awards) and of houses over 50 years old (Director Awards) to recognize their impressive exterior work over the last few years. This is the 25th anniversary of the Awards Program with 9 winners. Interviews with the owners plus photos of each property will be highlighted here over the coming weeks of summer.

A special birthday greeting

Natalia Potaris, Happy Birthday and all the love and good fortunes you deserve you will get.

From all of your TRUE FAMILY we will always be here for you. Love Mommy and "Squishy-butt" Daddy.



Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5

amphibious assault of 260 troops from 13 boats and barges. Because they didn't capture all of the gunpowder, this amounted to a dress rehearsal of the Battle of Concord and Lexington eight months later. The American's then countered at the Battle of Bunker Hill defending their flanks on the Mystic River's shore. This first major American battle, although lost, caused tremendous losses to the British Army. The Revolutionary War lasted eight more years, winning our independence.

- It's a Tidal Dam, built in 1966 at the intersection of the Mystic and Malden Rivers in Somerville and Everett, to protect the 22 communities in the Mystic River Watershed. It appropriately looks like an island airport with its conning tower protruding high into the air where operators have a 360-degree vista. The design is highly fitting because it is the Amelia Earhart Dam that honors the queen of the air and conqueror of the oceans.
- Pirates and highwaymen found refuge

at Ten Hills on the Mystic. Captured where Mystic Avenue and Temple Street now intersect, Mike Martin, alias Captain Lightfoot, met his future fate. After being arrested, tried, and found guilty, he was the first and last Massachusetts man to be hanged for highway robbery in December, 1821.

- America's most famous pirate, Captain William Kidd, who was executed in London in 1699 hid at Ten Hills before his capture in Boston. Part of his famous treasure is said to be buried on the Mystic's shore.
- In 1621, Pilgrim Captain Myles Standish was the first European to sail up the coast from Plymouth and to explore what is now Somerville. He and his party traced the Mystic shore from Boston Harbor to Alewife Brook.
- Henry Ford was America's "King of the Road," and Somerville's "Father of Assembly Square" on the Mystic. From the 1926 Model T to the 1958 Edsel, 1,338,652 Fords motored on the Mystic.



SMCxHome: Online Learning in August



During the business interruption due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, SMC remains as committed as ever to offering media training to our community. We continue to offer virtual workshops to replace our on-site classes. These workshops are free to members and are offered to non-members for a fee. A zoom link will be shared with registered participants 2 days before the start of the workshop. Go to https://www.somervillemedia.org/smcxhome_augsept/to learn more and to sign up.

INTRO TO ADOBE PHOTOSHOP

Monday, August 10, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

In this introductory workshop, students will learn how to use basic functions of Adobe Photoshop including color correction, cloning and selection tools. (You must have Photoshop installed on your home computer). Instructor: Dave Ortega.

USING ZOOM TO PRODUCE AN INTERVIEW SHOW

Wednesday, August 12, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Zoom has emerged as a standout application for virtual meetings, workshops and events. In this workshop, learn to use this virtual conferencing and meeting platform to record your interview program. SMC staff have been using Zoom since mid-March and will offer their insight as well as tips and tricks. SMC member-producers who have not been able to get into our studios are highly encouraged to attend. Instructors: Heather Mack, Tina Cabral, Dave Ortega.

EDIT AUDIO WITH ADOBE AUDITION

Thursday, August 13, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Want to learn the basics of how to cut, fade, replace, and repair audio for videos, radio shows, or podcasts? Learn how to troubleshoot common issues including overmodulation and background noise, cut and edit together audio footage, create segues and crossfades, and more. Preference given to current Boston Free Radio DJs, but we will try to accommodate everyone.

USING PHOTOSHOP GRAPHICS AND PREMIERE

Monday, August 17, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

In this advanced workshop, students will learn about alpha channel graphics, how to create them in Photoshop and import them into a Premiere project. (You must have Photoshop and Premiere installed on your home computer). Instructor: Dave Ortega.

Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in Kistery August 5

1762 - Russia, Prussia and Austria sign a treaty agreeing on the partition of Poland.

1815 – A peace treaty with Tripoli--which follows treaties with Algeria and Tunis--brings an end to the Barbary Wars.

1858 – The first transatlantic cable is completed.

1861 - Congress adopts the nation's first income tax to finance the Civil War.

1892 – Harriet Tubman receives a pension from Congress for her work as a nurse, spy and scout during the Civil War.

1914 - The first electric traffic signal lights are installed in Cleveland, Ohio.

1962 – Actress Marilyn Monroe dies under mysterious circumstances.

1981 - President Ronald Reagan fires 11,500 striking air traffic controllers.

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Representative Barber votes in favor of omnibus police reform bill

Representative Christine P. Barber of Medford and Somerville voted in favor of H.4860: An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth, an omnibus police reform bill. This bill was a response to recent urgent calls to address racism and police brutality.

The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) championed this legislation, working for years to implement necessary reforms to policing to address structural racism. The Caucus's leadership on this bill was critical.

This bill would create an independent certification system for law enforcement to investigate misconduct or excessive use of force, update police training, strengthen use of force standards including banning chokeholds, and assess the role of race in state institutions. Other provisions of the bill clarify that persons in custody cannot consent to sexual relations with a law enforcement officer, limit the use of facial recognition technol-

ogy and biometric surveillance, and limit school record sharing with law enforcement.

"I'm proud to follow the leadership of the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus and vote in favor of this bill. It's imperative that we listen to communities of color as we focus on addressing police brutality, systemic racism, and the issues that Black and brown people in the Commonwealth face on a daily basis," said Rep. Barber. "While the bill makes necessary and overdue structural reforms to policing in Massachusetts, it is just the starting point to rethink public safety and dismantle structural racism in our state. The fight for racial justice does not end here."

Rep. Barber co-sponsored a number of amendments that were adopted, including providing police with anti-discrimination training to protect people with autism and developmental disabilities; creating a commission on issues that disproportionately impact Black men and boys; making the licensing information for officers publicly available; establishing a Latino Commission; and adding Asian representation to the police standards and training commission. Representative Barber also voted in favor of an amendment that makes sure children and elders aren't present when a no-knock warrant is issued—further restricting the use of no-knock warrants from the original bill.

Rep. Barber also co-sponsored and voted in favor of several amendments that would have strengthened the bill, but failed on roll call votes, including amendments that would have banned tear gas, placed stronger limitations on qualified immunity, and placed restrictions on law-enforcement acquiring military-grade equipment.

The final bill passed on a 93-66 vote. It is now headed to a Conference Committee to work out differences with the Senate version.

— Office of State Representative Christine Barber



Thirty-fourth Middlesex District State Rep. Christine Barber.

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

The Council on Aging recently celebrated the retirement of Cindy Hickey, longtime director and advocate for older adults and welcomed Ashley Speliotis, LICSW, ME.d, CCM, as interim director. Cindy dedicated her career to enriching the lives of seniors through education, physical exercise and social programming. While she will be dearly missed the council is continuing with her tradition of providing comprehensive programming to Somerville's seniors.

While the COA is not yet having face to face meetings, their Social Workers are available to assist with concerns regarding food insecurity, health insurance and caregiver support. Exercise, yoga, and music and movement groups are being brought to you on our cable stations and Zoom and their outreach workers are connecting with residents daily through friendly calls and innovative programming.

Council on Aging staff are available Mondays thru Wednesdays, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Thursdays 8:30 AM-6:30 PM and Fridays 8:30 AM-1:30 AM.

Join our Email Lists

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

If you would like to become part of our Google Group please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov

Social Services

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

<u>Facebook</u>

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

Exercise

Exercise Schedule

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

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22

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

Fit-4-Life YouTube

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

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

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcI2eBSS024&t=158s

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1 = https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF_EEbqF0&t=130s

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

Goody Bags for Seniors

Please join us to reach out to Somerville Seniors who need a little sunshine. We are looking for donations of new games, puzzles, arts & crafts supplies, books or any other fun items. Items can be dropped off at the Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street from July 29th to August 7th. There will be a box inside the vestibule. The items will be used to create goody bags for seniors. For more information please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or DHiggins@ Somervillema.gov

Employees

All employees can be reached by calling the city number at 617-625-6600 and ask for the extensions listed

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yruca **SOMERVILLE** edited by Doug Holder

Robin Stratton is the author of four novels, including one which was a National Indie Excellence Book Award finalist (On Air, Mustang Press, 2011), two collections of poetry and short fiction, and a writing guide. A four-time Pushcart Prize nominee, she's been published in Word Riot, 63 Channels, Antithesis Common,



Poor Richard's Almanac(k), Blink-Ink, Pig in a Poke, Chick Flicks, Up the Staircase, Shoots and Vines, and many others. Since 2004 she's been Acquisitions Editor for Big Table Publishing Company, Senior Editor of Boston Literary Magazine since 2009, and she was Director of the Newton Writing and Publishing Center until she moved from Boston to San Francisco in 2018. Now she leads the popular "Six Feet of Poetry" and "Fiction by the Foot" series. Her latest book is Some Have Gone and Some Remain. She'd love to have you visit at robinstratton.com

Middle-aged woman with acid reflux

announces the paramedic as I am helped down from the ambulance since I feel like I am having a heart attack this seems particularly graceless to me it

reminds me of that old joke where the doctor says You have cancer and the patient says I want a second opinion and the doctor says Okay you're ugly too

I am greeted with disinterest by nurses a middle-aged woman with acid reflux is probably something they see every day

I wonder who will take care of my parents if I die and I think about the last dog in my life a sweet elderly golden retriever named Molly and wonder what will become of my condo I still owe almost \$200,000 on it

I am given a gown and told to get undressed why are they called gowns anyway and also I need to pee in a cup I am shaking and unsteady but I do as I am told

FF THE SHEL

by Doug Holder

Somerville's Stan Eichner:

A lawyer and a photographer with a mission

It was a blazing hot day in July, but being the holy fool I am I walked from my apartment in Union Square to Davis Square to meet Stan Eichner. Eichner has an exhibit at the Inside/Out Gallery that is situated in Davis. The "gallery" is in a storefront window - that gets a lot of traffic perfect for a photographer who wants exposure (pardon the pun).

Eichner has lived in Somerville since 1984. When I last met him I was interviewing a group of artists in East Somerville. In that group exhibit, sponsored by the East Somerville Main Streets program, he had an evocative photo of a snow-covered farm in Central, MA, as well as other photos exploring the theme of winter.

Eichner was a civil rights lawyer in another life. He remembers his first case in 1974 (when I was a mere sophomore at Boston University, living through the Watergate Crisis).

Eichner said, "It was a race discrimination case that involved a bakery in St. Louis and an employee." He also remembered a a police misconduct case in Boston. The police chased a suspect for 40 minutes. Finally, when they caught him, they smashed the windows of his car, and dragged him out. Then they proceeded to brutally beat him. Eichner said between 17 and 20 cops were involved. The Attorney General and Eichner got an injunction to sue the officers. In the end the police involved were given a warning by the court about severe repercussions if they engaged in that behavior again. Eichner said, "I never heard about any misconduct from these officers after the legal action."

Eichner was stoic about today's turmoil. He said, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." I told him that a friend of mine who worked as an administrator in the penal system for many years opined that 50 percent of cops were "bad" players. Eichner took issue with that. He replied, "I don't agree with that. The police, like many of us, are victims of a racist culture. There are always bad actors in every part of society."

Eichner's defines himself as a landscape photographer. He has taken workshops in Chili, Ireland, and Scotland. He counts as a mentor Betty Wiley of Cape Cod, who he has studied with. He



has connected with others of his ilk in the vibrant Somerville Arts scene. He recalls being involved with folks from the Somerville Open Studios program, and felt very welcomed. Eichner said, "They were very supportive of this newbie." Eichner, who is well into his 60s, said he did not experience any ageism among people in the community.

Eichner told me he has expanded his photography to encompass environmental themes. He said, "I want people to appreciate the beauty in this world. This might spur to do something to fight the climate crisis."

In his current exhibit he displays a number of climate protest marches in Boston and New York, not to mention a banner drop on the Mass. Ave bridge and Storrow Drive. Eichner told me he had a leadership role with photographers at the U.N. Summit concerning climate change. The Inside/ Out exhibit also included his signature landscape photography.

Eichner said he hopes to travel to the Canadian Rockies to take pictures of Lake Louise and other bodies of water.

As the heat became more oppressive, I sort of pined to be in the Canadian Rockies. Indeed, Eichner is just one of the many of the creative folks that make Somerville "The Paris of New England."

and then I wait until a doctor comes in and I tell him my symptoms throbbing pain in chest hurts so deep it goes to my back and even my shoulders ache

I tell the doctor I have long suspected that I have an ulcer and disclose a history of discomfort relieved by antacids and he agrees probably an ulcer and says they need to do an ultrasound

so I am wheeled out on a gurney to a darkened room and a young woman covers my tummy with oil and runs a

probe back and forth and up and down and takes picture after picture and then says I'm all set and I am wheeled back to a room in the ER

and then I wait until the doctor comes back and he says You have gallstones and your gall bladder has to come out

so it's not acid reflux and it's not a heart attack and I am not going to die but damn! I am still a middle-aged woman

— Robin Stratton

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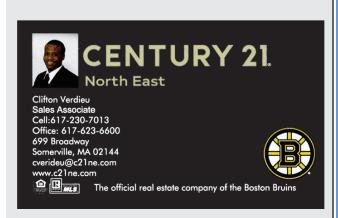
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