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# The Somerville Times





VOL. 9 NO. 37

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

### **Inside:**



Our Thunder stolen page 3



City getting tough with Tufts page 9



goals

page 9

### Unofficial September 14, 2021 Preliminary Election results





Somerville City Councilors Wilfred N. Mbah and Katjana Ballantyne won the most votes in Tuesday's Preliminary Election, securing their places on the November general election ballot.

#### By The Times Staff

The unofficial results from Tuesday's Preliminary Election revealed a relatively close race among the top three contenders for the office of Mayor of Somerville.

Coming in first was Somerville City Councilor At-Large Wilfred N. Mbah, followed by Ward 7 Councilor Katjana Ballantyne. Each of the two candidates have ensured that their names will be on the ballot in the November 2 General Election.

Competing candidates Mary Cassesso and William B. Tauro fell short of the votes necessary to gain their spots on the November ballot.

In the City Councilor races, both Tessa Bridge and Beatriz C Gomez Mouakad beat out Todd Easton in the Ward 5 contest, earning their places on the General Election ballot.

Likewise, in the Ward 7 race, Continued on page 4

# Somerville commemorates 20th anniversary of 9/11

### By Fernando Cervantes Jr.

On Saturday, the City of Somerville held a ceremony and procession in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Services, honoring the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center.

The procession began at Cedar Street and followed the Somerville Community Path towards Davis Square. It was led by members of the Somerville Police and Fire Departments.

Behind them was Mayor Joe Curtatone, City Council President Matt McLaughlin, and other members of the City Council such as Wilfred Mbah. Various members of the public were at the back of the solemn procession.

The ceremony began early at 9:30 a.m. with a brief moment of silence. Afterward, the procession began, taking approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Throughout the route, different passersby and community members Continued on page 14



City officials, member of the Police and Fire Department, and the general public gathered on Saturday to observe the 20th anniversary of 9/11. — Photos by Fernando Cervantes Jr. and The Times Staff





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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.

Congratulations to the winners of the preliminary election. Once again, the people have spoken. Best of luck to all in the general election in November.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Because West Nile Virus (WNV) has been detected in surrounding communities, the Massachusetts Department of

Public Health has raised Somerville's WNV risk to high. To date, no WNV has been detected in Somerville. Residents should take precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases, including WNV and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). WNV and EEE are usually transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. While WNV and EEE can infect people of all ages, people over the age of 50 are at higher risk for severe WNV, and people under the age of 15 are particularly vulnerable to EEE. WNV symptoms and EEE symptoms tend to include fever and flu-like illness. More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at mass.gov/dph/mosquito or by calling the Massachusetts DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

Somerstreets, Strike up the Bands will take place Sunday, September 19 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Highland Ave. between Central St. to Lowell St. There will be two stages of music curated by Arts at the Armory and ONCE Somerville. Activities along Highland Avenue will include: Local craft vendors, aerial performances by Esh Circus Arts, parkour with Parkour Generations Boston, activities and games with Somerville Recreation, Wash Away Your Fears Community Project with Illegal Art, explore a fire truck and ambulance, Community vendors and local businesses including 7ate9 Bakery, Pop-up hoola hoop performers and more.

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Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Mary Jo Rossetti, who is a lifelong resident Continued on page 7

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### The Somerville Times

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### The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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### Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of September 15 – September 21 as provided by the National Weather Service

|          | DAY                       | CONDITIONS    | HIGH/LOW | PRECIPITATION | HUMIDITY | WIND       |
|----------|---------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|------------|
| <b>C</b> | Wednesday<br>September 15 | Partly Cloudy | 85°/65°  | 17%           | 9%       | SSW 16 mph |
| •        | Thursday<br>September 16  | Rain          | 71°/65°  | 46%           | 31%      | NE 9 mph   |
| ••       | Friday<br>September 17    | Rain          | 72°/67°  | 36%           | 22%      | ENE 10 mph |
| •        | Saturday<br>September 18  | Rain          | 78°/65°  | 32%           | 19%      | ENE 9 mph  |
| <b>S</b> | Sunday<br>September 19    | Partly Cloudy | 76°/60°  | 16%           | 7%       | N 12 mph   |
| *        | Monday<br>September 20    | Sunny         | 80°/64°  | 8%            | 2%       | W 8 mph    |
| *        | Tuesday<br>September 21   | Sunny         | 78°/65°  | 11%           | 3%       | NE 11 mph  |
|          |                           |               |          |               |          |            |

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

### TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: City challenged to improve rodent control efforts

joe says:

Whoa whoa whoa Wou want to blow \$400k of taxpayer money on 45 trashcans?!? That's nearly \$8900 per trash can. And will it even make a dent in the rat population? Outrageous. Find a significantly cheaper way to cover public trash cans or keep the rats.

### Jean Horstman says:

This video is on the City's Rodent Control Program website. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mupfBK1cYkw&t=272s

At 4:03, the rat specialist featured in this video-with Mayor Curtatone-speaks to the effectiveness of the solar powered compacting garbage cans in rat control.

### Casimir H. Prohosky Jr. says:

joe doesn't like to pay taxes. joe doesn't want to participate in a civilized society. joe really likes rats. Don't be a joe.

### Ratologist says:

Anything the city does is never productive when it comes to rat eradication. It is amazing that the mayor (who was chased by 2 rats on MacArthur st while out campaigning) would post such a video. The city uses bandaids when they need a tourniquet. Every corner and In-between Somerville is loaded with rats. A plague of biblical proportion. What Somerville needs is a Rat czar (which we had and a very good one but she resigned???) not a health inspector manager who does basically nothing. And we need a whole department with employees who enforce the ordinances and state laws governing and indeed criminal enforcement if necessary for landlords who do not obey the codes. Construction companies should also be strictly enforced.

### Response to: Residential Eviction Moratorium extended in Somerville

### BadPanda says:

I continue to wish there was monthly data concerning how many people are behind and by how much. Is extending the eviction moratorium giving those behind a realistic chance to catch up, or is it further delaying a bunch of inevitable eviction (quite possibly while the landlord suffers deeper losses)?

### Response to: PorchFest Somerville is back!

Villenous says:

Always a great time. Can't wait.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

### Life in the Jimmy Del Ponte

### **Stealing our Thunder**



I'm back from my break ... back from my much-needed sabbatical. I hope you enjoyed those old stories that the paper published while I was away.

Special thank you to Bobbie at the paper who always goes above and beyond. Thank you for all the well wishes while I tended to family and health issues. Somerville still and always will lead the way.

I drove down Cedar St. the other day from Highland. I had to inhale and hold my breath as I concentrated on maneuvering my rather large SUV through the ever-shortening streets. I know large vehicles aren't "green friendly," but please don't judge. I carry family members and various equipment around so I need a large vehicle. Plus, I like the advantage of



The empty lot that used to be filled with music and

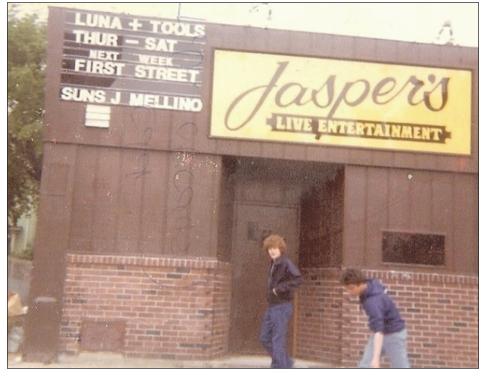
being above most other vehicles. So does my pal Frankie who is actually driving my old white SUV now. You may know him from his funny and often outrageous Facebook posts. We are both careful and always yield to bikes, animals and people.

Driving in Somerville has become a real effort requiring undivided attention. So why do I still see drivers looking down at their phones as they drive? Come on now! I know ... these folks are not "from here" right? Somerville is ever changing and we all need to wake up and smell the coffee (Dunk's) so to speak.

Look how our city has evolved. There are bikes, baby carriages and pedestrians everywhere and there seems to be more every day. We all have to be on the ball, on the money, and wide awake. So, with more and more people, bikes and cars, we have pay strict attention! No one is special enough that they can't wait till you pull over to check a message or answer a call. I have to thank the city for making the Powder House rotary easier to understand and maneuver through.

Now the sad part. I heard that another one of my old favorite landmarks was gone. The live music venue Thunder Road, formerly Choices, formerly Jasper's is history. "Plans call for a five-story mixed-use building with 12 apartments and a bar or restaurant on the first floor."

I'm shocked ... not.



Thunder Road, Formerly Choices. formerly Jasper's.

When I drive by the site of a place that I spent a lot of time at that's gone, I get a lump in my throat and a little pain in my stomach. Time marches on and progress must occur but we don't have to pretend to like it. After all, Somerville's motto is honor and progress, right? I'm officially a cranky old curmudgeon sometimes but I truly love our city. I enjoy seeing some of the progress happening like the Green Line extensions and the new high school but I don't like seeing my old favs obliterated. C'est la vie.

So, the empty space that was once Jasper's and Thunder Road, etc., was the site of many of my memories. My band The Tools played there a lot. We opened for bands such as Luna and Balloon and I also worked there cleaning up the day after shows. So I'd hear from the manager "Hey Jim, you guys sounded great last night ... by the way be sure to get those

cigarettes out of the urinals." Lol!

Truth is, I have a lot of great memories from that place. I actually lived within stumbling distance from Jaspers for a while (see photo). We had four guys living in a studio apartment. We lived on Caesar's Pizza and beer! At one time we even had three puppies in there but that was Rock 'n Roll for you. Fun memories. One guy's band's name was Thunderhead! How ironic. Eddie C. was in the band and one of the four roommates along with the late Dave Emery, our light and sound man.

In between working on this story, I had an old school Somerville moment. I went for a nice walk Saturday morning while listening to The Beatles song Hello, Goodbye and I bumped into my old pal Jimmy O'D. We had a great 10-minute chat. We live three minutes on foot from each but hadn't talked in years. Continued on page 13

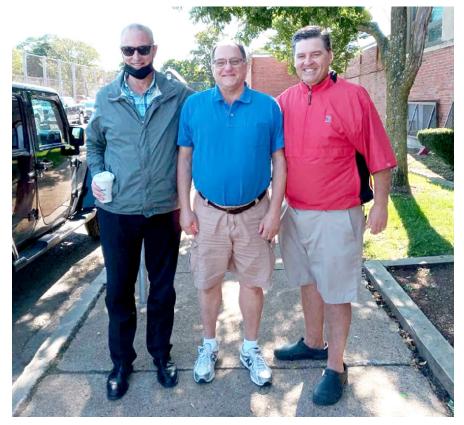
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### **Election Day summit**



Former Congressman Mike Capuano with former Aldermen McWatters and Sullivan at Ward 5 polling place discussing Tuesday's primary.

# By Jim Clark

### Would-be bike vandal just doing his duty

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to the MBTA station at Holland St. last week on reports that a man was actively attempting to steal locked bicycles.

While en route to the scene, Somerville Control advised the officers that the man had moved to the front of the Somerville Theatre and was attempting to break the lock of another bicycle.

Arriving officers approached the suspect, later identified as Kendall Joslin, and detained him. According to reports, as he was detained, Joslin dropped a large metal pole.

The officers observed that Joslin was wearing heavy duty work gloves and wearing a headband

with an flashlight attached to it. They also observed a bicycle frame laying on the sidewalk of Holland St. near the bus stop in front of the MBTA station. They reportedly also located a twisted and broken U-Type bike lock near the bicycle.

Joslin reportedly stated that he was breaking the locks on bicycles that he believed were in disrepair. He presented this explanation as if he were working for a company.

The officers asked him to clarify who, if anyone, he was working with. He stated that he wasn't working with anyone.

Later it was learned that while approaching the scene, a police officer observed Joslin utilize the metal pole he was carrying to pry open and destroy a bicycle lock that was securing a bicycle frame to a post.

A witness, a retired Deputy Chief of the Somerville Police, who is currently a sworn, special police officer of the Somerville Police Department, approached the responding officers. He advised them that he observed Joslin break several U-Type bicycle locks that had been securing bicycles to bike racks.

Joslin was placed under arrest on a charge of malicious wanton defacement of property.

The witness then led officers to the bike behind the MBTA station where he said he had first observed Joslin breaking bicycle locks.

The witness stated that he was walking in the area and heard a loud noise. He then observed Joslin using a long pole to pry open bicycle locks. Joslin allegedly broke two, and then moved onto Holland St.

Joslin was advised of his rights pursuant to Miranda, after which he reportedly stated that he was breaking the bicycle locks in order to free up space in the bicycle racks. He believed the bicycles which he forcibly removed the locks from were in disrepair, and believed that Somerville DPW should pick them up as trash.

The arresting officer advised Joslin that he has no right to destroy property that does not belong to him.

Because of his statements, the arresting officer elected not to charge Joslin with attempted larceny.

The arresting officer noted that Joslin continued from one area to another, breaking bicycle locks as he saw fit. He was carrying a long metal rod and a length of cable, wearing work gloves and a hands-free light. Had police not stopped him when they did, he may have continued this behavior. The arresting officer also noted that bicycle thefts in the Davis Square area are very common.

#### **Arrests:**

Kendall Joslin, September 6, 11:13 p.m., arrested at Holland St. on a charge of malicious wanton defacement of property.

Felix Lucien, of Boston, September 7, 1:22 a.m., arrested at Lower Campus Rd. on a charge

of trespassing.

Joseph Palermo, of Watertown, September 10, 11:15 p.m., arrested at Medford St.

on a charge of operation of a ber 11, 9:56 p.m., arrested at motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

Luciano Delira, Septem-

Broadway on a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

### SCES and senior centers offering Grab-and-Go lunches

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services and the local senior centers are collaborating to offer Grab-and-Go lunches for older adults.

The program will provide cold sandwich lunches for local older adults. The lunches are available for a suggested \$3 donation for people age 60 and over and their spouses, or dependents with disabilities of any age. Other people under the age of 60 can receive the lunch for \$5.

Lunch reservations are required by 11:00 a.m. on the previous business day.

The meals will be available at the following sites:

Cambridge Senior Center at 806 Mass Ave. Available Monday - Thursday, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. starting September 13. Call Julie to make a reservation at 617-349-6042. Recipients may eat in the dining room or take the meal to go.

Somerville Senior Centers starting the week of September 28, the lunches will be available at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays at The Ralph and Jenny Senior Center at 9 New Washington Street and Thursdays at 167 Holland St. Call 617-625-6600 to make a reservation. The lunches are to-go only.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is a non-profit agency that supports the independence and well-being of older adults in Somerville and Cambridge. For free advice and guidance on questions of aging, caregiving or disability, contact our Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601, email info@eldercare.org, or visit our website eldercare.org.



Becca Miller and Judith Pineda Neufeld garnered more votes than their opponents Alexander H. Anderson and Maria Koutsoubaris.

The unofficial tallies at press time were as follows:

### **MAYOR**

Katjana Ballantyne – 4,162 Mary Cassesso – 4,083 Wilfred N Mbah -4,498 William B Tauro – 2,215 Write In -18

Blank-58

### **COUNCILOR WARD 5**

Tessa Bridge – 1,221 Todd Easton - 339 Beatriz C Gomez Mouakad -1,160 Write In-8 Blank -108

### **COUNCILOR WARD 7**

Alexander H Anderson -354 Maria Koutsoubaris - 214

Becca Miller – 902 Judith Pineda Neufeld - 934 Write In -8 Blank - 102

In a statement issued on Tuesday night, Councilor Mbah commented on his victory in the Preliminary Election:

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to all voters who came out, all of our volunteers who knocked doors, and to my opponents Katjana Ballantyne and

Mary Cassesso, who both have run honorable campaigns. Only in Somerville, could an immigrant from Cameroon be elected City Councilor and now have the opportunity to make this city a place for all those who dream of a better life. I'm incredibly proud of the grassroots campaign we ran, all without taking a dime of developer money. I look forward to using the coming weeks to speak with voters about my

progressive vision for Somerville, which will include dramatically expanding our affordable housing, a Green New Deal for Somerville, a commitment to make developers pay their fair share, and making public transit accessible, efficient, and free for everyone."

Check The Somerville Times website at www.thesomervilletimes.com for the latest updates and final results of Tuesday's election.

### **COMMENTARY**

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

### A difficult 9/11



By Matthew McLaughlin City Councilor, Ward 1

This is a particularly difficult 9/11, both because of the 20th anniversary as well as the recent events in Afghanistan. Today I honor the selfless service of our first responders and service members who rush towards danger even when it is not always appreciated by everyone. I also mourn for the people of Afghanistan who are

often forgotten and will continue to suffer long after we are gone. September 11 was a moment when the world united under universal suffering, but that universal empathy was quickly forgotten.

I'm what's known as an "old millennial." I'm 40, which means I've now spent half of my life in a post 9/11 America. I'm old enough to remember things younger millennials may not. I remember a time before the internet, before social media, before cell phones; all advancements that are supposed to connect us but often do the opposite. I was young enough to serve in what's called the Global War on Terror, and I'm now old enough to see its technical ending. But I'm also old enough to understand that my hand for whatever perceived nothing truly ends.

I also remember a pre 9/11 America that didn't feel so divided. We had all the same problems we have today, but those differences didn't feel as irreconcilable as they do now. This division is best embodied by the insurrection at the Capitol Building, but I also feel it on the streets of Somerville and our local political scene, where people who agree on 99 percent of the issues find ways to divide ourselves. Even on this solemn day I witnessed residents yell obscenities at first responders that 20 years ago were called heroes. One resident raised his middle fingers at the ceremony to insult the progressive politician he doesn't like. A police officer refused to shake

notion he has of me. I hate to even acknowledge this negativity but it is emblematic of our national and local divides.

Humans often seem intent on dividing between "us" and "them." We divide ourselves by borders, by race, class, professions and politics. If you put 100 identical people together in a room for a long enough period they will eventually find differences to fight over. But if you put 100 people of different backgrounds together and give them shared experiences, whether it be joy or suffering, they often find a way to work together and live in peace.

September 11 means different things to different people. It is hard for me to not think of this

day as a turning point in America, where we started to focus on differences and the destructive forces of suffering more than our shared humanity. It is also a moment, however, where people put their differences aside and united ever so briefly under shared suffering. It was a moment where regular people did extraordinary things out of compassion for people they never met. Suffering is a universal constant that can unite or divide people. We all have an individual choice in how to respond to life's trials and tribulations. If we are to survive as a nation, as a people and as a city we must focus on our common humanity and turn suffering into a healing force instead of a destructive one.

### Cradles to Crayons and Staples donations help SPS students kick off the school year ready to learn

Thanks to the generosity of Cradles to Crayons and Staples, Somerville Public Schools students are kicking off the school year and the return to their school buildings ready to learn.

Through their Ready for Learning initiative, long-time community partner Cradles to Crayons donated 2,400 backpacks filled with school supplies for students from across the district, and StaplesConnect Somerville donated close to 1,500 boxed school supply kits. Community partners like Cradles to Crayons and StaplesConnect are among the many organizations committed to supporting Somerville students every year, and to making a positive difference in their communities. The schoolsare grateful for their ongoing support and partnership.



## Dorothy's Corner



### Pan Roasted Chicken Thighs

This is a time saver for a weeknight meal. The results, crispy skin and succulent meat. It's all ready in 45 mines! Serve with mashed potatoes and roasted carrots or asparagus or any other vegetable you like.

6 Bone-in, Skin-on Chicken Thighs

Pepper

1 Lemon, Juiced (optional, see below) 1 Tablespoon Honey (optional, see below)

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Season the skin side of the thighs with the salt and pepper and place them in a cold 12" oven safe sauté pan. It's much easier to place the thighs in a cold pan because they won't stick on contact. I highly recommend using a splatter screen to help keep your stove

top clean.

Once all the thighs are placed in the pan, season the other side. Place the pan over medium heat for 2 minutes, then turn up to high for approximately 8 minutes or until the skin has

Once browned, turn over the thighs, skin side up and place in the oven for 35 minutes. Once done, place the thighs on a platter.

You can serve them as is, or you can add a little more flavor to the dish by removing all but 2 tablespoons of fat from the sauté pan. Place on the stove top and squeeze the juice of one lemon into the pan along with a tablespoon of honey and blend well. Cook down for a minute or two, reducing the lemon juice. Drizzle over the thighs and serve.

Serves 3 really hungry people.

Visit Dorothy's website at http://ddimarzo2002.wix.



### COMMENTARY

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### On reproductive rights



By Kristen Strezo Somerville City Councilor At-Large

My Dear Somerville,

I wouldn't have envisioned myself taping a wire hanger to my front door a week ago.

Last week, the Supreme Court declined to stop a Texas law that bans abortions after 6 weeks of pregnancy. The new law also implicates anyone in Texas who supports or assists a woman pursuing an abortion - by driving them, providing financial assistance, counseling them, or staffing the procedure - and subjects them to a \$10,000 fine.

I've been fighting for our reproductive rights for decades - as an activist, as a pregnant woman, as an advocate in D.C. Congress offices, and as the lead singer in a feminist punk band in rock clubs all over the nation. Now, I have the privilege to fight for reproductive justice as an elected official.

I've witnessed choice being whittled down over the years, diluted by anti-choice zealots. Their strategy is clear: they can chip at Roe vs. Wade bit-by-bit by continuously introducing more restrictive laws state by state. Roe stays the same. But depending on what state you live in, your rights as a woman may vary.

A majority of these restrictive anti-choice assaults against women are based in misogyny. Often their proponents show a clear ignorance of women, sometimes of basic female anatomy. But there is also a unique hatred against women at the root of these measures. This is clear because if it was ever really about supporting a pregnant woman and preserving life – not control of women - there would

be an expansion of SNAP benefits, WIC benefits, childcare services, and other forms of support to welcome this potential life into this world.

I hear the aching of so many women who've experienced insufferable things along their paths, from the agony of having to abort a welcomed pregnancy that was not viable late into term, to having to be escorted to abortion clinics because their lives were threatened, to being harassed and shamed by judgmental opinions about their lives; judgmental opinions that never mattered to begin with.

So, I've sung about it. Lobbied for it. Shouted about it. Wrote about it. Traveled for it. Protested for it. Entered into politics for it. And it's still not enough to rile female anger to defend our turf and spell out the clear hypocrisy; for American women to rally in the streets until the anti-choice zealots are shamed for their cowardice.

But we are not out of options. Hanging a wire coat hanger on my door in solidarity is my small move preceding much larger action. So, what's it going to take? Somerville, I'm asking for you to join me. For some of you who

wish to do something, there are

### Hangers Up.

options.

Somerville, hang your own wire coat hanger from your front door. It's a jarring symbol with a real past. Some of your neighbors in Somerville remember a time when back-alley abortions were the only option. Some have endured them. I will see you soon at your doors while canvassing, and acknowledge with you that we are together in this fight.

### Legislate.

Contact your federal Representatives and Senators. Insist the Senate and House pass the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA).

I've fought for the passing of WHPA for years, and we need more critical mass. It's stunning that it's taken this level of reproductive injustice to be considered. Whatever. Let's just pass it.

As a Somerville City Councilor, I have supported reproductive justice by putting forth a resolution supporting the passage of the ROE Act - making Somerville the only municipality to do so. In my first month of office, I challenged the Somerville Police Department to better track and expedite rape kits, and the issue made it up to the District Attorney's office.

Reach out to me, and join me to continue on this work in our local community.

#### Support American Women.

The United States is still a very dangerous place to give birth. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the current maternal death rate in the United States is 17 per 100,000 births. Women of Color die in childbirth three times the rate of their white peers, which is unacceptable; the maternal death rate for Black, non-Hispanic mothers is 36 per 100,000 births.

For context, the maternal death rate in the Netherlands, Norway and New Zealand is 3 or fewer per 100,000. The American Journal of Managed Care (AJMC) concludes that two-thirds of these U.S. deaths were entirely preventable.

The maternal death rate is shocking for our technology, wealth and health care system. And there is no national database, research strategy, or tracking system like there is in other developed nations to determine the causes of why we lose so many mothers in childbirth.

But, friends, we have the power to change that reality. We can demand more from women's healthcare. It's far past time we did.

### Advocate.

Expand safety nets like WIC and SNAP benefits. Invest in affordable and accessible childcare. Demand free public colleges.

Welcome every child into this world with outstretched and

post-pandemic economic recovery plan that highlighted how women were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 shutdown -- as women are most predominantly employed in retail, food service, and hospitality and caregiving occupations. The plan calls to expand childcare services, support women- and minority-owned businesses, and implement new racial justice initiatives. I am committed to supporting women back to work and developing care infrastructure for them to thrive. And I'm just getting started.

### Listen.

Women's experiences need to be heard. So do abortion providers and doctors. By doing so, you will hear the gut wrenching stories of women who had to choose abortion for the personal reasons they had to. Then, don't judge them in any way.

The path to choosing abortion is grossly misrepresented by reproductive justice opponents. Furthermore, it's morally bankrupt for anti-choice zealots to demean women who had to make the soul-crushing medical

Donate.

Those on the frontlines need your help now. If you feel compelled to contribute, there are ways to help organizations that are fighting for many women throughout the nation.

The Eastern Massachusetts Abortion Fund helps women who live in or are traveling to, Eastern Massachusetts for an abortion: https://emafund.org/ get-involved/.

Now more than ever, we need to elect progressive, pro-choice women in Texas. Annie's List has been successfully working to do that since 2003: https://annieslist.com/donate/.

I know many women – and allies - are furious about the Texas SB8 decision. So, my question to you is: what are you going to do about it?

Councilor Kristen Strezo (she/ hers) is a Somerville City Councilor At-Large running for re-election in the upcoming municipal election on November 2, 2021. A single mother and lifelong activist, she is the only Somerville City Councilor who lives in Affordable Housing.



### Free MBTA passes for all high school students

Thanks to the Somerville City Council, School Committee, and Mayor Curtatone, all Somerville Public Schools high school students will receive a free MBTA pre-loaded M7 monthly pass card for this school year.

Approximately 1,400 Somerville High School and Full Circle students will be receiving the M7 cards.

The M7 cards are good for free unlimited travel on the subway, Local or Express buses, and Commuter Rail Zones 1A, 1, and 2 from September through June, with discounted rates available in July and August.

### COMMENTARY

### SIGNS OF THE TIMES

**Illustrated by Jim Clark** 



### **Our View Of The Times**



A lot of public events used to come and go through the city over the course of each year: road races, music festivals, family events ... you name it.

Then came the pandemic and we pretty much went without all of it for a while. But as we slowly make our way back to some degree of normalcy, a few of our favorite outdoor events are poised to make a comeback.

This weekend will mark the return of Somerstreets, Strike up the Bands. And the "What the Fluff?" festival (www. flufffestival.com) hits Union Square once again, September 22-26, an event that has grown in the hearts of so many here.

What is it though about the celebration of this sticky, sweet and gooey confection that kindles a spot of warmth in so many of our hearts? Is it the generally whacky nature of the event itself? The overall tongue-in-cheek nature of each event within the event?

It is certainly a unique affair, with a rich history and heritage that sparks the imagination and brings out the kid in all of us.

The timing of it may have some influence on our affection towards it. As we bid farewell to the summer months and ring in the beginning of autumn, we may

view the festivities as a last hurrah of the high season. One last fling in the warmth of the sun as we gently roll along towards the darker days of winter.

Whatever mysterious forces may exist that compel us to smear, spread, consume or bathe in the stuff, most of us have a real good time at it. So let's be grateful for this small step towards normalcy, however whacky it may be.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

and a hard-working Councilor At-Large. We wish her a very happy birthday. Also this week, we wish another local person, Conor Brennan, the owner of PJ Ryan's in Teele Square, the very best on his birthday. Happy birthday to Donna Piro-Andon. We wish Donna the very best. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Gary DiZoglio, Jane Becker, Jessica OBrien, Gay H. Sheldon, Kimberly LaCascia-Winslow, Jackie Shepardhancock, Ed Grandmont, Cathy Harrington, Christina Marie, Debra Lawson Kennedy, Toto Lorence Peras, Jonathan O'Connell, Stephen Green and Ellen Gagliardia 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.

'My Neighbor is a Museum' Block Party is scheduled for this Saturday, Sep**tember 18**, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at **1** Westwood Road. Help the Somerville Museum fundraise for their Access for All & More Campaign which supports making their 100-year-old building more accessible to the community. This event is also celebrating the opening of their next exhibition, Penny Chronicles

and the Stories They Tell. Curated by David Guss, this exhibition is a history of Somerville through the medium of the vintage postcard. There will be live music, food, local artwork, raffles, and games. To learn more about the Access for All & More Campaign and how to donate go to: http://somervillemuseum. org/accessforall/. To learn more about the Penny Chronicles exhibition, go to: http://somervillemuseum.org/postcard-show/

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

By a unanimous vote of the Somerville Board of Health, the local eviction moratorium is extended until April 30 of next year. Somerville residents in need of assistance are urged to contact **OHS** at 617-625-6600 x2581 or fill out a referral form at somervillema.gov/ohs. The city has already leveraged more than \$2 million in rental assistance during the pandemic from local, state, and federal sources. CAAS can be reached at 617-623-7370 or caasomerville.org/needhelp.

The East Somerville Foodie Crawl is back for its 9th edition with more restaurants, more beer, and more entertainment. On Tuesday, September 21,

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

take a cultural crawl through the East Somerville restaurant corridor. With the purchase of one ticket, you will be off on a culinary journey full of authentic foods, colors and smells all the way from Ethiopia, El Salvador, Italy, Brazil and Mexico. Your ticket will give you unlimited access to sample East Somerville's best restaurants. Food will be served from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. For tickets and more information visit www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The Somerville Board of Health (BOH) approved a face-covering mandate for all indoor public places that went into 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 or somervillema.gov/ vaccine and sign up for city alerts at somervillema.gov/Alerts. Everyone is urged to sign up for every alert method you are able to receive phone call, text, email. Also please follow FB.com/ SomervilleCity and @SomervilleCity.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* The East Somerville Market will return on Sunday September 19, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at their new location: East Somerville Library, 115 Broadway, Somerville. For a list of vendors visit https://www.eastsomervillemainstreets. org/market. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

The September breakfast and lunch menus are available on the Food and Nutrition Services website: https:// somerville.k12.ma.us/fns. Breakfast and lunch will be free for all students enrolled in Somerville Public Schools.

Registration is open for musicians who want to participate in this year's Porch-Fest on Saturday, October 2. Performers will be given a time to play based on where they are located: Continued on page 11

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### **FUN & GAMES**

# Ms. Cam's 1 lio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

- 1. How many total hijackers took part in the 9/11 attacks?
- 2. On which of the four hijacked planes did passengers fight back against the terrorists?
- 3. On the morning on September 11, 2001, at what time did the FAA order every plane in American airspace to land?
- 4. In which organ is vitamin A primarily stored?
- 5. Which Florida city provides the name of Chevrolet's compact MPV unveiled at the 2008 Paris Motor Show?
- 6. The word "hotel"

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2

9

3

8

9

3

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**CRUISE & TOUR** 

- originated in which language?
- 7. What is the last line in Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?
- 8. What is the capital city of Spain?
- 9. Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg both appeared in a 2013 PSA for what nonprofit?
- 10. What do the witches in the 1993 film Hocus Pocus fly on?
- 11. What city is built entirely upon a series of small islands?
- 12. The "September Massacres" refers to the slaughter of political prisoners in what country? Answers on page 11

SUDOKU

O

1

8

2

5

3

2

4

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6

8

### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- 1. \$283,200 is the absolute highest amount of money you can win on Jeopardy.
- 2. Dueling is legal in Paraguay as long as both parties are registered blood donors.

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THE 1990s

#### **ACROSS**

- 1. Ridden or pushed around yard
- 6. Chlorofluorocarbon
- 9. Spiral-horned antelope
- 13. Make a canyon, e.g.
- 14. Much of this about nothing?
- 15. Forest destroyers
- 16. Basic belief
- 17. Popular pickup
- 18. Lake scum
- 19. Popular email service eventually bought by Microsoft
- 21. CD "maker"
- 23. FEMA's assistance
- 24. Musician's time to shine
- 25. Stephen King's Christine, e.g.
- 28. Plural of locus
- 30. Mongolian monetary unit
- 35. Wraths
- 37. Iar covers
- 39. Like yellow polka dot bikini?
- 40. Desert in China and Mongolia
- 41. Knight's mount
- 43. Cogito \_\_\_\_ sum
- 44. Change the Constitution, e.g.
- 46. Ready and eager
- 47. Table mineral
- 48. Jennifer Aniston-inspired haircut, with "the"
- 50. Bank on
- 52. Modern prefix
- 53. Beacon light
- 55. Oolong, e.g.
- Sese Seko, overthrown Zair-
- ian dictator
- 60. African National Congress leader
- released from prison
- 64. Like a candle?
- 65. 1997's "Fly" by Sugar \_\_\_\_
- 67. Lowest point
- 68. Smart \_
- 69. Marching insect
- 70. Opposite of digest 71. Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrig-
- an's domain
- 72. Employer Assisted Housing, acr.
- 73. Fender bender consequences

- 1. Crystalline hydrochloride, colloqui-
- 2. Nabisco top best-seller

69 70 72 Blazing Fast Internet! f (sy dish \$19.99

CROSSWORD

14

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10 11

6. Lewis of sprinting and long jumping

7. Vaccine-approving agency, acr.

8. Burger, fries and soda

12. Consume, as in drugs

15. Slang for radical or cool,

20. America's singer choices

24. Weapon in a holster

25. Fidel Castro's smoke

29. TV hit "Sex and the \_\_\_\_

27. Renaissance instrument resembling

9. Brick-drying oven

10. It's hard to resist

11. Precedes Abby

2 words

a violin

22. Last. abbr.

26. Pleasant odor

© StatePoint Media

4. Bodily swelling

5. Not wholesale

3. Refuses to

dish 🐴

32. What many TV hits have done 33. Fireplace

34. \_\_\_\_\_ Protocol, climate change-re-

lated international treaty

36. Hyperbolic sine

38. Withered

42. COVID-19 variant

45. Expose the falseness

49. "\_\_\_\_ the Games Begin!"

51. Pined

54. Sign of a saint, pl.

56. "Bad news travels fast," e.g.

57. Algeria's neighbor

58. Plow-pulling duo

59. "Where It's At" singer

60. Urban story

61. Adam and Eve's garden

62. Oscar winner "Schindler's

63. A in BA

\_\_\_ or Bosnian 64. \*Gulf

66. American Nurses Association

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

31. "Bee \_\_\_\_"

### Soulution to last week's sudoku nuzzle.

| Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzie: |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 2                                       | 3 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 |  |  |  |  |
| 9                                       | 4 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 |  |  |  |  |
| 8                                       | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 2 |  |  |  |  |
| 7                                       | 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 |  |  |  |  |
| 6                                       | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 7 |  |  |  |  |
| 5                                       | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 8 |  |  |  |  |
| 1                                       | 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 |  |  |  |  |
| 3                                       | 7 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 4                                       | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 3 |  |  |  |  |

### Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:



© StatePoint Media 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.

### Tufts University dining hall labor dispute

### Somerville Foreclosure Moratorium Proposed

#### By Joe Creason

The evening of September 9 marked a regular meeting for the City Council.

A resolution requesting the city to consider a foreclosure moratorium for Somerville homeowners and owner-occupied small landlords, was submitted by City Councilor At-Large Kristen Strezo.

"This was a suggestion put forth to me by a community activist and I think it is a good consideration to make. We need to acknowledge that many in the community are still struggling from the past year and this is how we support them and I support this," Strezo said.

The meeting continued with the foreclosure moratorium being left on the table for approval.

A labor struggle between Tufts University and its dining hall staff has created an ongoing debate with the City Council as 131 were not granted jobs this summer. No notice was given by the University before the layoffs and the workers have been unable to collect unemployment benefits.

"It is my intention this evening to vote no on any permits until these workers are paid what they are owed," said Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan, "Tufts University President Anthony

Monaco gets paid \$273,483 for three months of work, a Tufts dining worker gets paid \$9,594. They also just paid \$2 million for the Tufts name to be attached to the new T station, so this is really egregious. I cannot support an institution that doesn't support its workers, especially those who were there to serve them during the pandemic."

"I cannot support an institution that doesn't support its workers..."

According to Executive Director of Community Relations for Tufts University Rocco Dirico, there were no layoffs over the summer, and senior leadership at Tufts took pay cuts so there would be no layoffs.

As part of a Massachusetts wide policy enacted by Governor Baker last summer, Unemployment benefits were made available to workers whose contracts are tied to the academic year. Though, the policy was not continued by the state this summer. It was the state that elected forgo giving unemployment



benefits to workers, not Tufts, says Dirico.

"Tufts University is committed to the wellbeing of its students, faculty staff and community and we are grateful for our relationships with our host communities," Dirico said.

However, many councilors echoed Councilor Clingan's support for the dining hall staff, citing evidence that Tufts made a different decision from other universities in the region, a decision which worked for Tufts but not for its workers, says Ward 7 City Councilor Katjana Ballantyne.

"The union has not filed any

challenges for our handling of this issue. Again, I think their issue is with the Commonwealth for not extending the unemployment benefits, their issue is not with Tufts," Dirico said.

The issue was referred to Licensing and Permits by Council President McLaughlin.

In other news, a citation was submitted by the mayor and City Councilors, commending Mary Alice Lally on her 50 years of employment with the city. The Council also voted to approve authorization in order to enter into and execute a service agreement with the Cambridge Health Alliance to operate the health center at Somerville High School.

"This is a continuation of a partnership to provide health services for students, they provide an incredible range of health support with everything from mental health dental care, eye care, vaccinations, dating violence and reproductive counseling. It's an incredible asset and it's a model I wish we saw all across the country," said Chief of Staff at Somerville Public Schools Jeff Curley.

The next regular meeting of the City Council will be on September 23 at 7:00 pm.

### Commission sets new climate change goals

### By Eileen Qiu

The city's Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change kicked off its monthly meeting on September 8 with a goal to widen the scope of Sommerville's greenhouse gas inventory, carried out every two years.

There wasn't a meeting for August, but members of the CEUCC announced emissions from goods manufactured in another country and bought by residents will now be considered said Director of Sustainability and Environment Oliver Garcia.

"The inventory will identify areas where we might be able to build awareness or design new programs and policies to reduce emissions," Garcia said.

Despite setbacks due to COVID-19, the 2020 Climate Forward progress report found the city's carbon emissions decreased by 0.2% since 2016 and 5.3% since 2014.

An associate for the Boston based architecture firm Payette, and member of the CEUCC Liz Galloway presented net-zero building science.

...we might be able to build awareness or design new programs and policies to reduce emissions

As a building scientist with a master's degree in civil and environmental engineering, Galloway's work centers around turning normally heavy energy use buildings like schools and hospitals into more cost effective and environmentally friendly, carbon neutral places.

Her presentation could potentially inspire private developers



building in Somerville to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save money, Garcia said, but isn't as relevant to the city's own buildings.

Rising sea levels, temperature and more intense and frequent storms are some of the effects climate change can have on Somerville. The city received grant funding in 2011 from the Department of Energy Resources to finance projects for a more efficient way to use energy. The

first greenhouse gas inventory then occurred in 2014, along with the goal to be carbon neutral by 2050.

The next CEUCC meeting will be Wednesday, October 13.

Visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

### **LEGAL NOTICES**

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



#### **CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS** JOSEPH A. CURTATONE **MAYOR**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on <u>Tuesday, September</u> 28, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

#### **REGISTER ONLINE**

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6436814165425183503

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following:

- Dean Matarazzo proposing a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district of 13 Garfield Ave from Fabrication to Urban Residential.
- AP Davis Square Plaza, LP proposing a zoning map amendment to change the zoning district of 258-282 Elm St., 58 Day St., and 7-13 Herbert St. from MR-4 to Civic and CC-4. A group of ten (10) or more voters proposing a zoning map
- amendment to change the zoning district of 51 McGrath Highway from HR to MR5 and 35 McGrath Highway from MR5 to MR4. A proposed text amendment to require that fractional and in-lieu payments be paid prior to the issuance of a Certificate of
- Occupancy. (Council Item #212305) Proposed text and map amendments to expand the functionality
- of the Small Business overlay district to require multiple ground story commercial spaces when mapped over the Mid-Rise, High-Rise, or Commercial zoning districts. (Council Item #212306)
- Proposed text amendments to reorganize and clarify the provisions regulating sidewalks and frontages. (Council Item
- Proposed text amendments to regulate rooftop mechanical systems and mechanical penthouses. (Council Item #212308)
- A proposed text amendment to establish alternative compliance provisions for the Master Planned Development (MPD) overlay district, contextual design standards for the Boynton Yards sub area of the MPD overlay, and to change Map 8.3.12 (a) Sub-Area Boundary and Superseding Zoning Districts of the Boynton Yards sub-area. (Council Item #212309)

The zoning map amendments identified above may be viewed online by searching the Somerville City Council's online meeting calendar for each amendment. Other proposed amendments identified above may be viewed online at www.somervillezoning.com/amendments

Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

9/8/21, 9/15/21 The Somerville Times

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts** The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court Department** Middlesex Probate and Family Court

**MIDDLESEX Division** 

Docket No. MI21A0402SJ

SUMMONS on COMPLAINT FOR DEPENDENCY PURSUANT TO G. L. c. 119, § 39M

Jessica A Mejia Vasquez, Plaintiff

Juan R. Mejia Rivas, Defendant "Parent One"

To the above named Defendant:

You are ordered to appear at the Middlesex Probate and Family Court for a hearing on this Complaint for Dependency Pursuant to G. L. c. 119, § 39M

Information about the hearing:

Motion Date: 09/28/2021 Time: 11:00 AM

Place: www.Zoomgov.com/my/gargas

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

### Thomas Logan, Esq.

Whose address is: **Barrales Law** 98 North Washington St Suite B5 Boston, MA 02114

your answer, if any, to the complaint for which is herewith served upon you, within 7 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. You are also required to file a copy of your answer to the complaint in the office of Register of this Court at Middlesex Probate and Family Court, either before service upon plaintiff's attorney, if represented by counsel, or within a reasonable time thereafter.

Witness, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 1, 2021

Tara E. De Christofaro **Register of Probate** 

9/15/21 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded

from our website:

www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



#### SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL **PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 6:00 PM, on 4 petitions for new Garage Licenses:

Brazil Auto Repair Inc seeks a Garage License at 621 Somerville Avenue, for mechanical repairs only, storing 2 vehicles inside and none outside, serving the public Monday through Friday 8AM-6PM, Saturday 8AM-2PM, and Sunday closed.

101 South Street Owner LLC seeks a Garage License at 101 South Street, for vehicle storage only, storing 300 vehicles inside and none outside, serving the public, open 24/7.

Federal Realty Investment Trust seeks a Garage License at 485 Foley Street, for vehicle storage only, storing 250 vehicles inside and none outside, not serving the public, open 24/7.

Federal Realty Investment Trust seeks a Garage License at 455 Grand Union Boulevard, for vehicle storage only, storing 611 vehicles inside and none outside, serving the public, open 24/7.

This meeting will be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

1. To attend and be heard, enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5169455490715648016. You can also find this link on the City website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.

2. If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the City Clerk at the address below, or by email to cityclerk@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Committee.

September 13, 2021

### THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS, CITY CLERK CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV

9/15/21 The Somerville Times

Comunidad de Massachusetts Corte Familiai Corte de Familia de la comunidad de Middlesex

**MIDDLESEX Division** 

Numero de caso. MI21A0402SJ

CITACION de QUEJA PARA LA CUSTODIA **SEGÚN G. L. c. 119, § 39M** 

Jessica A Mejia Vasquez, Demandante contra Juan R Mejia Rivas, Demandado "Primer Padre"

Al Se ordena su presencia en la Corte de Familia de la Comunidad de Middlesex para una audiencia sobre esta Queja para la Custodia según G.L.c. 119, § 39M.

Información acerca de la audiencia:

Moción

Fecha: 28 de septiembre de 2021 Hora: 11:00 AM

Lugar: www.Zoomgov.com/my/gargas

Por la presente, se le convoca y se le exige que preste servicio en:

Thomas Logan, Esq.

**Barrales Law** 

98 North Washington Street

Suite B5 Boston, MA 02114

su respuesta, si existe alguna, dentro de los 7 días posteriores a la recepción de esta citación, excluido el día del servicio. También debe presentar una copia de su respuesta, si la hay, en la oficina del Registro de este Tribunal en la Corte de Familia de la Comunidad de Middlesex, ya sea por servicio en el demandante o la abogada del demandante, si lo tiene, o dentro de un plazo de tiempo razonable en

DOY FE. Hon. Maureen H Monks. Primer Juez de esta Corte.

Fecha: 1 de Julio, 2021

9/15/21 The Somerville Times



#### City of Somerville PLANNING BOARD

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

#### **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Somerville Planning Board (PB) will hold a virtual public hearing on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

#### **TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3633778595116080910

Webinar ID: 761-338-075

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (213) 929-4212 Access code: 594-343-281

121 South Street

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

111 South Street Boynton Yards LandCo LLC proposes to develop

a Neighborhood Park in the High Rise (HR) zoning district, which requires Site Plan Approval.

Boynton Yards LandCo LLC proposes to develop

an 11-story LEED Platinum lab building in the High Rise (HR) zoning district, which requires Site Plan

Development review application submittal materials and other docu-

mentation may be viewed online at

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.

9/8/21, 9/15/21 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 virtual public hearing on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 6:00pm through GoToWebinar.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available upon request to planning@somervillema.gov.

### **TO USE A COMPUTER**

Link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7996231715891288590 891-690-283 Webinar ID:

**TO CALL IN** 

1 (213) 929-4232 Phone number: Access code: 819-032-377

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

101 South Street 101 South Street Owner LLC is proposing Major

Amendments to previously-issued permits (ZBA 2019-43 and ZBA 2018-21-E1-2/19) for 101 South Street/2 Earle Street.

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 Zoning Board of Appeals 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.

9/8/21, 9/15/21 The Somerville Times

### TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY

PHONE: 857-488-5138

### Somerville grassroots organizing extends local eviction moratorium

Thanks to the efforts of grassroots organizers, the City of Somerville now has the longest continuous municipal eviction moratorium in the state of Massachusetts. On September 9th, the Somerville Board of Health voted unanimously in favor of extending the moratorium until April 30, 2022, providing seven more months of residential protections from eviction and foreclosure, rather than the originally proposed two months.

The full text of the emergency order can be read here. Although the April timeline doesn't meet the original campaign goal of an extension until June, this was still a very unexpected and welcome victory for Somerville residents. It grants more time for renters and homeowners to apply and receive financial assistance without the threat of being evicted or foreclosed upon during the winter, and less risk of the highly contagious Delta COVID-19 variant spreading in the community.

Prior to the Somerville Board of Health meeting, the Community Action Agency of Somerville (CAAS), the Eviction Response Network (ERN), and the Somerville Renters Committee held a peaceful "Call to Conscience" demonstration on the side lawn of Somerville City Hall to call on Mayor Curtatone and the Board of Health to order an extension of the City of Somerville eviction moratorium through June 2022.

The demonstration was the culminating event in a week of action to support an extension of the eviction moratorium through June 2022. In total, 323 community members signed a petition in support of the extension, and five residents offered moving verbal testimony at the hearing. A video recording of the demonstration can be watched here, along with a recap of the campaign's success.

"I believe that every voice should be heard regardless of age, race and wage. In most cases the majority of outcries come from the minority. But working



together, we can create change for the better," said Akida Harris, a member of the Somerville Renters Committee who organized an advocacy hour to contact city officials.

"We are grateful and proud that the Somerville Board of Health listened to our community and extended the residential eviction moratorium until next spring. This was the best outcome because housing stability is a matter of public health, public safety, economic, and racial justice," said Nicole Eigbrett, Director of Community Organizing at CAAS. "The work doesn't stop here. We will continue organizing and reaching out to people in need, especially to our immigrant neighbors and anyone else who may be struggling, to make sure that no one loses their home during this ongoing global pandemic."

CAAS encourages Somerville residents who are behind on rent to contact us for rental and eviction assistance as soon as possible at: 617-623-7370, or visit caasomerville.org.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

west of Willow Avenue performs from noon to 2:00 p.m., between Willow Avenue and Central Street performs from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and east of Central Street performs from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Performers who want to register should sign up at somervilleartscouncil.org/porchfest by Thursday, September 30.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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 Rosalie DeLucia contact 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.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Riverfest 2021 will take place Saturday, September 18, 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Assembly Row at Assembly Square. Highlights include: Live local music powered by PUMA, free family-friendly activities and a firework spectacular over the Mystic River. Plus, don't forget to check out Night Shift's Owl's Nest Beer Garden plus and family friendly games including pickleball and shuffleboard by PKL Boston - located near The Smoke Shop BBQ.

Groundwork Somerville Harvest Gala takes place Saturday, September 18, 198 South St., Somerville. Celebrate Groundwork Somerville's 21st year of farming and environmental education. Visit South Street Farm for an evening of games, music, raffles, drinks and delicious food. Full price tickets are \$40, with the option to

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

pay less based on your income. Ticket prices include a meal at one of several food trucks as well as two drink tickets for wine or beer. Tickets: https:// groundworksomerville.org/ event/harvest-gala/

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Have you received your COVID-19 vaccine? The City of Somerville will hold three mobile clinics this fall. The clinics are free, regardless of health insurance or immigration status. ID is not required. Walk-ins are welcome, but you can pre-register at somervillema.gov/vaccine to make the process go faster. Pfizer Clinic (12+), Wednesday, September 15, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Somerville High School, 89 Highland Ave. Second dose will be the same time, same place on October 6. Pfizer Clinic (12+), Friday, September 24, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., West Somerville Neighborhood School, 177 Powder House Blvd. Second dose will be the same time, same place on October 15. Johnson & Johnson Clinic (18+), Monday, October 18, 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m., City Hall Annex, 50 Evergreen Ave. Please note that all minors must have parent/guardian permission, and anyone 12-15 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. At this time, City of Somerville vaccine clinics are only open for first and second doses. If you are immunocompromised and are looking for a third dose, please first reach out to your healthcare provider.

If a third dose of the vaccine is indicated, they will provide you with a list of locations offering the vaccine. If you have questions or need assistance, please call 311 (617-666-3311). \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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- 1. 19
- 2. United Airlines Flight
- 3. 9:42 a.m., for the first time in history
- 4. Liver
- 5. Orlando
- 6. French

- 7. You'll go down in history
- 8. Madrid
- 9. Code.org
- 10. Vacuum cleaners
- 11. Venice, Italy
- 12. France





### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

SENIOR

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

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

Music & Movement - Thursday, September 16 at 4:00 p.m. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. Being physically active is not just good for our bodies, but it is also one of Mental Health America's 10 tools to building resiliency; or the ability to overcome obstacles and manage through tough times. Physical activity can improve sleep, increase energy, decrease some kinds of pain, boast our immune systems and lower the risk for stroke and some cancers. It also helps to reduce our anxiety, depression, stress and tension. Join Steve as he shows us that exercise can come in all different forms and movements. This program is in person, pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321

Book Club – Friday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m. - Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. *The Murderbot Diaries* by Martha Wells will be discussed. Book club's next meeting will be in person. Please contact Natasha at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317. This is an in person group. Please RSVP as space is limited.

CENTER

Arts & Crafts – Tuesday, September 21 at 10:00 a.m. – At the Ralph & Jenny Center located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn.) Join us as we make a fall flower pot arrangement. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email Debby at DHiggins@Somervillema.gov. Space is limited and masks are required.

Caregiver Check-In – Tuesday, September 28 at 11:00 a.m. - Are you a caregiver for a loved one and want to connect with other caregivers? Would you like to discuss the joys and challenges of caregiving? The Somerville Council on Aging is hosting a monthly check-in via Zoom for caregivers. Please contact Natasha by either calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail Natasha at NNaim@Somervillema.gov.

#### **ONGOING EVENTS**

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

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

### **EXERCISE**

VIRTUAL FIT-4-LIFE SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### OUTDOOR EXERCISE PROGRAM

Mondays at 10:00 a.m.

HAPPENINGS:

Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

#### **OUTDOOR WALKING GROUP**

Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

#### Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22

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

#### Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF\_EEbqF0&t=130s

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

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

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

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

### Bobby's Dad Jokes Corner

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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1776 – The British occupy Manhattan.

1858 – The Butterfield Overland Mail Company begins delivering mail from St. Louis to San Francisco.

1862 – Confederates capture Harpers Ferry, securing the rear of Robert E. Lee's forces in Maryland.

1891 - The Dalton gang holds up a train and takes \$2,500 at Wagoner, OK.

1928 – Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming discovers, by accident, that the mold penicillin has an antibiotic effect.

1935 – In Berlin, the Reich under Adolf Hitler adopts the swastika as the national flag.

1950 – U.N. Forces, lead by the U.S. Marine Corps, invade occupied Korea at the port of Inchon.

1959 - Nikita Khrushchev becomes first Soviet leader to visit the US.

1971 - The environmental group Greenpeace is founded.

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#### Stealing our Thunder CONT. FROM PG 3

It was great to catch up. I urge everyone to walk by your friend's houses and say hello and goodbye.

Back to the razing of Jasper's/ Thunder Road ... hope it's a live music restaurant they build because we need more of those in our ever-changing Somerville. The former site of all that music will remain in our memories (we even hosted karaoke when it was Choices).

So, have a great week and weekend. We

should all try to smile more! As more and more people are moving to Somerville ... we need more and more friendliness.

A special shout out to Joe M and the folks at A Plus Auto Body behind the High School on Medford St. They did a bang-up job on our Honda Pilot that was hit by a delivery truck. They want you to know that they are open for business so be sure to drop in if you need A+ auto body work!

Somerville High School's class of 1970's reunion was cancelled and sadly will not be rescheduled (my late sister Christine's class). However, we are extending a welcome to those folks to join our class of 1971's reunion on October 23 at Anthony's in Malden from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. If interested, send \$65 to Rosalie DeLucia, 30 Wolcott St., Medford, Ma 02155. It will be a fun time for sure. Masks and hand sanitizers will be available.



A few doors down from Jasper's/Thunder Road where four of us musicians and three dogs lived in a small studio apartment.

**CONT. FROM PG 1** 

### Somerville commemorates 20th anniversary of 9/11

lined the path as the procession passed by. Once the group reached the end of the Community Path, it took a left turn towards the 9/11 memorial in front of Dave's Fresh Pasta.

As the procession crossed Highland Ave., members of the Somerville Fire Department saluted the procession, with a large American flag hanging off one of the SFD engines.

Once the procession reached the me-

morial in Davis Square, a short ceremony was held to honor the victims of 9/11. Another brief moment of silence was observed in their honor.

An opening prayer was said by Father Paul Coughlin, from St. Raphael Parish.

After this, Mayor Joe Curtatone gave some remarks on the tragic events of September 11 and his surprise at the fact that 20 years have passed since that fateful day.

"It's hard to believe it's been two decades

since that awful and tragic day. Eerily, the weather was kind of like today, it was a beautiful day," Curtatone said, "We can all agree that nothing will lessen the tragedy of that day, not even the passing of time."

After remarks by Mayor Curtatone, City Council President McLaughlin followed up with some remarks on the tragic date.

"The moment that we were united as one people, I think there was a point

where we could get back to being one people and sometimes it takes that collective suffering which is a universal thing that all human beings feel," McLaughlin said.

Following these remarks, members of the public were invited to place flowers onto the 9/11 memorial and another moment of silence was observed.

Finally, a closing prayer was said by Father Coughlin, which ended the ceremony.























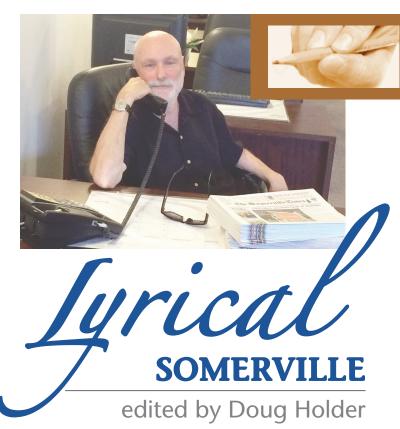


### Walk-in vaccine clinic (Pfizer) Wednesday, September 15

A walk-in clinic for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be held Wednesday, September 15, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m at Somerville High School, 89 Highland Ave. 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).





Pamela Gemme is a poet, artist, and a social justice advocate. Pamela is the co-editor of Essential Anthology forthcoming 2022, Borderless Books West Virginia University. She has recent or forthcoming publications in many journals and anthologies and is working on two poetry manuscripts and has work in or forthcoming in



many journals and anthologies. Pamela's artwork can be seen in commercial settings on magazine covers and in galleries. Pamela can be reached at ArtSense@yahoo.com.

#### The Moose and the Owl of Rutland State Forest

their lives intertwine in the benefit of bark that is a dark twin to this moose he scratches, mars, and rams the pine tree,

her camouflage is the knot she lives in she thrives on tics and mosquitoes that stay alive on his back in December

she drinks from the cups of pinecones molts in a twitter in the flicker of this early winter

She flies along the loop that the moose uses in a full gallop, follows him to the pine grove where the canopy of trees disallows

snow to accumulate underneath, she perches, her little head appears inert, but she's alert, at attention,

He sleeps in a bed of pine where he leaves a body imprint where he tucks his legs by lowering himself

onto the pedestal of his haunches one side of his velvet antlers touches the ground

— Pamela Gemme

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### OFF THE SHEL

by Doug Holder

### **Somerville Artist** Alexandra Rozenman:

### Looks at the world Above-Inside-Outside-Under

I met Somerville artist Alexandria Rozenman, under the thick, tangle of vines, in the courtyard of the Neighborhood Restaurant in Union Square, Somerville. Trying to make small talk, I told her that I was of Russian Jewish heritage, like her. She looked at my bagel, dripping with onions and smoked fish and said, "Yes, I can smell it."

Rozenman, 51, is a resident of the Brickbottom Galleries in the hinterlands of Union Square. Originally from Moscow in Russia, she is the child of dissident parents and trained with dissident artists, some of whom became prominent in the West, like the noted Grisha Bruskin. She explained that creating art under a totalitarian regime, can be much more vital than when the artist is in a comfortable, uncensored environment.

Rozenman had a long journey before she landed at the Brickbottom Gallery in Somerville. She taught and worked in places like Minneapolis, the Lower East Side of New York City, and locally in Allston, MA. She told me she is related to the first wife of the artist Marc Chagall, who often appeared in flight in the master's paintings. And indeed, her own work is influenced by Chagall. This is quite a lineage for an artist, methinks.

Rozenman showed me some collages she has been working on. The works are full of enigmatic landscapes, personified animals, mysterious lovers, etc. She told me they were created from scrap paper she gathered from other artists. These will be part of a series she is working on, that in someways is influenced by her own life story.

I asked Rozenman, "How should I look at art?" She took a pepper shaker on the table and said, "Look above it, look inside of it, look outside of it, and look under it." She continued, "I don't want people to think we look just at solitary objects we have to take it all in." Being a poet, I could certainly agree with this take it all in philosophy.

And Rozenman teaches all this to her students at her Art School 99 on Joy St. in Somerville. There she has a cadre of loyal students who helped her





secure this space, and pursue her mission.

Like many artists in our city, Rozenman has to deal with the black dogs of gentrification. Fortunately for her she found a space at the Brickbottom, which houses a community of artists and other folks. Rozenman told me she found the residents warm and inviting, and seemed pleased to have a younger artist living with and working with

Rozenman doesn't identify with any particular school of painting, but a description from the Fountain Street Gallery in Boston gives us insight:

"Alexandra Rozenman's paintings and drawings blend the styles and symbols of folk art, Russian Underground Conceptualism, illustration, and Jewish Art. She embraces and plays with Russian, European and American folk tales and myths, giving them utopian and funny dimensions in her work. She combines a universal story with a personal one, absorbing and expressing the psychology of otherness as a fundamental part of her identity and of the contemporary world in which we live. Her current series of paintings, TRANS-PLANTED, touches upon issues of artistic influence and dialogue, emulation and creativity. Her work can be viewed as a metaphor for immigration and the cathartic journey of re-inventing a new personal and artistic identity."

Rozenman will have a showing of her work at the Fountain Street Gallery on October 22. To find out more about her go to:

http://www.alexandrarozenman.com http://artschool99somerville.com

### **Docent Tour of Milk Row Cemetery**

Thursday, September 16, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Milk Row Cemetery, 439 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA 02143

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

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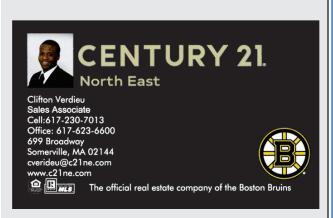
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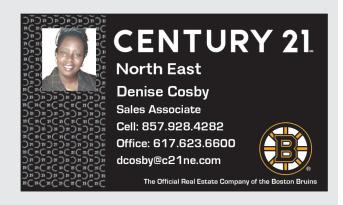
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