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'What the Fluff'
this time?

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A great weekend
for adoption

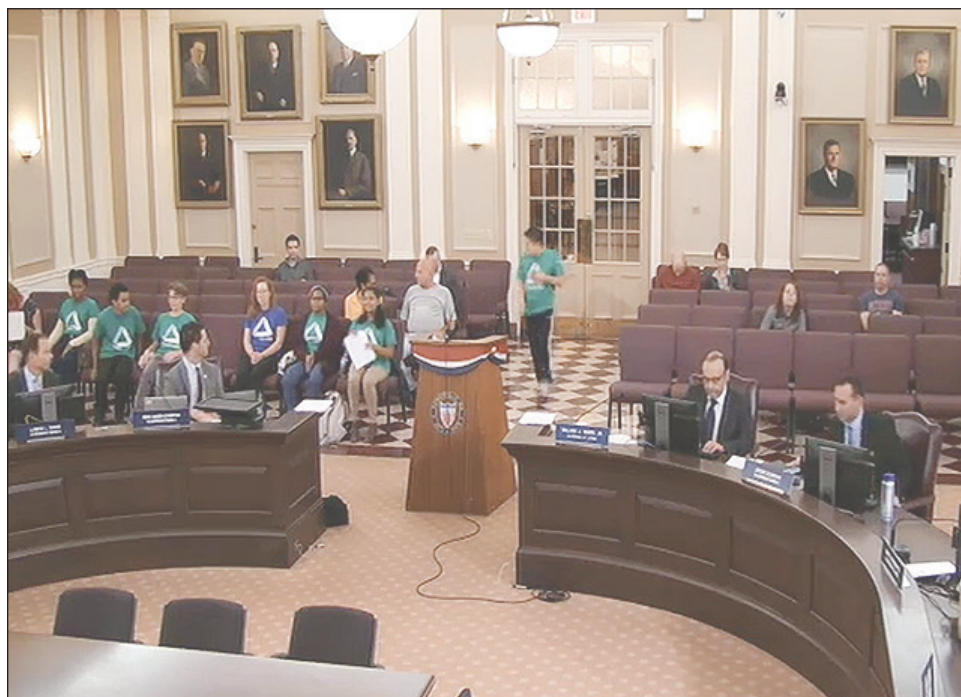
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Board of Aldermen resolves to support 'Yes on 3' coalition



The City of Somerville Board of Aldermen resolved to support "Yes on 3" coalition at its latest regular meeting last Thursday.

By Jim Clark

A resolution was put forward and approved at the latest Board of Aldermen meeting aimed at "supporting the "Yes on 3 Coalition" and re-affirming the Board's commitment to equal protection under the laws for all people."

The full text of the resolution reads as follows:

"WHEREAS: The Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate approved the addition of gender identity to the Massachusetts Public Accommodations Law (M.G.L. c. 272, §§ 92A, 98 and 98A) on July 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS: Governor Charlie Baker signed this legislation, An Act Relative to Transgender Anti-Discrimination, into law on July 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS: The updated Massachusetts Public Accommodations Law has been in full effect since October 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS: The Somerville Board of Aldermen has long demonstrated

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City Year – Biogen Care Deeply volunteer event at WSNS

City Year and Biogen Care Deeply volunteers teamed up to support students at the West Somerville Neighborhood School (WSNS) on Friday, September 14.

Approximately 200 Biogen Care Deeply volunteers completed a day of service, arriving at the school at about 9:20 a.m. Friday morning to take part in a day-long school beautification project.

The celebration to kick off the day's events included a morning rally as well as a short speaking agenda held in the school's gymnasium. Volunteers then deployed into their designated teams and began the work. There was a brief closing ceremony in the afternoon, also in the gymnasium.

Attending the opening ceremony were Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone; Biogen Chief Executive Officer, Michel Vounatsos; Ward 7 Alderwoman, Katjana Ballantyne; Biogen Foundation Executive Director, Chris Barr; and representatives from City Year.

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Volunteers from City Year and Biogen Care Deeply pitched in last Friday to help spruce up West Somerville Neighborhood School. — Photo by Claudia Ferro

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Is anyone reflecting on the recent primary here in the city? Did you yet realize what we lost? The defeat of incumbent **Mike Capuano** just might come back to haunt us here in Somerville. Mike Capuano is on the **Transportation Committee** in the house. If the **Democrats** take over **the House**, he would have become chairman of that powerful committee. Think about how many people in Somerville over the years worked hard to get the **Green Line Extension** through. Everyone worked hard but it was Mike who worked the hardest to get the necessary federal funding to start and complete the project. Now, because of ideology and the rush to just vote older political figures out of office and replace them, **Ayanna Pressley** will become our new congresswomen and she will go to the bottom of the ladder when it comes to appointments to various committees. We don't think she will even be considered for such a juicy appointment as the Transportation Committee. Nope, that will go to the next guy or woman in line. I look out at the local political figures who endorsed her over our own congressman and I have to wonder, did they really want the Green Line? For that matter, did they consider how keeping Mike in office would ensure that those necessary funds will continue to flow for the Green Line Extension? We might not have always agreed with Mike Capuano, but you can't say he doesn't love Somerville, and if he was in the position next year we wouldn't have to worry about the funds possibly being pulled away. Think about 52,000 registered voters in the city. 17,000 voted that leaves 35,000 thousand that stayed home, not caring and leaving the choice up to a minority of voters. We are just thinking out loud how anyone who bothers to register to vote doesn't care enough to vote. Why? We realize that Mike lost throughout the district, but we will never know how those 35,000 registered voters would have voted, would we?

Now, as for our **Board of Aldermen**, what a bunch of do nothings. They managed to divide the city over the transfer tax which everyone knew would never pass in the **State House**. They talk about banning t-shirts and plastic straws, and now they want to tell you how to prune or do

Continued on page 11

The Somerville Times

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TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: City considers the protection of trees on private property

Bill P says:
Hey Mark, try focusing your efforts on making sure trees on city property are not erroneously cut down before you try to mandate what private property owners do. I swear this board is one big bozo fest with hypocrisy as their core value.

Old Taxpayer says:
There comes a time when we do not need the city interfering on on privately owned property.. There should be some rights left to property owners. what they can do on their own property. Not that I want to cut down trees if I don't have to but it should be my right if I want to. I worked hard and paid dearly for my little spot and it should be my decision. Enough. Spend time helping the homeless or some worthy cause instead of bothering the home owners again.

DatGruntled says:
And how many towns have already passed Zoning based on our proposed new code that you do not have time to worry about?
And thank you for the heads up. Will drop a couple trees this weekend vs possibly dealing with this in the future.

E. Bola says:
I can see this going sideways quickly. What happens when you're not allowed to cut down a tree on YOUR property and said tree (or branches) goes sailing through your roof/siding or – better yet – your neighbor's roof/siding in a wind/snow storm? Is the city going to cover remediation and legal expenses for you? Yeah.... I doubt it.
My advice is to call your local tree cutting company and have them cut any thing that even looks like it could become a "tree" asap before these nitwits stick their ignorant, grubby hands on your property. Literally trim/cut every blade of grass and asphalt over it as who knows what that these dummies will think of next concerning OUR properties.
and again – this new BOA – working on things no one wants them to work on and not working on things that do need to be addressed. Vote them all out or lets' at least get term limits to limit their damage.

not a tree hugger says:
Has this group ever heard of property rights? Their transfer tax went nowhere so they want to go after homeowners again? So the city/state cut down so many trees on Beacon Street that a vigil was held, they cut down every tree along the green line tracks, they've allowed developers to cut down numerous trees in order to pack in as many 'units' as they can to a piece of land. And on top of that, they seem to have tossed out the green space and setback requirements. And to fix this they want homeowners who planted a tree on their property to keep it there no matter what. Well that's not happening on my property. And by the way I don't care how much Newton, Cambridge and Lexington ignores private property rights.

SamO says:
a lot of baby trees will go "night night" if this is passed. I've got my eye on one starting to grow in my absentee neighbor's yard... nothing a handsaw couldn't solve. the city has their own dead trees on almost every sidewalk! But the war on homeowners continues.

Gummy Bears says:
Ever see that commercial where well-dressed execs at an important meeting start talking baby talk gibberish (the red one is more gooder to me, etc.)? This is how I picture this BOA. well-dressed idiots who wouldn't know reality if it hit them on their inflated heads

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John Connolly

Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

The good old days



In the song *Anticipation*, Carly Simon tells us that “these are the good old days.” When you think about it, it’s true. But the problem is that when you’re actually going through “the good old days” you don’t realize it.

We are reminded of those days through conversation, perhaps Facebook and photographs. Did you ever look at a photograph taken 10 years ago and say, “Wow, I thought my hair was

thinning then!” Or “Gee, I wish I was that slim now!”

The problem is that we don’t realize we’re enjoying ourselves (and that we looked pretty good) because of the everyday stress of our busy routines. We are always going. Laundry, lunches, drop-offs, traffic jams, and pickups. Then you get a call from your kid saying that its Mass day and you have to go drop off a shirt and tie at his school. We are like Energizer bunnies.

On top of everything, you have to do your 40 hour work week like a good little doobie. After doing all the crazy daily family prep stuff, we march

into our cubicle hoping not to see an email from ... you know who, or a voice message from ... the other one. And if you answer either, you can bet that it’s not a pleasant message telling you how much your work is appreciated or what a good job you’re doing!

It doesn’t feel like it at the time, but we’ve had lots of good old days. Only we were too darn busy to enjoy it!

Memorable days in my neighborhood were when you could do all your shopping in Davis Square. Whether it was back to school shopping, Christmas shopping or the weekly food

run, you were good to go in Davis Square.

My personal favorite good old days was when my kids were young and we kept busy on weekends and in the summer doing fun family stuff. Let’s not forget those good old days, for all of us of course, when deceased loved ones were still with us. They live on in memories and photos though we miss them so much.

I’ve never been able to practice what I preach, especially when I say that we need to appreciate the present. We are so consumed with work, school, bills, etc., that we don’t enjoy today enough. It’s

always something!

The good old days had its minor drawbacks too. If the bells rang, and the lights flashed and the gates came down, you were stuck waiting for the freight train to roll through Davis Square. No matter how much shopping you had to do, no matter who was waiting for you, at The Rosebud, or Ming-Toys, life stood still while the train rumbled by.

We could all use an occasional “freight train” in our lives to slow things down for just a few minutes. And ... PS ... take a photo of yourself today because, these are the good old days.

POW-MIA Flag Ceremony

Please join Mayor Joseph Curtatone and Veterans’ Commissioner Bryan Bishop on Friday, September 21 at noon to raise the POW-MIA (Prisoner of War – Missing in Action) Flag and remember the brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who served as Prisoners of War or are considered Missing In Action.

This ceremony offers an opportunity to pause and reflect on the service and sacrifice of so many who have served our country. The flag raising will take place at noon on the City Hall Concourse, 93 Highland Ave.



Affordable health screenings coming to Somerville

Residents living in and around Somerville can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening.



Somerville City Club will host this community event on 10/10/2018. The site is located at 20 Innerbelt Road in Somerville.

Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for heart disease, stroke and overall vascular health.
- Narrowing of the smaller arteries of your ankles and feet, called Peripheral Arterial Disease
- HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
- Diabetes risk
- Bone density as a risk for possible

osteoporosis

Screenings are affordable, convenient and accessible for wheelchairs and those with trouble walking. Free parking is also available.

Packages start at \$149, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Also ask about their Wellness Gold Membership Program which allows customers to get all the screenings they need now, but pay \$19.95 a month.

Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit their website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

SHS Students Receive Spark Summer Opportunity Scholarships

Somerville High School students received Spark Summer Opportunity scholarships, a new program launched this year and generously funded by renowned author and collector Kenneth Rendell. The program offers students the opportunity to take part in innovative learning experiences at colleges and universities in the area to spark learning and growth during the summer.

Eric Lemus and Florisha Bastien learned how to develop and market a product at Harvard Business School. Fanta Diawara and Kemissa Osit learned strategies for “Breaking the Glass Ceiling” at Wellesley College. Diane Pierre gained a deeper understanding of national security and counter-intelligence at a program at Georgetown University. Leslie Nava Sanchez gained insights into navigating the college admission process through a program at Smith College. Nelema Basith explored “Race, Gender, and Belonging in the Digital Age” at Barnard College. Students shared how these programs expanded their horizons and built their confidence, at a recent luncheon with the program donor, held on September 10.

Rendell is the founder of The International Museum of World War II in Natick, and an American dealer and expert in historical documents. He was born and raised in Somerville, Massachusetts. This program will be continued and expanded for summer 2019. Students in grades 10 and 11 should look for announcements at the high school next January.

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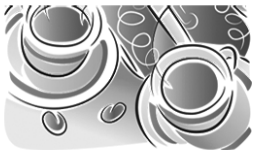


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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Sunglasses 'collector' broken of his habit

A Somerville police officer on patrol last week was contacted by a Saks OFF 5TH Loss Prevention Agent as he was driving through Assembly Row, and was informed that a male had just stolen multiple pairs of sunglasses from the store.

The officer was told that the suspect, later identified as Juan Molina, of Clinton, fled toward the Home Depot parking lot.

The officer provided a description of Molina to other units, and soon another officer noticed a man

fitting the description walking in the back of the Home Depot.

This officer also noted that the man had multiple pairs of sunglasses sticking out from his pockets, all still having the theft protection devices attached to them.

The first officer arrived on the scene and immediately recognized the suspect as Molina, who is reportedly a known shoplifter and has been involved in multiple shoplifting incidents in the Assembly Row area.

While running Molina in his mobile computer, the officer discovered that he also had three active warrants for his arrest, all for separate shoplifting incidents.

The officer placed Molina under arrest for the three warrants, and also on a charge charge of shoplifting by asportation.

After Molina had been transported to the police station for booking, the officer returned the six pairs of sunglasses valued at \$564.98 to Saks.

Suspects in Veteran's Memorial desecration case identified

According to the Somerville Police Department, the two suspects wanted for the removal and defilement of American flags planted in the Veteran's Memorial Cemetery and the desecration of the Veteran's Monument have been identified.

The police department has reportedly sought felony charges against the male in Somerville District Court.



The incident triggered outrage throughout the community and elsewhere after it was learned that the male suspect reportedly threw American flags from the memorial site to the ground and urinated on them. Other unspecified damages to the Veteran's Monument were also reported.

As of yet, the Police Department has not released the names of the two suspects.

Want to write local Somerville stories?
Call 617-666-4010
and speak to the Assignment Editor

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:			
William Bambery , of 318 Pearl St., Cambridge, September 10, 12:03 p.m., arrested at Elm St. on warrant charges of disorderly conduct and threat to commit a crime.			
Juan Molina , of 43 White Court St., Apt. 3, Clinton, September 11, 5:32 p.m., arrested at Canal St. on a charge of	shoplifting by asportation, and on multiple warrant charges of shoplifting by asportation.	Alvin Labranche , of 722 Hyde Park Ave., Boston, September 14, 4:58 p.m., arrested at Foley St. on warrant charges of racing motor vehicle, uninsured motor vehicle, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, witness intimidation, number plate violation, and unregis-	tered motor vehicle.
Alan Zuccaro , of 240 Boston Ave., Medford, September 13, 6:14 p.m., arrested at Powder House Blvd. on charges of resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, and assault.			Sebastian Lapage , of 23 Christine Ave., Rockland, September 16, 10:11 a.m., arrested at Davis Sq. on charges of possession of a class E drug and disorderly conduct.
Marcus Slim , of 8319 Tangerine Pl. NW, Albuquerque, NM, September 14, 1:21 a.m., arrested at Joy St. on charges of resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, and assault and battery on a police officer.			Jason Fontaine , September 16, 10:11 a.m., arrested at Davis Sq. on a charge of disorderly conduct.
	Christopher MacInnes , of 64 Gibson St., Unit 1, Medford, September 14, 4:00 p.m., arrested at Middlesex Ave. on charges of shoplifting by concealing merchandise and re-		

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Board of Aldermen resolves to support 'Yes on 3' coalition

CONT. FROM PG 1

leadership on the issue of transgender equality, amending, in May of 2014, the city's non-discrimination ordinance (Somerville Code of Ordinances Part II, Chapter 2, Article V, Division 6, Sec. 2-237) to include gender identity and expression, ensuring that members of the transgender community have legal protection against discrimination in matters of housing, employment, education, con-

tracts, purchasing or public accommodations and making Somerville only the sixth municipality in the Commonwealth to enact such legislation; and, on March 24, 2016 passing a unanimous Resolution in support of the expansion of Massachusetts non-discrimination laws to include gender identity and calling for the passage of the respective versions of the House and Senate bills; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts statewide election upcoming on November 6, 2018 includes a ballot question seeking to repeal the provision in the Massachusetts Public Accommodations Law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation; and

WHEREAS: Repeal of those provisions of the Massachusetts Public Accommodations Law would be contrary to the values and principles that the City of Somerville has long espoused and that we are sworn to uphold;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Somerville Board of Aldermen does hereby reaffirm our commitment to equal protection under the laws for all people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Board opposes any effort to infringe on the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming members of our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, the members of this Board do hereby pledge to sign on to the "Yes on 3 Coalition" organized by Freedom for All Massachusetts."

The resolution, sponsored by Ward 6 Alderman Lance Davis and the entire Board, passed unanimously.

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13th annual 'What the Fluff?' festival this weekend

What the Fluff? A Tribute to Union Square Invention returns for a 13th year on Saturday, September 22 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. (rain date 9/23).

This zany and fun-filled festival honors the invention of Marshmallow Fluff by Archibald Query in Somerville in 1917 and celebrates the spirit of innovation that continues to thrive in Union Square today.

This year, *Fluff the 13th* presented by Allstate, plays on imagery lucky 13 so often conjures: illusion, fantasy, black cats, turning luck, and the magical. Festival-goers are invited to step into an alternate dimension of the imagination with a wide variety of themed happenings that promise cost-free fun for all ages:

- Hilarious antics with sticky activities like Fluff Musical Chairs, Fluff Hair-Dos, and a Fluff Costume Contest on the Shenanigan's Stage hosted by Fluff Fest's long-standing Archibald Query impersonator.
- Old-school, boardwalk-style games including Fluff Bowling, Pin the F on the

Fluff Boy, Fluff Ring Toss, and more at the Midway Games Area (free to play, free to win prizes).

- Invention Alley: Artisan's Asylum innovators and the Somerville High Robotics Team showcase laser printing, vinyl cutting, paper crafts, Fluff hacker creations, and robotic tricks.

- A Fluff Cooking Contest calling for contestants to show-off their culinary genius by creating sweet or savory marshmallowy concoctions (Entries accepted through Monday, September 17; visit www.flufffestival.com to sign up).

- Fear Factor: Daring participants to eat astonishing Fluff food pairings (think anchovies).

- Navigate the Fluff the 13th-themed parkour course hosted by Parkour Generations Boston.

- Join the Drums & Wellness Drum Circle or dance along and align with the rhythm of Fluff.

- Share in the groove at the Salsa Dance Party hosted by celeste.

- Music by Mariachi Estampa De

America! courtesy of El Potro Mexican Bar + Grill.

- Martial Arts demonstrations by Oom Yung Doe.

- A concert just for kids at Play Union.

- The debut of two new performance areas featuring a wide variety of music styles: A 'Nutter Stage at Bow Market and The Stone Ave. Stage.

- Groove and laugh with DJ Let's Be Frank on the Main Stage as he welcomes: The Ghetto People Band to serenade festival-goers with a mix of reggae, R&B, soul, rock, and a lil' hip hop.

- The return of crowd favorite "Flufferettes," with their sensational burlesque performances that honor an historical 1930s radio show featured on 21 New England stations. (Appropriately enough, The Flufferettes radio show came on right before the Jack Benny Show, which featured live music and comedy).

- Union Comedy to strut their improv skills with Fluff-themed sketches.

- DJ J Wall to keep the grooves going.

- Rapper Sur5ILL to lay lyrics over chill beats.

- Magician Zoë Reiches.

- The crowning of the Cooking Contest victors by Mayor Curtatone.

- Peter Prince + Moon Boot Lover to throw down a one-of-a-kind mix of rock, funk, and high-energy, body-moving grooves close to the festivities.

- More than 50 vendors selling both sweet and savory Fluff-inspired dishes, as well as a variety of Fluff-themed items and crafts.

- A plethora of delicious Fluff-laced creations at nearby bars and restaurants.

"Union Square is known for its hip vibe and eclectic happenings. Visitors love the sense of discovery that unfolds as they explore its diverse destinations. The Fluff Planning Team set out to turn up the volume on these themes, and nailed it," said Jessica Eshleman of



Union Square Main Streets. "Carrying this beloved community tradition forward is such a wildly fun honor. *The Fluff Festival* is a perfect way to spotlight the magic that happens regularly in Union Square's shops, restaurants, businesses, and along its sidewalks."

The endlessly entertaining *What the Fluff? Festival* is made possible by the generosity of its sponsors: Allstate Insurance, USQ, Bow Market, Cambridge Realty Group, East Boston Savings Bank, El Potro Mexican Bar + Grille, Event Them, Get A Round, Naveo Credit Union, Parkour Generations Boston, Power Home Remodeling, Starry, and WBUR.

Festivities are expected to attract 20,000 Fluff fans and traffic will be re-routed around Union Square to accommodate festival activities. Revelers are highly encouraged to walk, bike, or take public transit.

What the Fluff? is produced by Union Square Main Streets and the Somerville Arts Council as part of the ArtsUnion series with funding from the City of Somerville.

More details: www.flufffestival.com.

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Beacon Hill Roll Call

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THE HOUSE AND SENATE: There were no roll calls in the House and Senate last week.

This week, *Beacon Hill Roll Call* reports on how often local senators voted with their party leadership in 2018.

The votes of the 2018 membership of 31 Democrats were compared to former Acting Senate President Harriette Chandler (D-Worcester) and to Majority Leader Cindy Creem (D-Newton) on the four roll calls on which Chandler didn't vote.

The votes of the 2018 membership of five Republicans were compared with those of GOP Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester).

Beacon Hill Roll Call uses 215 votes from the 2018 Senate session as the basis for this report. This includes all roll calls that were not on local issues. Any roll call for which a senator was absent did not count in determining a senator's votes with their party leadership.

None of the 31 Democratic members voted with Chandler 100 percent of the time but four came very close. Sens. Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), Joe Boncore (D-Winthrop), Sal DiDomenico (D-Boston) and Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) opposed Chandler on only one roll call each.

Another four senators opposed Chandler on only two roll calls each: Sens. Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont), Nick Collins (D-Boston), Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn) and John Keenan (D-Quincy).

The Democratic senator who voted the lowest percentage of times with Chandler was Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz (D-Boston) who voted with her only 81.7 percent of the time. She disagreed with Chandler on 35 votes.

There were no Republicans who voted with Tarr 100 percent of the time. Sen. Vinny DeMacedo came the closest and voted with Tarr 96.7 percent of the time. He disagreed with Tarr on only seven votes.

The GOP senator who voted with Tarr the lowest percentage of times is Sen. Patrick O'Connor (R-Weymouth) who voted with him only 93 percent of the time. He disagreed with Tarr on 15 votes.

PERCENTAGE OF TIMES LOCAL SENATORS VOTED WITH THEIR PARTY'S LEADERSHIP IN 2018

The percentage next to the senator's name represents the percentage of times the senator supported his or her party's leadership.

The number in parentheses represents the number of times the senator opposed his or her party's leadership.

Some senators voted on all 215 roll call votes. Others missed one or more of the 215 votes. The percentage for each senator is calculated based on the number of roll calls on which he or she voted and does not count the roll calls for which he or she was absent.

Sen. Patricia Jehlen	94.2 percent (12)
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ALSO UP ON BEACON

HOW TO SPEND A \$1 BILLION SURPLUS – The Local Government Advisory Commission heard from state and local officials at a hearing last week. The topic

was how the state should spend its estimated \$1 billion fiscal 2018 surplus. The 40-member commission was formed to be an independent advocate for the interests of local city and town governments in their relationship with state and federal governments. Under current law, approximately half of the surplus is required to go into the state's reserve fund. The rest is up for grabs.

Gov. Charlie Baker's Administration and Finance Secretary Mike Heffernan assured the commission that the administration is on top of the issue. "We're engaged at both the staff and leadership level ... especially now that we got through the primaries," Heffernan told the commission.

Baker recently filed a package to use the surplus money for several things including \$150 million for K-12 and higher education programs, with \$72 million of that amount dedicated to support school safety. The proposal includes training of first responders to better handle threats within schools; \$40 million in additional aid to school districts to hire social workers, mental health counselors and psychologists; \$20 million in matching state grants for security and communications upgrades in K-12 schools and public colleges and universities; \$1 million for school safety training for educators, health officials and first responders; \$4 million to provide training to School Resource Officers; \$2.4 million to create a tip line to provide public safety and school personnel with timely information on potential risks; \$2 million for a statewide "Say Something" campaign; and \$500,000 to create a school safety website.

Other provisions include \$50 million for cities and towns to fund local road and bridge maintenance and improvement projects; \$30 million for municipal clean water projects; \$8 million for multi-year municipal police training needs; \$5.9 million for tuition and fee reimbursements for National Guard members; and \$5 million in transitional housing assistance for hurricane evacuees from Puerto Rico.

"We hope that the administration and municipal leadership will again get behind an effort to secure legislation to make incremental improvements to school budgets by implementing recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission, especially as it includes accurate census of economic disadvantaged children and immigrant students, and addresses retiree health insurance," said Beverly Hugo, president of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. "The surplus our state government is experiencing should be returned to the taxpayers in the form of a tax rebate," said Paul Craney, Executive Director of the Mass Fiscal Alliance. "It is their money."

LOTTERY AID TO CITIES AND TOWNS

June 30, 2017 is a measure that would prohibit drivers from using a hand-held cell phone or another device to make a call, operate the phone's camera or access social media while driving. The measure allows drivers to use only a hands-free phone. Use of a hand-held phone would be permitted in emergencies including if the vehicle was disabled; medical attention or assistance was required; police, fire or other emergency services were necessary for someone's personal safety; or a disabled vehicle or an accident was present on a roadway.

Violators would be fined \$100 for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense and \$500 for a third and subsequent offenses. A third offense would result in the violation being considered a moving violation for purposes of the

safe driver insurance plan.

Supporters say that the bill would save lives and prevent accidents. They note that the measure does not ban cell phone use but simply requires the use of hands-free ones. They pointed to accidents, deaths and injuries involving hand-held cell phones. Some opponents say that the restriction is another example of government intrusion into people's cars and lives. Others noted that there are already laws on the books prohibiting driving while distracted.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"I think he is defining noble service as he represents us in the commonwealth of Massachusetts and I want the rest of America to see what Gov. Baker is doing because he is a remarkable leader in a very blue state, and he's got a red heart in a blue state and he demonstrates the ability to bring his heart to work every day but respect where he governs." — *Former President George W. Bush's former chief of staff Andy Card on Gov. Charlie Baker.*

"It is an old system and it's been around for a long time. So we have some assets in the system that are 100 years old and some assets that are less than five years old. So, for me, the key long-term is to make sure that, in addition to making the investments to fix and improve the systems and the processes that we have, we also have to make sure that we have a long-term maintenance plan for all these assets as well to continue to keep them at a good rate of repair." — *MBTA General Manager Luis Ramirez on the Boston Globe's report that an internal MBTA assessment of its assets found that 57 percent of the T's stations or garages scored a 2 or lower on a 1-to-5 scale, with five being the best rating.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session. During the week of September 10-14, the House met for a total of 51 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 38 minutes.

Mon. Sept. 10	House 11:02 a.m. to 11:27 a.m. Senate 11:08 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.
Tues. Sept. 11	No House session No Senate session
Wed. Sept. 12	No House session No Senate session
Thurs. Sept. 13	House 11:01 a.m. to 11:27 a.m. Senate 11:07 a.m. to 11:33 a.m.

Fri. Sept. 14	No House session No Senate session
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Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Funding for East Somerville pedestrian infrastructure announced

Representative Mike Connolly (D-Cambridge) and Senator Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville) secured \$95,000 in funding for improvements to Somerville's Kensington Underpass in the Fiscal Year 2019 state budget.

Rep. Connolly and Sen. Jehlen filed successful amendments in the House and Senate, respectively, during the FY19 budget process to secure funding for improvements to the underpass. Rep. Connolly's amendment was co-sponsored by his Somerville colleagues, Reps. Christine Barber and Denise Provost. Governor Baker initially vetoed the funding, but the Legislature voted to overturn his veto, ensuring the \$95,000 was included in the final budget. This funding

will be used in conjunction with existing mitigation funds from the City of Somerville to bring improvements to the underpass.

"I am proud that our amendment to fund improvements to the Kensington Underpass in East Somerville has been approved by the state legislature," Rep. Connolly stated. "Working together with Senator Jehlen and all of our local colleagues, we are proud to secure this funding to help bring improvements to such an important connection for our community."

"Thanks to the hard work of Rep. Connolly and Alderman McLaughlin, this project has come a long way," said Sen. Jehlen. "I look forward to continuing to move the design process

forward to give people in the neighborhood a clean, safe, and easy route to navigate."

Last year, Rep. Connolly organized a walking tour with Senator Jehlen and other Somerville elected officials, including Mayor Joe Curtatone, Ward One Alderman Matt McLaughlin, Alderwoman-at-large Mary Jo Rosetti, MassDOT officials, representatives of East Somerville Main Streets, the Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership, as well as local residents. The tour focused on the need for improvements to the area, particularly the underpass.

The Kensington Underpass serves as a vital connection between East Somerville and Assembly Row. It provides residents



in East Somerville with access to the amenities of Assembly Row and the Mystic River, and alternatively provides residents living at Assembly Row with access to other sections of the city. Resi-

dents have expressed concerns about the dark and unwelcoming nature of the underpass for several years, but state funding had yet to materialize until now.

— Office of Rep. Mike Connolly

Through SCAP Shoulder Tap Surveys, compliance checks, Somerville youth ask adults to 'Just Say No'

Somerville Cares About Prevention (SCAP) announced today the results of the program's annual "Shoulder Tap Surveys," designed to discourage adults from purchasing alcohol for people under twenty-one. During the project, youth worked to measure the willingness of a complete stranger to purchase alcohol for a minor.

SCAP also announced this fall the beginning of their annual Compliance Checks, assessing how Somerville establishments perform in regards to preventing underage sales to minors. Compliance checks will continue at random through September 2019.

The Shoulder Tap Survey is part of a cooperative effort between SCAP, the Somerville Police Department, the Everett Community Health Partnership, and local retail liquor stores. Students involved in the Shoulder Tap Surveys hope to raise awareness among adults who may be inclined to provide alcohol to under-aged minors. Youth, with the support of Somerville Police officers,

approach adult strangers near the entrance of the liquor store and ask if they would buy them alcohol. If the adult agreed to purchase alcohol for the minor, students issued a card stating, "Next time, just say NO!" along with information about laws and penalties which include: arrest, a fine up to \$2,000 and/or imprisonment up to one year. If adults refused to complete the purchase for the student, they were issued a card thanking them for helping to save lives.

Of the 84 adults surveyed, 82 declined to complete the purchase for the youth. 2018 surveys were conducted outside of retail stores in Davis and Union Squares.

Similarly, Compliance Checks are conducted in cooperation with the Somerville Police Department, and all participating youth are trained prior to the random checks at local retailers.

"We have looked into how we can best ensure compliance is maintained and sustained each year based on the research done," said Matthew Mitchell, the City's new Prevention

Services Manager, citing a Substance Abuse And Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) sponsored survey completed in 2012 by the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). "Research suggests monthly variations in substance use initiation among adolescents. In conjunction with the community, we hope to continue our successful campaigns against drug and alcohol abuse as mindfully as possible; ensuring youth don't have easy access to alcohol."

"Through these initiatives, SCAP youth are working to promote a healthy community for their peers, and to raise awareness of the Social Host Liability Law," said SCAP Program Director, Lovelee Heller-Bottari. "Through projects like this, SCAP is able to communicate the importance and effectiveness of limiting youth access to alcohol to help reduce underage drinking. Coalition prevention efforts reflect the power of community collaboration to help promote a safer environment for youth."



SOMERVILLE CARES ABOUT PREVENTION

Together we can make a difference

Somerville youth leaders are part of SCAP's Somerville Positive Forces youth development programming working to lead positive change in the community. The mission of SPF is to support social change that would empower youth to make healthier decisions regarding the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

SCAP is a community-based coalition under the Somerville Office of Prevention supported by the City of Somerville's Health and Human Services Department. Their mission is to reduce substance abuse among the residents of Somerville as well as the harms associated with such use. SCAP works to

engage and mobilize both youth and adults to implement community-based projects aimed at reducing access of alcohol to underage youth. Young people are very much an integral part of the SCAP mission and a powerful force in the prevention of underage drinking.

For more information about Somerville's prevention services, please contact Prevention Services Manager, Matthew Mitchell, at 617-625-6600 x2570 or Mmitchell@somervillema.gov and/or SCAP Program Director, Lovelee Heller-Bottari, at 617-625-6600 x4322 or LHeller@somervillema.gov.

— Somerville Cares About Prevention

Free Family Flu Clinics

The Somerville Health and Human Services Department is offering free flu shots for those ages 3 and up, with or without health insurance. If you do have health insurance, please bring your Health Insurance Card (this includes Medicare). Both Standard Dose and the High Dose for Seniors 65+ are available. Clinics are subject to vaccine availability. Please call (617) 625-6600, x4320 or email sharris@somervillema.gov to find out if there will be shots available for all clinics.

Here is a schedule of upcoming Family Flu Clinics:

Thursday, September 20 and 27 at City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Tuesday, October 16 at City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Thursday, October 25 at Holland Street Senior Center – Council on Aging (167 Holland St.), 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Thursday, October 25 at City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, November 4 at St. Anthony's Church (12 Properzi Way), 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Tuesday, November 6, East Somerville Community School (50 Cross St.), 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Thursday, November 8 at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.), 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday, November 20 at City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Ave.), 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Adoption Weekend Fall Fest

On Saturday, September 15, PetSmart in Everett celebrated Adoption Weekend in support of Somerville based Happy Tails Pet Rescue's lifesaving work. Participants enjoyed raffles, purchased baked goods and selected an item or two from the array of handmade items and unique gifts. If you were not able to make it and would like to donate to the ongoing rescue and care of their cats, you may make a tax deductible contribution at happytailspetrescue.org/donate. Your participation and donations are immensely appreciated.

— Photos by Claudia Ferro



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UNDER AGREEMENT

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The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #162

The Royal and Ancient Game of Golf By Bob (Monty) Doherty

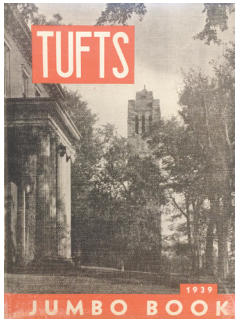
It is uncertain how far back in time that the game of golf originated, but the organized introduction of the sport can be found as early as 1457 at Saint Andrews, Scotland. At that time, the popularity of the game had already become so great that it actually began to seriously interfere with the more prevalent martial pursuit of archery.



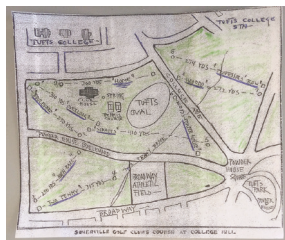
This caused the rulers of the realm to sound a note of alarm, outlawing the game throughout the land. By 1467, it had survived and Mary, Queen of Scots had set off to become the Mother of Golf. Some believe that she may have coined the name caddy in reference to the cadet soldiers who carried her clubs.

Scottish blood ran deep in early Somerville. The flag of Saint Andrew's embroiled part of America's first flag that flew on Prospect Hill. The backbone of Somerville is Highland Avenue that runs through her center, and the Highlanders are still the city's mascot.

What did West Somerville's College Avenue, Talbot Avenue, Packard Avenue and Broadway once have in common? The interesting answer is land. The terrain that these four streets once encompassed was the nine-hole Somerville Golf Course.



The only remnant of the old Scottish game is the land that the golf course once occupied in Powder House Square. Not too many of today's Somerville citizens are aware of its past existence. The first meeting of its official club organization was on December 6, 1901. It was presided over by Somerville native and future Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Robert Luce.



Some of the fairway holes at the Somerville Golf Course were named Boulevard, Professors Row, and Powder House. Two Penny was another hole that referred to the brook that once ran through the course. These names

Continued on page 17




A BALL FOR SQUARES

Sunday, September 30 12pm - 5pm

Ball Square @ Broadway and Willow Ave

Somerville, MA

BALL SQUARE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION



SCES Meals on Wheels launches smartphone delivery tracking

By Nathan Lamb

Meals on Wheels patrons in Cambridge and Somerville can now manage deliveries and receive updates on their order through a new smartphone delivery tracking system.

Launched by Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) in September, the smartphone tracking system sends text notifications when a delivery is scheduled and when the meal is on its way. The system also allows clients to cancel orders and track progress of the delivery driver.

SCES Nutrition Director Deborah McLean said the smartphone program provides better service and makes the program more efficient.

“We’re really excited about this program, because it will make it easier for our patrons to track the status of their orders and cancel, if they need to,” said McLean. “Instead of calling us to ask where the driver is, they can

now check their smartphones to get an ETA on the delivery.”

The smartphone tracking is available at no extra cost to Meals on Wheels recipients. SCES notified patrons of the new program with a full-page flyer on its September Meals on Wheels menu. SCES entered the phone numbers of clients into the system over the summer, so patrons with smartphones should have started receiving the texts when the program launched in early September, said McLean.

The SCES Meals on Wheels program served more than 240,000 meals last year. It delivers hot midday meals and bag suppers from Monday to Sunday, and frozen meals for weekends.

For more information about the smartphone tracking program or Meals on Wheels, contact the SCES Nutrition program by calling 617-628-2601.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is a non-profit



Meals on Wheels driver Doresta McIntosh displays the smartphone she’s using as part of the new delivery tracking system for Meals on Wheels at Somerville Cambridge Elder Services. The system provides smartphone users with delivery updates and the ability to track the delivery driver’s progress on the delivery route.

agency that supports the independence and well-being of older people in Somerville and Cambridge. For more information, visit eldercare.org, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or contact the SCES Aging Information Center at 617-628-2601 for free advice and guidance

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

Sir,

Somerville Home is closing as you report, and yes they cannot stay operational at the current level of reimbursement. On average, it costs about \$30-35 a day more to provide care than what Masshealth (Medicaid) will reimburse. Urban reimbursements are higher than non-urban but neither Somerville, nor Cambridge, are considered urban by

Masshealth. The reimbursement is lower.

Already this year there are 17 Massachusetts nursing homes closing down. (see <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/information-about-nursing-home-closures> Information about nursing home closures | Mass.gov Find details about pending nursing home closures in Massachusetts and resources

for residents living in these facilities. www.mass.gov). Watertown, and in North Cambridge close to us, Sancta Maria are also closing. This will displace some 150+ needy and vulnerable residents.

This is a crisis in long term care and the administration on Beacon Hill is standing by doing nothing. Both The Somerville Home and Sancta Maria are

not-for-profits. If a not-for-profit cannot survive what chance a for-profit facility. We must take steps as a matter of urgency to ensure nursing homes stay operational, the state has a huge surplus so why can’t we do this? What is the Governor doing to fix this problem?

Alan Bingham
Somerville

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COMMENTARY

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

Data Download with Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone



By Joseph A. Curtatone
Taking a closer look at notable city data—and interesting numbers.

Highest summer Parks and Recreation program participation in 5 years: Summer recreation programs are important community assets that benefit our youth in a number of ways. They keep participant’s minds and bodies active during those out-of-school months, allow them to explore new interests, give them the opportunity to socialize with friends, and can even build self-confidence. In Somerville, we have top-notch summer (and year-round) recreation programming, like

the new Sprout Sports or the expanded Police Academy, STEM, Tennis, Canoeing, and Girls Challenger Soccer programs, just to name a few. And this year we saw participation in summer recreation reach a five-year high with 2,119 participants joining in on the fun. To learn more about Somerville Parks and Recreation facilities and programming, visit www.somervillerec.com. **Nearly 33,000 pounds of recycled textiles collected:** I’ve written here before about the astonishing 14.3 million tons of clothing that ends up in landfills across the country each year. In late July, Somerville began offering a program to residents to help us all do our part to change this. In August, the first full month of the City’s Curbside Textile Recycling program, 32,822 pounds of textiles were collected from Somerville curbs. That means nearly 33,000 pounds of textiles (or more than 16 tons) were diverted from

landfills or from contaminating single stream recycling. Thank you for making the effort to recycle your old clothes, shoes, and more, everyone. The Curbside Textile Recycling program will continue to run on regularly scheduled trash and recycling pickup days. For more information on the program and what it accepts for recycling, visit www.somervillema.gov/textilerecycling. To request more bags, learn more about what items can be recycled or what happens to the textiles once they are picked up, visit www.simplerecycling.com. **16,442 early voters:** During the City’s first ever early voting period in 2016, more than 16,000 Somervillians – approximately 32 percent of all voters that year – made their way to City Hall to cast their vote in the presidential election. Early voting is back this year for the second time, and I want to challenge you to help us surpass that number. Vote early at City Hall from October 22

to November 2 (hours vary by day). As additional reminders, the deadline to register to vote, whether you vote early or on the November 6th Election Day is Wednesday, October 17. To learn more about this year’s election, including early voting hours and ballot information, visit www.somervillema.gov/elections. **Openings available on 8 essential City Boards and Commissions:** While Boards and Commissions may seem like secret clubs that meet in dusty, old halls to discuss arcane rules, they actually are just groups of advocates, motivated residents, and business leaders who put in a lot of behind-the-scenes work to make important decisions and give useful advice to City officials and staff on a variety of topics. Currently, there are openings on eight essential City Boards and Commissions: Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Somerville Historic Preservation Commission, Design Review Committee, Somerville

Redevelopment Authority, Condo Review Board, Fair Housing Commission, and the Somerville Affordable Housing Trust. If you have been looking for ways to get more involved in your community and have skills and interests that you believe will benefit the groups, I encourage you to apply. Applications for each of the vacancies are due Monday, October 18. Visit www.somervillema.gov/commissionopenings for more information on each opening and instructions for how to apply. *Data-based decision making is at the core of how the City of Somerville develops policy and sets priorities. Every day we check the latest 311 stats, and throughout the week we meet for in-depth review of departmental data and city trends. The Data Download column shares some of the data we’ve been reviewing recently, as well as interesting updates. To see more Somerville Data, visit the online Somerville Data Farm at www.somervillema.gov/datafarm.*

Somerville to observe Indigenous Peoples’ Day

As stated below, going forward, the City of Somerville will officially observe Indigenous Peoples’ Day. The official proclamation was officially entered into the public record at 3 p.m. Thursday. A statement from Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone is below.

STATEMENT FROM MAYOR JOSEPH A. CURTATONE

This year on Monday, October 8, the City of Somerville will observe Indigenous Peoples’ Day. We will join – among many others – Alaska, Vermont, Durango, Colo., and Traverse City, Mich., in doing the right thing. It’s been an issue we’ve given careful consideration, and many inside and outside our city have made compelling arguments for this change.

The arc of history bends not only toward justice but toward reason. Columbus Day is a relic of an outdated and oversimplified version of history. This is not to say that Columbus has no place in history. It does not deny his skills or courage as a mariner. Nor does it weaken the important role his legacy has played in our national identity. But during the period when Columbus was elevated to an American symbol of discovery, the full story was less widely known.

More of us know now that even during his life Columbus was stripped of his governorship of the Indies due to brutality, tyranny, and incompetence. He participated in the early stages of what became a genocide. On the island of Hispaniola (modern day Haiti and the Dominican Republic) where Columbus established his first colony, chroniclers of that era detail slavery, torture, rape, and dismemberment. Observance of that loss and respect for the people who suffered it is not a lot to ask from those of us whose families migrated here in its wake.

Since Columbus Day was first established in 1934, our understanding of history and how history is taught have changed. Students now learn both about the colonization of the Americas and the atrocities carried out against Indigenous people. Over the past year students from the East Somerville Community School wrote letters urging the City to adopt Indigenous Peoples’ Day. One asked, “Why would we want to commemorate someone who slaughtered innocent people?” It’s a fair question and the inescapable answer is that we shouldn’t. Instead, we should honor the culture and heritage of Indigenous people and recognize the full history of American colonization.

For some Italian-Americans, this may feel like it diminishes their heritage. It can certainly be upsetting and disorienting to learn that the historical figures we revered were not the heroes we once thought they were. As an Italian-American, it was at first a concern for me as well. But the more I learned, the more my perspective changed. And remember, Italians have a lot to be proud of without overblowing the cultural importance of Columbus. Adopting Indigenous Peoples’ Day recognizes that the specifics of this holiday run so deep into human suffering that we need to shift our pride elsewhere.

This is not a case of erasing history. It is a case of recognizing the fuller scope of history and being more respectful toward those to whom it was unkind. We still have descendants of the first people who populated these lands among us. We should not make a celebration of their tragedy.

— City of Somerville

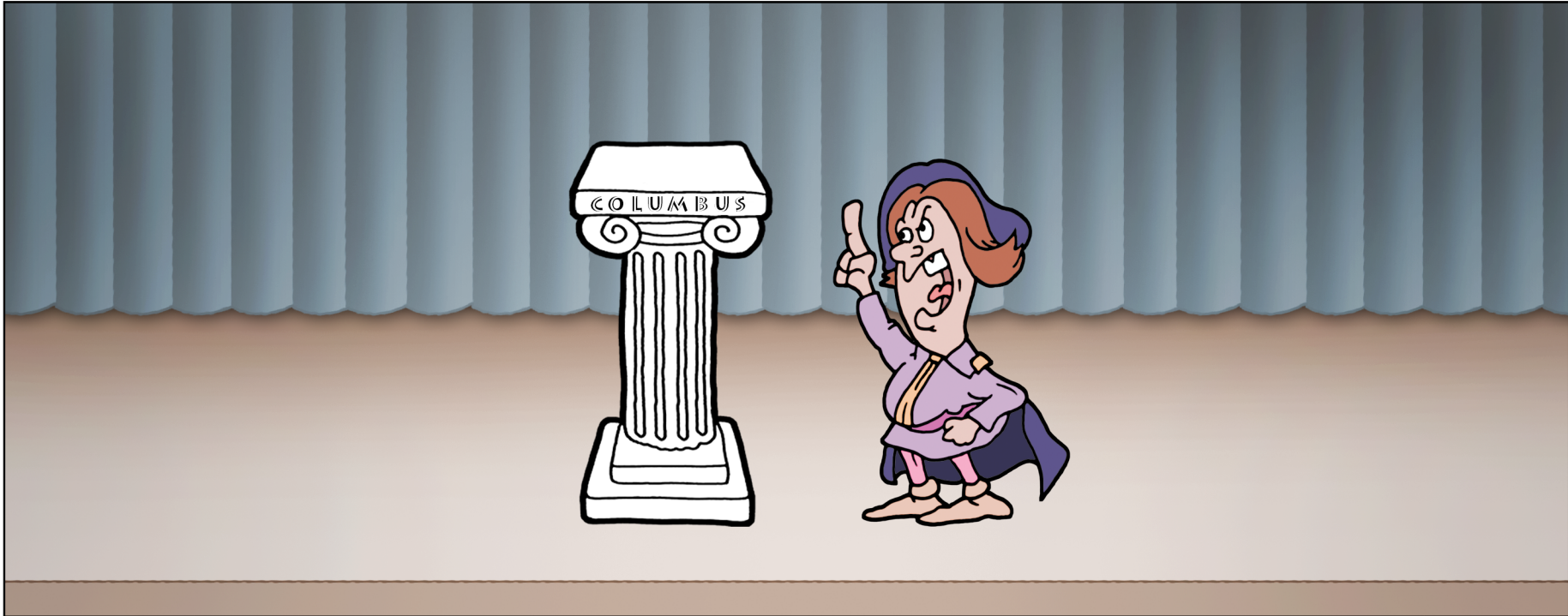


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COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Looks like somebody got knocked off of their pedestal.

Our View Of The Times



Sometimes the truth hurts. In the case of long established and, in some instances, highly revered historical figures such as Christopher Columbus and others, facing up to the hard facts can be a difficult thing to accept.
How many of us lived most of our lives hearing and believing in the myths and half-truths associated with the supposed great explorer? It is almost like a religious sense of devotion to a tale that has been told for generations, indeed for centuries.
Unfortunately, much has come to light over the years that has diminished and brought down to earth the myth that once elevated one mere mortal to extraordinary heights of prominence.
In light of this, Indigenous Peoples Day has become an official city and state holiday in various localities around the country as a way to celebrate Native Americans and commemorate their shared history and culture.
Some have taken knee-jerk reactions at the thought of abandoning a long standing American tradition. But traditions do change, especially when it is the right thing to do.
Those who advocate for truth and justice have won a meaningful victory as Somerville adopts this new tradition.
Let us all join in the celebration.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

whatever with your property and those trees on it. Meanwhile, **two bridges** are going to be closed, one them, the **Ball Square bridge**, will be closed for one year at least. Both bridges closed will have a severe impact on local businesses. Some will never survive. And don't forget the neighborhoods. The severe impact on cars going up and down local streets. The **Washington St. bridge** will effectively cut off lower East Somerville where more businesses will be impacted. We have a Board of Aldermen who want you to think they are on your side, and having public hearings after the fact. Yes, the GLX has made decisions devoid of public input, and they were smart in some ways. By the political figures on the Board of Aldermen and our **State House delegation** not paying attention, we the residents and businesses will suffer. As one of the aldermen told one business owner in Ball Square, and I am paraphrasing, "Well, if you go out of business, that's too bad, but another business will spring up." How twisted is that, and more especially, how twisted are they who – along with **City Hall** – will regret leaving the decision up to the GLX. Next year is the city elections, and the bridges will still be closed. What will happen then?

Alderman Mark Niedergang of Ward 5 was perfect on his picks during the recent primary. He endorsed five candidates and all five lost. He supported and voted for the transfer tax which lost in the **State House**. Now he wants to propose legislation on trees on private property and what you can and cannot do. He's also calling for public hearings on the **Green Line Extension**, when the decisions have already been made and it appears that whatever the public has to say won't matter. There will be a **public hearing** at St. Clements Hall on Warner Street **this coming Monday night** at 6:30 p.m. The other aldermen will be there, but notice what they are doing, sitting there along with the Alderman from Ward 5, Mark, and **Ward 6's Lance**. They will once again let the **city's hired help** (he keeps letting us know that he also has lived here now for 11 years) run the meeting so that the questions will be limited. You ever notice that non-elected people are running the show and the elected ones allow them to? It would be nice to see those two aldermen take charge of the meeting, along with the mayor himself, and get asked why we having public hearings after the fact? Maybe the **State Delegation** will show up, put them on the hot seat as well and find out why they were not our voice at the **State House**? Folks, the decision has been made. They won't change it and all the promises they make will be forgotten (at least they will hope so) until election time next year.

Coming on **Sunday, September 30**, the very first "**A Ball for Squares**" block party in **Ball Square**. Join all the merchants of Ball Square in celebrating Somerville's bounciest square for a beer garden from **The Pub**, food from all of Ball Square's wonderful restaurants, crafts, activities, bands, and more. Sponsored by the **Ball Square Business Association** and **Mayor Joe Curtatone**. More information to come as time goes by. It's going to be a great day here in the square and city.

Public Installation of Officers for the local **Masonic Lodge** is this **Saturday, September 22**, at 4:00 p.m., 125 Highland Avenue (rear-building). Several locals are being installed for the new Masonic year which begins in September. **King Solomon's Lodge AF & AM** is an active Masonic Lodge with over 200 local members. The public is invited to witness this special ceremony that goes back hundreds of years.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Mary Jo Rossetti**, who is a lifelong resident and one of the most popular Alderman 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 another popular local, **Marsha Hamel-McGlashing**. We wish her the very best as well. Happy birthday to a lady whose family has deep roots here in Somerville, **Donna Prio-Andon**, who grew up in Magoun Square, we wish Donna the very best. Happy birthday to **Joe Bordonaro**, who grew up in Winter Hill. A nice guy, we wish him a very good day. Happy birthday to **Helen Yutkins Berry**, who also is celebrating this week. Happy birthday to **Christopher Patti** as well. Happy birthday this week to a good friend, **Joan**. We love to listen to her stories. We wish her the very best of birthdays. If we missed you here, we wish you a happy birthday as well.

The city's **Health and Human Services Department** in collaboration with the **Somerville High School Gender and Sexuality Awareness Alliance**, **Speak-OUT**, and the **Human Rights Commission**, will host a public conversation and learning

Continued on page 17

City Year – Biogen Care Deeply volunteer event at WSNS

CONT. FROM PG 1

The closing ceremony was attended by Superintendent of Schools, Mary E. Skipper; West Somerville Neighborhood School Principal, Kathleen Seward; West Somerville Neighborhood School Assistant Principal, Kimberly Murphy Baker; and Ward 7 School Committee Member, Carrie Normand.



Go to www.thesomervilletimes.com for more photos

Photos by Claudia Ferro



'Strike up the Bands' at SomerStreets

"Strike up the Bands," the September installment of the city's SomerStreets festival, took place on Sunday, September 16. Fun, food, games and music were enjoyed by all who attended. Through SomerStreets, the city and its community partners aim to promote and encourage easy access to physical activity, fresh foods, and reconnecting with neighborhoods and businesses and their unique cultural elements in a thriving urban environment.



Go to www.thesomervilletimes.com for more photos

Photos by Bobbie Toner



SPORTS

One more Corn Toss Tournament



The 7th Annual Corn Toss Tournament, hosted by the Ryan Harrington Foundation, took place on Saturday, September 15 at Trum Field. All monies raised will go to youth organizations in the city. More photo at www.thesomervilletimes.com. — Photos by Bobbie Toner

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#646

1. Of what design is the Emmy Award statuette?

2. Who did the designer Louis McManus model the Emmy statuette after?

3. What fantasy novels is the TV series *Game of Thrones* based on?

4. How did country singer Patsy Cline die?

5. What kind robot pet is Sony's AIBO?

6. What is a toilet on a ship called?

7. What group had the

single *Sylvia's Mother*?

8. What US President had the nickname Mr. Nice Guy?

9. What talk show host was once the Mayor of Cincinnati?

10. What is the traditional drink for the winner of the Indy 500?

11. What tournament awards a green jacket to its winner?

12. What element is abbreviated Pb?

Answers on page 20



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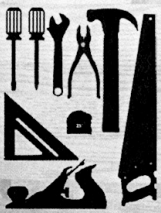


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Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com



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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

A **public hearing** for all interested parties will be held by the **Zoning Board of Appeals** on **Wednesday, October 3, 2018** at **6:00 p.m.** in the **3rd Floor Community Room of the Visiting Nurse Association, 259 Lowell Street, Somerville, MA.**

*** Cases are sometimes postponed to later dates. To sign up for emails to inform you of a change of hearing date for a project near you, please use the URL associated with your address of interest that appears at the end of this legal notification.***

5 Windsor Road (ZBA 2018-114): Applicants/Owners, Alexander and Christina Epstein, seek a Special Permit per SZO §4.4.1 to alter a nonconforming structure by extending an existing shed dormer toward the rear by approximately 10 feet along the left side of the ridge. RA Zone. Ward 6.

7 Hillside Park (ZBA 2018-115): Applicant/Owner, Hootan Farhat, seeks a Special Permit per SZO §4.4.1 to alter a non-conforming three-family dwelling to construct a roof deck atop the main roof of the triple-decker. RB Zone. Ward 3.

3-5 Summer Street (ZBA 2018-107): Applicant/Owner, 35atSummer, LLC, seeks a Special Permit per SZO §7.11.1.c to construct a new five-unit apartment building and a Special Permit per SZO §9.13 for parking relief. The proposed five-unit apartment building will be deed restricted at below fair-market value to create additional workforce housing in alignment with SomerVision. NB Zone. Ward 3.

15-17 Illinois Avenue (ZBA 2018-110): Applicant, Nelson Oliveira/Nelson Group Companies, and Owner, 3 West Street, LLC, seek special permits to construct a dormer within the left side yard setback under §4.4.1 of the SZO. RA zone. Ward 1.

45 Cameron Avenue (ZBA 2016-R1-(08/18): Applicant and Owner, Aroli Realty Trust, Menkiti Ifeanyi Trustee, seeks a Revision to a Special Permit previously granted in 2016. The Applicant seeks to alter one of the conditions of the original permit that required utilities to be buried underground. RB zone. Ward 5.

11 Fiske Avenue (ZBA 2018-109): Applicant, Jason Santana, North American Development, LLC, and Owner, Genevieve M. Belew, seek special permits under §4.4.1 of the SZO to alter a non-conforming structure through the upward and linear extension of the non-conforming left side yard setback, increasing the GFA by more than 25%. Number of units to increase from one to two. Parking relief under Article 9 of the SZO. RB zone. Ward 5.

27 Gilman Street (ZBA 2018-112): Applicants/Owners, Jason Sachs & Elif Soyer, seek special permits under §4.4.1 of the SZO to alter a non-conforming structure by converting a two-family to a three-family. Parking relief under Article 9. RB zone. Ward 1.

41-3 Elmwood Street (ZBA 2018-123): Applicant, Brady Sunrooms, and Owner, Jeffrey Attbush, see special permits under §4.4.1 of the SZO to alter a non-conforming structure enclosing a second-story inset porch to create a sunroom. RB zone. Ward 7.


5 Windsor Road: <http://eepurl.com/dHyl8X>
7 Hillside Park: <http://eepurl.com/dHymrT>
3-5 Summer St: <http://eepurl.com/dHypDn>
45 Cameron Ave: <http://eepurl.com/dHAxMr>
15-17 Illinois Ave: <http://eepurl.com/dHAyrH>
11 Fiske Ave: <http://eepurl.com/dHAyNX>
27 Gilman St: <http://eepurl.com/dHAzk5>
41-3 Elmwood St: <http://eepurl.com/dHAzKv>

Submittals may be viewed in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30pm www.somervillema.gov/planningandzoning.

As cases may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending a meeting. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

Attest: George Proakis, Planning Director
As published in The Somerville Times on 9/19/18 & 9/26/18

9/19/18 The Somerville Times



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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

A **joint public hearing** for all interested parties will be held by the Planning Board and the Board of Aldermen Land Use Committee on **Thursday, October 4, 2018** at **6:00 p.m.** in the **Aldermanic Chambers, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.** The purpose of this hearing will be to receive public comments concerning the following:

A proposed amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance regarding slope protection, to require a Special Permit for developments on steeply sloped parcels.


A proposed amendment to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance, submitted by 18 registered voters, to add a new Section 17.8, regarding open space requirements for mid-rise and high-rise buildings.

Submittals may be viewed in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30 pm; and Fri, 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

As items may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending. Continued items will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board and the Land Use Committee at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Michael A. Capuano, Chair, Somerville Planning Board
Attest: Alderman Lance Davis, Chair, Land Use Committee of the Board of Aldermen
To be published in the Somerville Times on 9/19/18 and 9/26/18

9/19/18 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB#19-29 Snow Hauling and Storage

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

Snow Hauling and Storage

An Invitation for bids (IFB) and specifications may be obtained online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids> or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **09/24/2018**. Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **10/11/2018 at 2.00PM**. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

The contract term shall be for a period of 1 year from 12/01/2018 through 07/31/2019, with two one-year options to renew. The City reserves sole discretion to exercise renewal options.

Please contact Prajkta Waditwar pwaditwar@somervillema.gov for further information.

Angela M. Allen
Purchasing Director
617-625-6600 x. 3400

9/19/18 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB#19-23 Fleet Vehicles for the City

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

Fleet Vehicles for the City

An Invitation for bids (IFB) and specifications may be obtained online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids> or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after 09/24/2018.


Sealed bids will be received at the above office until: **10/10/2018 at 1.00PM**. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

The contract term shall be for a period of 8 months from 12/01/2018 through 07/31/2019.

Please contact Prajkta Waditwar, pwaditwar@somervillema.gov for further information.

Angela M. Allen
Purchasing Director
617-625-6600 x. 3400

9/19/18 The Somerville Times



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

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PLANNING DIVISION

LEGAL NOTICE
OF PUBLIC HEARING

A **public hearing** for all interested parties will be held by the **Planning Board** on **Thursday, October 4, 2018** at **7:00 p.m.** at the **Aldermanic Chambers** on the Second Floor of **Somerville City Hall**, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

*** Cases are sometimes postponed to later dates. To sign up for emails to inform you of a change of hearing date for a project near you, please use the url associated with your address of interest that appears at the end of this legal notification.***

Assembly Row Block 5B – Grand Union Boulevard (Case #PB 2017-05-R1-0818): Applicant and Owner, Street Retail Inc., seek a Revision to a Special Permit with Site Plan Review–A under SZO Article §6.4.11 and §5.2 to increase the commercial floor area to approx. 292,890 sf office space (previously approved 267,600 sf) and make related changes to building design and parking. Assembly Square Mixed Use District (ASMD). PUD-A Overlay District. Ward 1.

561 Windsor Street (PB 2018-15): Applicant and Owner, RPI 561Windsor Street LLC, are seeking a Special Permit with Site Plan Review (SPSR) under SZO Article §6.5.D.5, §6.5.E, and §7.13 to alter the façade and site plan on an existing five-story commercial building, in 6 phases. TOD-135. Ward 2.

Assembly Row Block 5B – Grand Union Boulevard: <http://eepurl.com/dHzYsn>
561 Windsor Street: <http://eepurl.com/dHzY21>

Submittals may be viewed in-person in the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, located on the third floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, Mon-Wed, 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Thurs, 8:30 am-7:30 pm; and Fri, 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Staff reports, plans and Board decisions, when completed, are posted online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning>.

As cases may be continued to later dates, please check the agenda on the City's website or call before attending. Continued cases will not be re-advertised. Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to OSPCD, Planning Division, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; by fax to 617-625-0722; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

Attest: Michael Capuano, Chairman
As published in The Somerville Times on 9/19/18 and 9/26/18

9/19/18 The Somerville Times

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
RFP 19-20

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

Somerville Jobs Board

The City of Somerville is soliciting proposals to contract a software service provider for an online skill-based jobs posting board hosted by the City of Somerville for use by Somerville businesses and job-seekers.

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online at <http://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **September 19th, 2018**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office until: **October 11th 2018 at 1:00 pm ET**. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Thupten Chukhatsang at tchukhatsang@somerville-ma.gov for more information.

Angela M. Allen
Purchasing Director
617-625-6600 x. 3400

9/19/18 The Somerville Times

Middlesex Federal donates \$1,000 to RESPOND, Inc.

On behalf of Middlesex Federal, Peter Bazzinotti, Senior Vice President, Senior Loan Officer presented a \$1,000 check to Jessica Brayden, Chief Executive Officer, RESPOND.

Middlesex Federal was awarded funds at the 2018 Atlantic Community Bankers Bank Annual Charity Golf Tournament to donate to the charity of its choice. The Bank chose RESPOND, a local provider of support services to victims and survivors of domestic violence.

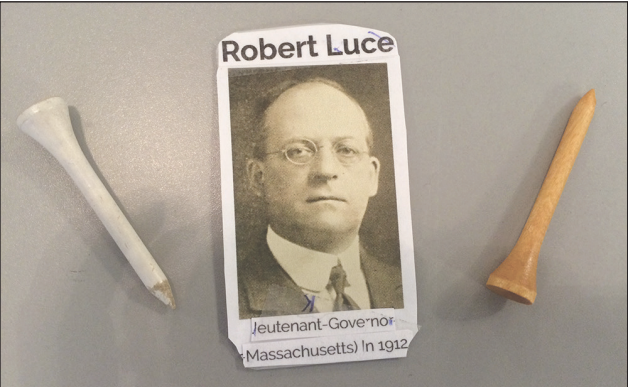
RESPOND partners with individuals, families, and communities to end the serious public health issue of domestic violence. A pioneer in the movement to end domestic violence, it is New England's first



L to R: Peter Bazzinotti, Senior Vice President - Senior Loan Officer, Middlesex Federal; Jessica Brayden, Chief Executive Officer, RESPOND; Amanda Reichmuth, Chief Programs Officer, RESPOND; and Linda Dinkel, Vice President - Marketing, Middlesex Federal.

domestic violence agency and the second oldest in the nation. RESPOND strives to achieve its mission through prevention, intervention, and education services that promote safe, healthy relationships.

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 8



once fit appropriately into the neighborhood. As time passed, the club's ownership changed from Tufts University to the Somerville Golf Club and back to Tufts University. Development reduced the course from nine holes to six holes to three. It has been sixty years since the golf course was destroyed in 1958. Today, students popularly refer to the remaining fenced in meadow at Powder House Circle as "Tufts Beach."



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

session. Somerville community members will be offered an opportunity to gain a better understanding of gender identity and transgender lives and issues. the event will be held 6:30– 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 25, at the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St. SpeakOUT is a nonprofit community of speakers working to create a world free of homo-bi-transphobia and other forms of prejudice by telling the truths of their lives. For more information on the event, please contact LGBTQ Liaison Jessica Alter at 617-625-6600 x 2404 or jalter@somervillema.gov. For media queries, contact Denise Taylor at 617-625-6600 x2103 or media@somervillema.gov.

The 4th Annual Evolution of Hip Hop Festival will take place on Saturday, September 29, (rain date Sept 30), from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Union Square Plaza. This free ArtsUnion festival is presented by the City of Somerville and Somerville Arts Council in partnership with The Somerville Line, Oompa, and Pretty Poison. The festival will feature rappers, singers, spoken word poets and dancers from the Somerville community and surrounding cities. Attendees can also see live street art and other visual arts presentations and visit information tables offered by local community groups. Musical performances by Oom-

pa & The Chocolate Factory, Cliff No-tez, Brandie Blaze, Billy Dean Thomas, Anson RAPS, Rex Mac, Luke Bars, Kofi Dadzie, DJ Bobby Bangers, Sandro Castro, Bean\$tock, Papa Reliz, DroCasso and A.M.B (African Man Born). Dance performances by Trend N Motion and more. Visual artists curated by Baboon. More artists continue to be added to the line-up. To get up-to date information visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/141967103296389/>. If you're interested in being a vendor at this festival, please contact Yvette at the-somervilleline@gmail.com.

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work, and you're experienced in sales? Give us a call here at The Somerville Times at 617-666-4010. We are looking for advertising telemarketers.

Condolences to the Trane family on the passing of Thomas Trane, a life long resident who was very well known and respected in our community. Over the years and he and his family have been very involved in local politics and various organizations. He leaves his lovely wife Nancy, whom we extend of sympathy to. Arrangements haven't been made yet, but he will most likely be waked out of Doherty's Funeral Home. We will post details online as soon as we get them.

• • • • VILLENS ON THE TOWN • • • •

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Wednesday|September 19

Central Library
Homeschool Reading Group
10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Somerville High School Anime Club
2:45 p.m.-4:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

East Branch Library
Rockabye Beats!
11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.|115 Broadway

Thursday|September 20

Central Library
Preschool Storytime for 3 to 5-year-olds
10:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
TELL (Teen Library Leaders) Meeting
3 p.m.-5 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

West Branch Library
Preschool Storytime
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Lego Club!
3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.|40 College Ave

East Branch Library
Lego Club
3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.|115 Broadway

Friday|September 21

Central Library
Preschool Storytime for 2-year-olds
10:30 a.m.-11a.m.|79 Highland Ave

East Branch Library
Pop Up Play Group!
10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

Saturday|September 22

Central Library
Paper crafts, scrapbooking, card-making gathering
9:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Monday|September 24

Central Library
Sing Along
11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Teen Room Voter Registration
6 p.m.-9 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

West Branch Library
Kids' Book Club
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|40 College Ave

Tuesday|September 25

West Branch Library
Preschool Storytime
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|40 College Ave

Central Library
Girls Who Code Information Session
3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Teen Room Voter Registration
6 p.m.-9 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Wednesday|September 26

Central Library
Homeschool Reading Group
10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

East Branch Library
Preschool Storytime
11 a.m.-11:30 a.m.|115 Broadway

MUSIC|ARTS

Wednesday|September 19

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Dennis Brennan Band
9 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

Somerville Theatre
Michael Nesmith and the First National Band Redux|7:30 p.m.
55 Davis Square

The Burren
Backroom Series with Brian O'Donovan (of "A Celtic Sojourn" on WGBH)|7:30 p.m.

Comedy Night with Arty P.|10 p.m.
Bust Out Of Boston|7:30 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's Pub
The A-Beez
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road
Bearly Dead – Wednesday Night Grateful Dead Residency
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
The Moth: Extra Mile
8 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Highland Kitchen
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
Elle Brigida
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
Bowery Boston presents: Grouper
7:30 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

Thursday|September 20

Sally O'Brien's
Spring Hill Rounders grassy Thursdays
7:30 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Bust Out Of Boston|7:30 p.m.
Scattershots|10 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's
Krush Faktory(Dub Down)
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road
379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
Thin Lips
Cheer Up, Dump Him, I Wish I Could Skateboard
9 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
Adam Janjigian Quartet
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

The Rockwell
Saturday Morning Cartoons: A Burlesque to Ruin Childhoods
8 p.m.|255 Elm St

Arts at the Armory
Castle of Comedy
9 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Friday|September 21

Sally O'Brien's
David Johnston Band |6 p.m.
Francine, Craig Small, Ringtail
\$10 cover |9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Backroom Series with Tom Bianchi
Bust Out Of Boston|7:30 p.m.
Young Love & The Thrills|10 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
DJ starting at 10 p.m.
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's
Grits and Groceries
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Joshua Tree
DJ McRiddleton
256 Elm St. |617-623-9910

Casey's
Entertainment every Friday
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Thunder Road
SixFoxWhiskey (Album Release), The Quins, Quadrafunk
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
The Gravel Project

8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street
The Rockwell
Sh!t-Faced Shakespeare: Taming of the Shrew| 7 p.m.
255 Elm St

Saturday|September 22

Sally O'Brien's
Patsy Hamel Band |6 p.m.
HearNowLive presents Kate Girardi, GLiDER, Why Try? \$10 cover |9 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Bust Out Of Boston|12 p.m.
Bust Out Of Boston|5 p.m.
Cover Up|10 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Karaoke
65 Holland St

Bull McCabe's
Walktalk
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Casey's
Entertainment every Saturday
173 Broadway|617- 625-5195

Thunder Road
Booty Vortex (Funk/Disco)
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
1st Annual ONCE Fest
Future Teens, Kindling, Sam Moss
4 p.m.-1 a.m.|156 Highland Ave

The Rockwell
Sh!t-Faced Shakespeare: Taming of the Shrew|6 p.m.
Dreamland Silent Disco|9 p.m.
255 Elm St

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
The Blue Ribbons
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
LadiesCon 2018
11 a.m.|Performance Hall
Vortex Ecstatic Dance
7:30 p.m.|Performance Hall|191 Highland Ave

Sunday|September 23

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Roy Sludge Trio|6:30 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Beatles Brunch 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Backroom series with Tom Bianchi|7 p.m.
Bust Out Of Boston|3 p.m.
Bust Out Of Boston|7:30 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Bull McCabe's Pub
Dub Apocalypse
366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
Sunday Brunch Live Country & Bluegrass
Sunday Night Live Music
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
Game Night
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Thunder Road
Americana Sundays with Blame The Whiskey
7 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
Sheet Queer Fest 2018
The Breathing Light, Primitive Rage, Goolagoon, Creamer, Argument?, Uncertain, Corvus B, Kilamanzego, Space Camp, Sap, Dicksücker, Crystal Methodist
3:30 p.m.-11 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
Holiday with Manege a Trois
2 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

The Rockwell
Sh!t-Faced Shakespeare: Romeo & Juliet

7 p.m.|255 Elm St
Arts at the Armory
Thea Hopkins CD Release
3 p.m.|Café
Cafe Raqs
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Monday|September 24

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Shawn Carter's Cheapshots Comedy|7 p.m.
Marley Monday with The Duppy Conquerors reggae|10 p.m.
335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Back Room:
Stump Trivia|8:30 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Bull McCabe's Pub
DJ J-Wall - Party Jams
9 a.m.-12 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road
379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
Toddlerbilly Takeover
5 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
Board Game Bonanza
6:30 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
Queer Tango
6:30 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Tuesday|September 25

Sally O'Brien's Bar
SYM Jam All-Stars \$5 cover
8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Front Room
Jason Anick and the Swingers Swing/Jazz|8:30 p.m.
Open Mic Night with Aaron Yang|10 p.m.
Sam Graham + Lizje|7 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Bull McCabe's Pub
Ghetto People Band
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Highland Kitchen
First Tuesday of the Month|Spelling Bee Night
hosted by Victor and Nicole of Egoart.
The fun starts at 10:00p.m.
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

PJ Ryan's
Pub Quiz
10 p.m.|239 Holland St.|617-625-8200

Thunder Road
379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
Heavy Metal Tuesday
7 p.m.|156 Highland Ave

Aeronaut Brewing Co
Indie Trivia
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

Arts at the Armory
Pub Sing
7 p.m.|Café|191 Highland Ave

Wednesday|September 26

Sally O'Brien's Bar
Free Poker, lots of prizes!
8 p.m.|335 Somerville Ave|617-666-3589

The Burren
Backroom Series with Brian O'Donovan (of "A Celtic Sojourn" on WGBH)|7:30 p.m.
Comedy Night with Arty P.|10 p.m.
Coig |7:30 p.m.
247 Elm Street|617-776-6896

Orleans Restaurant and Bar
65 Holland St|617-591-2100

Bull McCabe's Pub
The Nephrok Allstars
10 p.m.|366A Somerville Ave|617-440-6045

Thunder Road
Bearly Dead – Wednesday Night Grateful Dead Residency
8 p.m.|379 Somerville Ave

Once Somerville
156 Highland Ave

Highland Kitchen
150 Highland Ave|617-625-1131

Aeronaut Brewing Co.
Last Wednesday Residency: Copilot
8 p.m.|14 Tyler Street

The Rockwell
Michael Hurley
7:30 p.m.|255 Elm St

Arts at the Armory
Strummerville Ukulele Club
7 p.m.|Cafe|191 Highland Ave

CLASSES AND GROUPS

Wednesday|September 19

Central Library
Drop-in Knitting/Needlecraft
12 p.m.-2 p.m.
Central Hill Parking Public Meeting
6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
7 p.m.-8 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Thursday|September 20

West Branch Library
Learn English at the Library!
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
West Branch Craft Club
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|40 College Ave

East Branch Library
Drop In Craft Night
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|115 Broadway

Central Library
Working Parent Community Conversations
7 p.m.-8 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

First Church Somerville
Debtors Anonymous- a 12 Step program for people with problems with money and debt. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.|89 College Ave (Upstairs Parlor).
For more info call: 781-762-6629

Saturday|September 22

Union Square Farmers Market
9 a.m.-1 p.m.|Union Sq Plaza

Bagel Bards
Somerville Writers and Poets meet weekly to discuss their work
9 a.m.-12 p.m Au Bon Pain| 18 48 Holland St

Sunday| September 23

Fourth Step to Freedom Al-Anon Family Groups
7:00 P.M. | 6 William Street
Unity Church of God
Enter upstairs, meeting is in basement

Monday|September 24

Central Library
Creative Drama Workshop with Laurie!
4 p.m.- 5 p.m.
Smith College School for Social Work Field Seminar
6 p.m.-8 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

East Branch Library
Learn English at the Library!
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|115 Broadway

Tuesday|September 25

Central Library
Learn English at the Library!
6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

Wednesday|September 26

Central Library
Drop-in Knitting/Needlecraft
12 p.m.-2 p.m.
Somerville Arts Council LCC info session
3:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.|79 Highland Ave

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO!

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Welcome to our centers. Everyone 55+ is encouraged to join us for fitness, culture, films, lunch and Bingo. Our centers are open to everyone from Somerville and surrounding communities. Check out our calendar and give a call with any questions or to make a reservation. 617-625-6600 ext. 2300. Stay for lunch and receive free transportation.

CENTER LOCATIONS, TIMES & SCHEDULES

Holland Street Senior Center: located at 167 Holland Street (between Davis Square and Teele Square) Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300

Cross Street Center: located at 165 Broadway (East Somerville) Mondays & Tuesdays - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thursdays - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 617-625-6600, Ext. 2335 Fax: 617-625-1414

Ralph and Jenny Center: located at 9 New Washington Street (behind the Holiday Inn) Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 617- 666-5223

Main Office: located at 167 Holland Street (between Davis Square and Teele Square.) Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 617-625-6600, Ext. 2300 Fax: 617-625-0688 TTY: 866-808-4851

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Join the SCOA's email group – The email group is for Somerville Council on Aging Seniors and / or Care-givers who are interested in the latest information on resources, events, programming, etc...in and around the Somerville area. Use the link <https://groups.google.com/group/somerville-council-on-aging> - If you have any questions or need help joining please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Silver Alert Program – The Somerville Council on Aging with the Somerville Police Department have implemented a program to take a proactive approach towards protecting some of Somerville’s most vulnerable citizens who suffer with serious cognitive impairments that put them at risk for wandering and getting lost. The Silver Alert Program is designed to collect specific information about a potential missing person, along with photo identification. This confidential information will be kept on file for immediate use in the event a loved one is reported missing. Please contact the SCOA at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 for additional information or to register.

Free Groceries Every Month? – You may be eligible for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program! CSFP is a once a month food distribution for individuals 60 years of age or older. You may be eligible to receive two free bags of food once a month containing healthy shelf stable products. Proof of identity and age are all that is required to apply. Must apply beforehand. Pick up at the Ralph & Jenny Center, 9 New Washington Street on the 4th Thursday of every month unless otherwise specified. For more information or to apply please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300 – applications are available at the front desk of our Holland Street Center.

Friendly Caller Program – Do you know someone who could benefit from a friendly call? Maybe you are feeling isolated and want someone to talk to – or you just want someone to listen. Please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 to sign up for our “Friendly Caller” Program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Peace Breakfast – Friday, September 21 at our Holland Street Center from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Join us for a continental breakfast to celebrate Peace Day. RSVP a must. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please call 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Washington, DC – Monday, October 1st to Friday, October 5th - 5 days and 4 nights - \$619 per person double or \$869 single includes transportation, lodging, 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners, visit Arlington National Cemetery, National Air & Space Museum, Illumination tour of monuments and so much more. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please contact Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Dollar Days at the Movies – Tuesday, October 16 – doors open at 11:30 a.m. movie starts at noontime. \$1 per person – The Great Gatsby - - For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please call Josie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Christmas Gift Glass Art with Linda Cohen – Tuesdays,

October 16, 23 and 30 is sold out. Wait list only.
New York City – October 26 to October 28 – 3 days and 2 nights \$254 per person double or \$368 per person single – St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Macy’s and much more. Seats sell fast and are very limited. Check-in at Ralph & Jenny at 6:45 a.m. on Friday with an approximate return time of 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please contact Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Wrentham Outlets – Sunday, November 11 - \$10 per person – Check-in time is 10:00 a.m. at Holland Street with an approximate return time of 5:00 p.m. Get your holiday shopping done early. Lunch is on your own. For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please contact Connie by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Dollar Days at the Movies – Tuesday, November 13 - doors open at 11:30 a.m. movie starts at noontime. \$1 per person – Chappaquiddick - For additional information, questions or to reserve your spot please call Josie at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.

Blood Pressure Screening – Cross Street Center located at 165 Broadway. Scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of each month: September 20, October 11, November 8 and December 13. If you require additional information please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Blood Pressure Screening – Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. Scheduled for the 1st Thursday of each month: September 13, October 4, November 1 and December 6. If you require additional information please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Blood Pressure Screening – Ralph & Jenny Center located at 1 New Washington Street. Scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month: September 27, October 18, November 15 and December 20. If you require additional information please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov

LGBTQ EVENTS

LBT Women Fit-4-Life - Fitness Class is Thursday evenings starting at 6:00 P.M. \$10 a month fee - scholarships available & it just might be covered under your insurance. We have available slots and would love to have you. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our Health & Wellness Coordinator, Chris Kowaleski at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2315.

LGBTQ Lunch – Come, relax, enjoy lunch and talk with your peers. Scheduled lunch dates for 2018 are September 19, October 17, November 14 and December 12.

WEEKLY EXERCISE AND NUTRITION CLASS SCHEDULE (Please cut out and save)

Monday:
Keep Moving Walking Club** - 9:00 a.m. (H)
Tai Chi – 11:30 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group C - 1:00 p.m. (H)

Tuesday:
Strengthening - 9:00 a.m. (H)
\$3 per class (H)
Fit-4-Life - 11:00 a.m. (C)
Bike Club – 12:15 p.m. (H)

Wednesdays:
Fit-4-Life Group A (exercise) - 9:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group B (nutrition) - 9 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group B (exercise) - 10:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group C (nutrition) - noon (H)
Fit-4-Life Group C (exercise) - 1:00 p.m. (H)
Zumba 4 All - 5:15 p.m. - \$3/class (H)

Thursdays:
Yoga - 9:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life - 11:15 a.m. (C)
LBT Fit-4-Life, 6:00 p.m. (H)

Fridays:
Fit-4-Life Group A - 9:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group B - 10:00 a.m. (H)
Fit-4-Life Group A (nutrition) 10:00 a.m. (H)

Adventure Group – Please call for details
***All Fit-4-Life classes are \$10 per month and require pre-registration**

HOLLAND STREET GROUP INFORMATION

Book Club – Meets the third Friday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This group self-facilitates. Group members choose both fiction and non-fiction titles on a quarterly basis. Books are available on

reserve at the Central Branch of the Somerville Library. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300 The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware on Friday, July 20th.

Caregiver Support Group – Meets the third Tuesday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Our Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilitates this group. Are you caring for a parent, relative, spouse or close friend? Feeling isolated or overwhelmed? You are not alone! Come share your experience and practical support. Open to all and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2318.

Conversations of the Heart – Meets bi-monthly on Mondays from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. at our Holland Street Center. Social Worker, Natasha Naim, facilitates this group. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2317.

De-cluttering support group: - If you have concerns around your clutter, this group may be for you. This closed group meets both in spring and fall for 6-8 weeks. This group is co-facilitated by Natasha Naim and Marina Colonas. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Natasha at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2317.

CROSS STREET GROUP INFORMATION

Coffee & Conversation – Meets every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator and Sandy Francis, Cross Street Center Volunteer, work together to facilitate this group. Come meet people from all over the world and join in the discussion of a different topic every day. Conversation is followed by the Fit-4-Life exercise program and then lunch. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Arts & Crafts – Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month starting January 11th - from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join us in a relaxing atmosphere as we learn about a wide range of arts & crafts from weaving to watercolor pencils. Maureen Bastardi, Program Coordinator facilitates this group. Must call a week in advance if you plan on attending. This is necessary to ensure we have enough material for everyone. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Social Service Drop In – The 3rd Thursday of every month Social Workers, Ashley Speliotis and Natasha Naim will be taking turns and having a Drop-in Social Service hour from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Cross Street Center. They will be available to address any of your Social Service needs. Stop by or if you need additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Game Hour – Every Tuesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. at our Cross Street Center. Join us for lunch and activities. Immediately following lunch we will have a “Game Hour.” Yahtzee, Sorry, Jenga, Cards, Scrabble, Checkers, Clue, Qwirkle, Dominoes, Uno & Connect 4 are available to play. Community Cooks provides us with a family style lunch on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays and Food Services provides us with lunch on the off days. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Maureen at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335.

Gardening Club – Meets the second Monday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. and running for an hour most times. Principal Master Gardener, Vilma Sullivan, facilitates this group. A different topic each month ranging from gardening tips & secrets to inexpensive greenhouses. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call 617-625-6600 Ext. 2300. This group does not meet in January and February.

Golden Gals: a.k.a. Women’s Group - Meets the last Tuesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Social Worker, Ashley Speliotis, facilities this group. A fun, safe, social group to discuss women’s issues and growing older. Next date: December 26th - For more information, please call Ashley at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318.

RALPH & JENNY GROUP INFORMATION

Knitting Blankets – Every Tuesday & Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Join us as we knit blankets for babies. If you are interested in joining, have any questions or require additional information please call Judy at 617-625-6600, ext. 2300.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

A Lifetime of Reading:
'Sweet Marjoram: Notes & Essays'
by DeWitt Henry

Michael Todd Steffen is a Somerville resident and an occasional contributor to *The Somerville Times*. Here is his review of the memoir of a founding editor of *Ploughshares* magazine, DeWitt Henry:

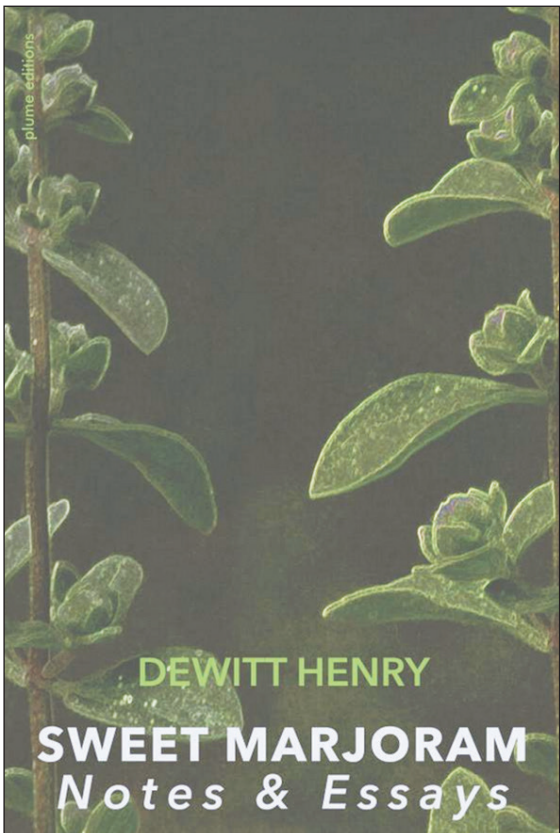
One of the many virtues of DeWitt Henry's new book *Sweet Marjoram* (ISBN 978-1-941196-72-4, MadHat Press, 2018) is its liberally associative arrangement. It allows us, like our favorite books of lyrical poetry, once we've read it through and are on to this welcoming element, to open its pages where we will and just start reading. Skipping through a book is a good way to allow its individual passages to surprise us, to get by or around, in some cases, the author's control freak editor and modesty, to get at the book's heart, or "meat." In the case of *Sweet Marjoram*, one may even on a first perusal jump to the 17th essay, "On Meat," where our sources of fascination knock against our weaknesses and guilt.

—*la carne*, in Spanish and *carne* in Italian, echoing the Latin *carn-* or *caro* (flesh), as do *carnal* in English (having a relation to the body as opposed to the soul), *carnival* (a time of feasting and fleshly indulgence as opposed to Lent and fasting), *carnivorous* and *carnivore* ... Among flora, the *carnation* is a flower as red as raw meat, as blood.

Meathead suggests more muscle than brains. Sexual organs are called meat ... (Antony even calls Cleopatra cold leftovers on dead Caesar's trencher) ... [page 94]

I've left ellipses instead of A1 sauce. The line of thought cools down in the course of the essay with sobering references to Benjamin Franklin and his pragmatic advice, "Rarely use Venery except for Health and Offspring; Never to Dullness, Weakness, or the Injury of your own or another's Peace and Reputation," Saint Augustine's spiritual sense of love with allusion to another kind of "meat," and further discussions involving Noah, Henry's daughter, Tolstoy, a grad-student memoir of a friendly neighbor meat butcher, and more. In the wake of any one of the essays, on reflection, we marvel again and again at the variety of Henry's sources and multiplicity of his angles of consideration on his subjects. The logo for NPR's flagship news program, *All Things Considered*, would be a good subtitle for the book.

This is true, and so its opposite: an uneasiness at the seeming authorial absence, a lack of point of view, an omission of agenda, of logical or narrative sequence. Topics are announced in the titles: "On Weather," "On Conscience," "On Falling"... "On Privilege"... "On Cursing"... Henry's meditations encompass a wide topical range, from the ordinary, "On Handshakes," to the lofty, "On Dignity," and the ironic, "On Folly." A source of inspiration, it may soon dawn on the reader, lies in the 16th Century, in the French and English essayists Michel de Montaigne ("Of sadness," "Of friendship," "Of cannibals") and Francis Bacon ("Of Truth," "Of Death," "Of Revenge").



The epigraph of the book, taken from Shakespeare, citing the origin of the author's title, is telling of this inspiration from the Renaissance, an age in its writers characterized by a spirit of the revival of classical philosophy and literature and its attitudes of open inquiry into all subjects, its copious and liberal curiosity. The title comes from a recognition scene in the beginning of the denouement of *King Lear*, as blinded Gloucester's inward senses are being restored to him, and Lear is still simmering after the storm:

Lear: Ha! Give the word.
Edgar: Sweet marjoram.
Lear: Pass. (4.6.93-95)

"Sweet marjoram" (*Marjoran hortensis*) refers to a mint-like herb, which annotators believe was used as a medicinal cure for madness or mental illness. The title's useful to its author also because it echoes the title of an earlier book, *Sweet Dreams*, a memoir of Henry's youth and family, centered around his father who owned and operated a candy factory.

Literature and commonplace phrases and sayings serve as springboards for a good deal of the texts, offering a wide range in citations from the Bible to contemporary films, novels, essays and science, references of expressions spanning from early English, "Fair-weathered friend," to our day's greetings with fist bumps. Sven Birkerts praises the book's display of "the accrued benefits of a lifetime of reading, teaching, viewing and thinking," noting its "Shakespearean breadth of interest subjected to a steady inquiring pressure."

While the choice of inclusion in the essays is arbitrary, though familiar, these are not "personal" essays, nor so much in academic terms thesis essays, for their lack of method and inclusion of biographical material. Announced topics are also freely digressed from, sometimes at 180° as in the essay "On Silence," which more or less meditates on the impossibility of silence. *Continued on page 23*

Lyrical
SOMERVILLE
edited by Doug Holder

Joanne DeSimone Reynolds has published poems in *Salamander*, *Ibbetson Street Press*, *Wilderness House Literary Review*, and *Sanctuary Magazine*. She has written reviews for *Boston Small Press* and *Poetry Scene*, and is a long-standing participant in Plein Air poetry at Old Frog Pond Farm in Harvard, Ma. Her chapbook *Comes A Blossom* was published by Main Street Rag in 2014.

Elegy for a Pristine Morning

Could it have been more clear or blue
Our little way of life
Smoldering in the felt of dust
The sky spilling
But not a drop of rain to cling to
Nor puddle for reflection
A pair of eyeglasses
Stairs to nowhere
Groans in the rubble
No going back
And no notion of what this moment would become
Jolts of joe to the grounds
(The center did not hold)
And the blue screen needing attending to
In plain view of the morning sun
Worlds collapse (Two One)
Or maybe just your world
Ice-trapped
Gasoline-lit as if it were an anthill
Everyone else running for cover

— Joanne DeSimone Reynolds

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

Ms. Cam's
Olio
Answers

From on page 14

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. A winged woman holding an atom | 7. Dr. Hook & the Medicine Show |
| 2. His wife, Dorothy McManus | 8. Gerald Ford |
| 3. A Song of Ice and Fire | 9. Jerry Springer |
| 4. A plane crash at age 30 | 10. Milk |
| 5. Dog | 11. Golf's Masters Tournament |
| 6. The head | 12. Lead |

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'Sweet Marjoram: Notes & Essays' by DeWitt Henry

CONT. FROM PG 20

Buddhist teasers: The sound of one hand clapping. A tree falls in an empty forest. Sunyata.

There is no absence of sound, except for the deaf, who feel vibrations through the floor or other surfaces of touch.

Listen carefully, and even in scientifically designed anechoic chambers, in the absence of most sound, you'll hear the roar and pulse of your own blood. (This, of course, is amplified in ultrasound exams of the heart, which, when I heard mine from a speaker, sounded like kicking in a bath, plug, wash, plug.

Our industrial and technological revolutions have increased ambient noise, especially in the cities ... [page 15]

Again, the risk run in this manner of leaping from instance to instance is the impression it may leave the casual or unfamiliar reader that the author is writing simply to hear the ink blot from his pen, that he's not *getting to the point*. Like Gertrude to Polonius, we may prove an itch to say, "More matter, with less art." Or do we want to ask for More art, more structure...?

Maybe readers of today, used to clicking [here](#) and jumping from partially read story to partially glimpsed ad, will be very much at home in Henry's paratactic discourse.

We are given fair warning on the title page these are not just essays, but "Notes & Essays." Often "paragraphs" or separate units consist simply of one sentence. Or just a fragment.

Speak now, we say, or forever hold your peace.

Enfolding silence, thick silence, heavy; moments filled with silence.

Dead silence.

We mute the familiar, annoying commercial.

Philomela, the rape victim, tongue-less, hand-less.

Brier Rabbit and Tarbaby.

Hold your tongue.

Tongue-tied?...[page 16]

Passages like these can induce a sort of reader's vertigo. What—where in...

Yet Henry stirs our curiosity in this difference from the bulk of writing which is

very agenda- or purpose-driven. Harkening back to an age whose poet characterized the function of his art "to hold the mirror up to nature," Henry's writing attains in manner and example a wide scope and variety of our sources for thought. When these are juxtaposed, hovering, side by side, often intentionally for contrast—old/new, ordinary/exotic, common/lofty—the reward for the effort is comparative, a glimpse of objectivity and tolerance rather than a dedicated referential orthodoxy to justify some argument.

This has been one of the primary reasons for studying Michel de Montaigne in World Literature classes, often his essay "Of cannibals," for its refutation that "other" people, the natives of what was then considered "Anarctic France" (Brazil), were inferior as humans to the seemingly infinitely more sophisticated Europeans who were at that time just discovering this new world and its inhabitants.

I am sorry that Lycurgus and Plato did not know of them; for it seems to me that what we actually see in these nations surpasses not only the pictures in which poets have idealized the golden age and all their inventions in imagining a happy state of man, but also the conceptions and the very desire of philosophy. They could not imagine a naturalness so pure and simple... ["Of cannibals"].

The essay "On Appetite" in *Sweet Marjoram* gives us the nutshell passage from Montaigne's essay: "I am sorry that, seeing so clearly into their faults, we should be so blind to our own." [page 77]

Henry, too, is aware of other lands and other people with their customs which differ sharply from our own. Not unlike Montaigne:

Islam discourages handshakes between men and women, probably to ensure chastity. In Switzerland, when an Imam's sons recently refused to shake their teacher's hand—a Swiss tradition—authorities imposed a \$5,000 fine and provoked an international controversy... [page 11]

The discussion occurs in the essay "On Handshakes." Ordinarily, the contrast, even conflict, between Muslim and Western customs and ethics would by far outweigh the simple gesture of a handshake. Instead of getting engulfed in all of that, Henry proceeds with his topic, to unearth a very contemporary Western oddity in the consideration of the gesture.

In addition to religious customs, there are also health and safety concerns. Handshakes spread germs. No one shook

on deals with the germaphobe Howard Hughes. Supermarkets offer wipes to sanitize shopping cart handles as a precaution against epidemics of flu or AIDS. Dentists and doctors wear latex gloves... [page 11]

Here we have a case where Henry's stylistic boldness of laying instance out after instance comes into a powerful statement, revealing virtue in the madness of his method. In a sense, it is writing as showing rather than telling. These things, the conservative manner of Muslims, Howard Hughes's mania over germs, today's assimilation of that mania into expected, habitual use of sanitary wipes and latex gloves, our somewhat de-humanizing (don't touch me!) scientific awareness, all emerge from the discourse as evoked in our daily experience. The author has done little more than arrange the images and notions together under the marginal awareness of our hands and how we use them. Terrible importance is trivialized. The simple unassuming takes on poetic weight, even to the point of farcical proportions. *The ant is a centaur in its dragon world*, wrote Ezra Pound. Or, more recently, *The feet of an ant make their own sound on the earth*—Jane Hirshfield.

Sometimes, as with questions of handshakes, social attitudes shift swiftly, within one's lifetime. Other beckoning changes can take generations.

Medieval nobles were celebrated by gisants, sculpted on their coffin lids... The knight lies at rest in full armor... On the Smith College campus, I loved Leonard Baskin's gisant of a factory worker in this traditional pose, reclining on a slab, pot-bellied, care- and work-worn, aged, but noble also in his way... [page 21]

By disregarding temporal as well as spatial and topical parameters, the Renaissance/Henry essay assumes the power to see History, what is beyond our ordinary senses, reminding us of our society's roots in revolution. Baskin's gisant, elevating a common worker, may be a memorial for Democracy and its valuation of the individual, or for Communism and its proposed elevation of the working class. There are spoilers of both systems of government which are not included in Baskin's sculpture. Further in the book, in the essay "On Privilege," Henry will make mention of how "the redistribution of wealth under Communism privileged bureaucrats, commissars, and Stalin." [page 28]

If America's foundations hold up ideals for our aspirations, our history is not without its ironies.

All men are created equal, writes the slave-owning husband and father, Thom-

as Jefferson, philosopher, scientist, architect, statesman, politician, patrician. [page 25]

As to himself? I noted when writing about *Sweet Dreams* the paradoxical unselfishness—for a memoirist—of DeWitt's manner, with a diligent regard for those around him. He bears himself with personal objectivity. It persists in *Sweet Marjoram*, with references to himself coming off as a sociological type:

Male and white, straight, employed and able-bodied, I should mind my manners, consider others, and reexamine my attitudes towards "difference." [page 27, "On Privilege"]

Quietly siding with Harold Bloom's notion, with respect to literature, of the Western Cannon, Henry entertains the opposing view:

Here is Terry Eagleton: "There is no such thing as a literary work or tradition which is valuable in itself... 'Value' is a transitive term: it means whatever is valued by certain people in specific situations..." [page 27]

But Henry also goes about quietly defending the values of a humanist body of writing by citing and so including Toni Morrison ("A criticism that needs to insist that literature is not only 'universal' but also 'race-free' risks lobotomizing that literature..." [page 28]) and Albert Camus ("Those who find no rest in God or in history are condemned to live for those who, like themselves, cannot live: in fact, for the humiliated. [page 28])

The tendency—altruism, evasiveness—belies Henry's fondness for commonplace language, and his persistent eye for his nuclear others. From "On Appetite":

Your eyes are bigger than your stomach. Biting off more than you chew. Clean your plate. I binge on wafer-thin Pringles, unable to eat just one. It's better to eat smaller portions more often than to stuff yourself. Our oldest brother Jack, however, the only naturally thin one in our family, came home for Thanksgiving from his life 2000 miles away. He did the carving. We marveled while he out-ate all of us, three or four portions of turkey, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and even the roasted vegetables. [page 74]

It is one of the foodier-for-thought books I've come across recently. Henry wins our regard for settling into this tradition of essay writing, and our admiration for making the genre useful as his own to unlock a lot of needed conversation for our times.

— Michael Todd Steffen

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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