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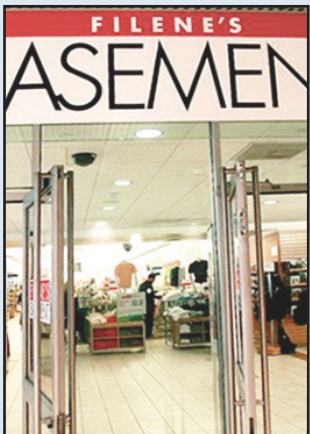


VOL. 8 NO. 40

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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It's 'Meal of Fortune
Week'

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Rodent Issues Special Committee proposes updated IPM plan



The placement of residential bait boxes are part of a concentrated effort being implemented with the aim of reducing rodent populations throughout the city.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

By Anqi Zhang

As people living under the same roof spending more time together during the pandemic, they also become more physically intimate with their rodent neighbors. There has been "an enormous increase in reported rodent sightings over the past few months," said Somerville Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen, the new Chair of Rodent Issues Special Committee, at the public committee meeting on September 23.

Committee members discussed issues including introducing the new Integrated Pest Management (IPM) rodent control policy, addressing residents' confusion about the process of replacing chewed barrels, explaining the expansion of the residential baiting program, and finding ways for renters to address rodent issues without facing retribution from their landlords.

Continued on page 4

Elm Street Sweets debuts as mouth-watering online bakery

By Denise Keniston
tw:@denisekeniston

Davis Square's new bakery, Elm Street Sweets, is elevating the art of pastry-making and attracting pie and cake lovers from Somerville and beyond. Elm Street Sweets is the latest addition to the Alpine Restaurant Group. Sister restaurants Rosebud and Posto (both in Davis Square and within steps of each other) are helping the online bakery get off the ground.

Posto provides the baking space and Rosebud provides the pick-up location for online orders. "This is something I've been thinking about for quite a while," says owner Joe Cassinelli. "Creating an online only bakery is a little different, but the marketplace is ready for it. Soon, we'll be delivering with DoorDash and then shipping nationwide. The demand is there."

At 4:00 a.m. on most mornings, executive pastry chef Tali Pinnolis is tucked away in the basement of Posto baking, which

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Executive pastry chef Tali Pinnolis jokes she "spends a lot of time making crusts." From day one, online sales have been "brisk." This has given Elm Street Sweets momentum to expand into new markets such as nationwide shipping and retail sales through local grocery stores.

— Photo by Denise Keniston

ATTN: LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

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This week we mark one year since the passing of **Donald** and **Patricia Norton**. Donald was, of course, the publisher of *The Somerville Times*, a successful real estate agent, and a colorful presence in the city. We miss them both and are thinking of them at this time.

Sign-up deadline for the **Somerville Arts Council's Community Lantern Project: Let the Light Shine Through** is **October 5**. Through the past several months, they have sought to re-imagine how to artfully engage. While we cannot always “be together” we can come together through art. In the coming weeks, they will be inviting people to participate in a community art activity, all from the comfort of your own home. Participants will receive a paper bag to decorate and later return it to the Somerville Arts Council by **October 13**. Bags will be provided for you. Finished lanterns will be on display at the **Ignite Festival** on **October 17**. Since there is a limited amount of materials, advance notification is required. To sign-up and participate, contact **Heather Balchunas** at hbalchunas@somervillema.gov by October 5. When responding to the call, please include “Community Lantern Project” in the subject header. Participants will receive an email where further instructions will be provided.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **AnnMarie Carey-Browne**. We hope she has a great birthday for herself with her great family. Happy birthday to **Karen F. McWatters**, who celebrates this week. We hope she has a great birthday. Happy birthday to **Sal DiDomenico**, who is also celebrating this week. Happy birthday as well to **Mike Capuano**. We wish him a great birthday as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Edward Barry**, **Rick Gaetano**, **Rudy Caruso**, **Terri Monsalve**, **Kevin Driscoll**, **Tobi Sney Makanaki**, **Diane Kerins Conneely**, **Millie Vecchia Curley** and **Danielle Bailey** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of September 30 – October 6 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>September 30</i>	Rain	75°/56°	89%	37%	SSW 21 mph
 Thursday <i>October 1</i>	Sunny	72°/53°	19%	12%	WSW 12 mph
 Friday <i>October 2</i>	Rain	64°/47°	31%	26%	SW 6 mph
 Saturday <i>October 3</i>	Sunny	66°/44°	11%	9%	NW 9 mph
 Sunday <i>October 4</i>	Partly Cloudy	61°/50°	10%	17%	NE 11 mph
 Monday <i>October 5</i>	Cloudy	60°/49°	21%	21%	ENE 12 mph
 Tuesday <i>October 6</i>	Partly Cloudy	61°/49°	20%	18%	W 10 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: *Winter Hill Urban Renewal Plan clears first hurdle*

LindaS says:

Everyone complains about the cars in Somerville. Maybe if they opened these areas up to parking spaces, it would actually help allieviate some of the congestion.

Much of the problem stems from people trying to find parking spaces, or parking on busy streets, where bikes and pedestrians have to worry about not being seen when someone opens their door or pulls out of the space.

There is so much focus on pedestrians and bikes, but if there were more spaces for cars to park off the streets, it would make more of a difference than just shutting down streets to traffic. Plus, the City could get additional revenue, which is something they never turn away from.

It’s bad enough businesses have been leaving the city, but if we can at least repurpose the space to give more cars parking areas, it would become a positive way to allow everyone to move around more safely.

Cars aren’t going anywhere. What we need are more ways to move them out of heavily congested areas so that cars, bikes and pedestrians don’t have to contend with one another.

MC says:

@LindaS – why would encourage MORE cars? don’t you see that as exacerbating an existing challenge.

Arthur Moore says:

The owner will fight this due to the fact he has been screwed over by the city for years. It would be not be right for the eminent domain process to be misused in this case. There is no reason for it. Winter Hill wants a supermarket. That;s all. They can’t even fill up the new building next door as it is. I am glad the owner of the old star has the money to fight it for what is right.

AA says:

Building more parking doesn’t really reduce “congestion”. It’s those “pesky” traffic signals that make everything safe that really creates a line of cars. And unless, you’re willing to give up that safety for when you’re walking around or a car pulling in from a side street — which I guess some people may be as “shoot yourself in the foot” as that is just to get somewhere a minute faster — “conges-tion” won’t ever really go away.

Scooby Doo says:

Phil Privitera... please don’t hold delay this process with a long legal battle. I sincerely hope you get a good price for your properties, but we have waited too long for this much needed redevelopment, and building around your properties is not the answer, as you well know. Let’s move forward quickly, with wins for everyone.

Log onto *TheSomervilleTimes.com* to leave your own comments

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Life in the

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The Spirit of America

 by Jimmy Del Ponte

Filene's Basement



Growing up in Somerville in the 50's and 70's gave us endless memories. It was quite an ordeal for my mom to bring her three kids to downtown Boston on the subway. We had to get the bus to Lechmere and then take a train to Park Street, and later on, Downtown Crossing.

Remember the orange trolleys with the plushy padded seats? I recall the crowded seats, that distinct subway smell, and the loud squealing as we went around corners far below the city. When we emerged from the subway it was all hands-on mom as she guided her three toddlers off the train and into the store. These are some of my personal recollections, here are some from a few Somerville friends:



"I don't know if there were fitting rooms but women were trying clothes on right there where they found them and didn't care who was walking around."

"I thought it was my second home, especially with a mom who had to clothe eight kids. I thought irregular was a name brand."

"My mother worked in the Men's Store for 25 years. When I was a kid, I was dressed out of Filene's Basement. She watched the markdowns and usually got things for next to nothing."

"I remember going into the subway and getting a dozen Jordan Marsh Blueberry Muffins all the time. So darn good!"

"I remember standing in line with my mom and brother as very little kids, waiting for the gates to open on sale day. She would tuck us into a cabinet in the store and shop!"

"I had a Burberry raincoat at the age of 12, designer clothes and shoes purchased lovingly by my mom until they closed. I miss Filene's more than anything else in Boston!"

"I worked in the Basement (Men's Shirts) in the early 70s. *Continued on page 13*"

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We ask you to bear with us while we follow established guidelines. The safety of our patrons and employees remain our number one priority as we continue to operate and maintain our small business during this difficult time.

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THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

The steak knife and the law

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to Earl's Kitchen at Assembly Row last week on reports of an assault involving a knife.

Upon arrival, an officer was flagged down by a witness, and the victim. They told the officer that a white male pulled a knife on the victim, who was then struck with a closed fist by a second male. The victim declined medical attention.

Police located a suspect matching the description provided by the victim and witness outside of Earl's Kitchen and detained

him for further investigation.

According to the victim's statement, he parked his vehicle in front of Earl's Kitchen and went into the restaurant with his companion – the witness – and watched the football game.

Upon leaving, the victim and witness entered the vehicle and began to back up in order to pull out of the parking spot. During this maneuver, they observed a group of three males attempting to gain their attention from inside the restaurant. These three males were seated at a table near the window, and

began showing "gang signs," according to the victim.

Parked behind their vehicle, illegally, was a motorcycle, and the victim wondered if they accidentally struck it. The victim and his companion exited the vehicle and confirmed they did not strike the motorcycle.

During this time, the suspect, later identified as Adam Ackerley, reportedly exited the restaurant with a knife in his left hand, held down by his side.

According to reports, Ackerley approached the victim and said said that he would kill him, at

which time the witness took off running toward Tony C's.

As the victim was pinned against his vehicle by Ackerley, a second suspect struck him in the face with a closed fist. The victim was able to enter his vehicle and flee onto Artisan Way.

Ackerley reportedly denied to police that this confrontation took place, and that he never exited the restaurant. Ackerley later reportedly stated he did go outside, but didn't hurt anyone.

Ackerley also initially stated he was alone in the restaurant and did not sit with anyone. He lat-

er changed his story and stated that he was sitting at a table with two males he did not know.

The waitress that was serving Ackerley did not wish to be identified, but reportedly said the three males were together, and one did order a steak with which a steak knife was delivered with the meal. The knife was cleared from the table after the confrontation after it was unknowingly used in an assault.

Ackerley was placed under arrest and taken to the Police station for booking on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

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Thank you for your assistance.

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:				
Adam Ackerley, September 21, 10:34 p.m., arrested at Assembly Row on a charge of as-	sault with a dangerous weapon.	charges of receiving a stolen motor vehicle and resisting arrest.	Hwy. on a warrant charge of assault and battery on a person over 60 or disabled.	September 27, 11:10 p.m., arrested at Sydney St. on warrant charges of receiving a stolen motor vehicle and resisting arrest.
Lennox Pierre-Louis, of Brighton, September 23, 9:16 p.m., arrested at MacArthur St. on	Steve Milice, September 26, 6:38 p.m., arrested at McGrath	Michael Killoren, of Malden,		

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Rodent Issues Special Committee proposes updated IPM plan

CONT. FROM PG 1

"Rodent control is, of course, a multi-department issue in Somerville," Ewen-Campen said. The new IPM system is to facilitate coordination between departments – including The Board of Health, Health Department, Inspectional Services Division, Constituent Services (311) and other city departments – and integrate data sources into rodent control efforts, according to Somerville Environmental Health Coordinator Georgianna Silveira. She is a new member of the committee.

Committee members suggested that calling 311 is the easiest way if you want to report a rat-related problem. "If there

are additional questions that need to be asked, or you haven't gotten a response that is being inspected," said Antanavica Nick, Director of Inspectional Services, "Then at any point, you can contact Georgianna or myself, and we will be able to address those concerns, to get the immediate response and the direct action."

The baiting or trapping is done once a week on Thursday, so if a resident calls earlier in the week or on a Friday or Saturday, then they may have to wait until next Thursday, Nick explained. He said that they are making efforts to increase the amount of time they go out and take action, maybe to twice a

week as needed.

When it comes to reporting a chewed barrel and having it replaced, attendees emphasized that related staff will investigate the issue, and give warnings and instructions to the person who should be responsible for it. The ticket will only be issued if the person takes no further steps to address the issue, Silveira added.

Another important part of the IPM plan is to expand the baiting program to non-owner-occupied properties. The restriction that only owner-occupied properties are available for the baiting program leaves out at least 50 percent of the parcels in the city, Silveira said.

For renters who apply for the

baiting service from the city, city staff will request the sign off from property owners and go to properties getting required signatures from tenants, Silveira said. The program involves the use of toxic substances, specifically rat poison, so tenants need to understand the pros and cons of the process, and come to an agreement with related staffers, she added.

One of the concerns is about how to protect tenants if they want to reach out to the city and get the baiting service without having a conflict with their landlords. Silveira added that this is a free service without punitive properties for landlords. Also, city staffers are

mindful of the language they are using in the communication process. They will not identify the tenants who make reports to landlords. Instead, they will use language like, "We've seen an increase in activity in the neighborhood. We're baiting a number of properties. We'd like to include your place here," Ewen-Campen summarized.

Ewen-Campen also suggested that informing tenants of their legal rights can help them get a leg up in their conversations with landlords. "They have a legal right to a pest-free house," he added. "They are legally in the right. And if they were to reach out to a lawyer, they could defend themselves.

Local band nominated for award

Mallcops, Somerville’s own “emotional rockstars,” have been nominated in four categories for the 2020 Boston Music Awards. The nods include Album of the Year, Breakthrough Artist of the Year, Punk/Hardcore Artist of the Year, and Music Artwork of the Year. The awards ceremony has been celebrating rising stars in the Boston music scene since 1987. Past-winners include Donna Summer, Aerosmith, Boston, Shea Rose, Amanda Palmer, Phish, and James Taylor

Mallcops’ nominations come after the release of their debut album *We Made Plans to Self-Destruct and Return to the Stars* earlier this year on Motelbrain Records and Deep Sea Records.

The rock quartet features Daniel Donovan, Tyler Graham, and Somerville natives Jimmy and Joey Del, sons of The Somerville Time’s columnist Jimmy Del Ponte.

Formed in 2014 as teenagers, the group has relied on social media and word-of-mouth to help them amass a worldwide fanbase and hundreds of thousands of streams.

Until COVID-19, Mallcops had been hard at work regularly performing across New England at underground basement shows, local rock-hotspots like The ONCE Lounge, and larger venues like The House Of Blues Boston and Brighton Music Hall, where they played a sold-out show last year opening for Floridan pop-punk band We The Kings. Mallcops has embarked on multiple self-booked North American tours, includ-



Local favorites Mallcops are up for several awards at the upcoming 2020 Boston Music Awards.

ing a Canadian run.

They are joined this year by many other up-and-coming Boston musicians including Anjimile, Luke Bar\$, Clairo, Cliff Notez, Saint Lyor, Red Shaydez, The Ballroom Thieves, and more.

Voting is open to the public via bostonmusicawards.com/vote, and runs until 11:59 p.m. (EST) on November 1. Win-

ners will be announced virtually on December 11, with prohibitions on public gatherings still in effect due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

You can vote at www.boston-musicawards.com/vote and listen to the new album from Mallcops at MallcopsMA.bandcamp.com. Mallcops music is also available on Spotify and Apple Music.



Mallcops’ debut album *We Made Plans to Self-Destruct and Return to the Stars*.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #214

The Conway Complex

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Conway Park celebrates the memory of Somerville’s United States Army hero, Sergeant Patrick Conway, who was killed in action during World War I. Patrick was an immigrant, born in County Galway, Ireland, and is buried in the American Cemetery at Lorraine, France.



Today, his legacy stands tall in a captivating grove of multicolored historic signs sprinkled in the park along Somerville Avenue. In 2000, the site was a dirt park and a previous metal smelting plant. The formerly polluted grounds are now the epicenter of sports, recreation and relaxation for all ages.

It has been 20 years since this Flagship of the Somerville Park System sailed into the city. At that time, “You can’t change lead into gold” were buzz-words. The city, concerned citizens and dedicated volunteers proved that to be wrong. The following is a sampling of the dozens of interpretive signs at the park that acknowledge and honor Somerville residents and events:



♦ Two of Somerville’s bravest and finest ... decorated Firefighter Patrick Sullivan, Jr. and decorated Police Officer John Conway.



♦ Bobby Boris Pickett, Captain of Somerville High School’s Basketball team and author of the song, *Monster Mash*.

♦ United States Marine Sergeant Henry Hansen helped raise the first two American flags on the island of Iwo Jima during World War II. They were the first

Continued on page 12

Treasure Hunting with Bob

BY BOB ADAMS



Bags and jars of jewelry

Hi All. Almost every store I hunt runs into a problem with the hundreds of pounds of jewelry that they receive. It’s tedious sorting and tagging jewelry, most of which is costume. Most. Not all. Some of the donations are valuable gold, silver and platinum items. And that’s where I can make a buck.

I look at the clear jars of stuff jammed in there. Sometimes I can see a gold piece (single earring, broken chain, ring, pearl necklace, etc.) floating around inside. One small gold earring will pay for the whole jar and the rest is gravy.

Once, I bought a small bag of coins for \$3 and found a full British gold sovereign inside. It was worth \$300 at the time. I grab the most valuable stuff, re-bag the rest and sell it at my booth in Cambridge.

The stores get overwhelmed and can’t process it all properly. So, they toss it in big vases, plastic bags, anything just so they can move

the quantity of stuff they get. The Goodwill sold me two large bins (50 lbs. each) for \$800 a while back. I found \$3,000 worth of gold and silver in them.

Today, at another store, I bought a jar with a sterling charm bracelet and possibly a gold bracelet. I haven’t opened it yet. I have an idea to open the jars and bags on camera for a YouTube site. I have some jars saved up, camera and lighting equipment. I just need someone to teach me how to edit it down to make a nice video. Anyone out there interested? I’m in Davis Square. Thanks.

Bob Adams has been in Somerville 27 years but was a frequent visitor prior to moving here. He worked as a jeweler in a few shops in his younger years, owned his own shop for a bit, sold real estate for 10 years and is always hunting for his next treasure. He has been an antique and collectibles dealer for 30 years. He can be reached at 27winter@gmail.com. Visit his website at www.Somerville.com.

A BLM mural in Magoun Square

By Toby Sklute

A local organization has created a Black Lives Matter mural in the middle of Magoun Square. Work began on Saturday and was completed on Sunday afternoon.

The group, Just Us, consists of approximately 50 members, and was formed in June of this year as a direct response to the civil unrest that has permeated the country and the news. Initially, events put together by the organization were limited to candlelight vigils as a form of both acknowledgement and peaceful protest against police brutality.

“We started having candle vigils at the East Somerville Library,” said Nelson Salazar, co-founder of Just Us. “Then we had a march and a rally, and a Juneteenth event. So, we’ve had a series of events.”

Magoun Square was chosen as the location for the mural due to the area’s presence of businesses owned by people of color, and because it is a spot that Salazar believes deserves more attention in the community.

“At Davis Square there are a lot of events, a lot of events in Union Square, but Magoun is ignored. By doing the mural here, hopefully we can generate more events here,” Salazar added.

The crew working on the mural, consisted of roughly 70 vol-

unteers, but for safety purposes related to Covid, were broken out into smaller groups for an allotted period of time mapped out and scheduled. The work took place from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. The project has the full support of both the Mayor’s Office and the Somerville Police Department, with officers on location to direct traffic in the busy intersection.

The community reaction surrounding the event appears positive. Cars honked their horns in support as they passed the fenced in enclosure where the bold, bright yellow paint color that has become synonymous with the BLM movement began to take shape. However, the occasional jeer of derision from passers-by was unmistakable and do not go unnoticed.

Steve Flythe, a Somerville resident who was originally approached to create the concept of the mural, instead opted to help spearhead an effort to locate and hire muralists whose talents are in line with what he considers appropriate for a task of this importance.

“We wanted a local, black indigenous person of color to create the mural. There are some really talented muralists who do that full time, and we wanted the mural to be very professionally done, and managed,” Flythe said. After bidding out the project, local artists An-



— Photos by Bobbie Toner



thony Araujo and Zahara Butt were hired to create the design.

Just Us doesn’t intend for the mural to be their last endeavor in working to draw attention within the community to racial injustice. Future plans for the organization will be discussed

soon. What Flythe defines as a “listening session” will be held in the coming weeks to discuss the next steps.

“We haven’t framed it all out. Marches. Vigils. Finding ways to create resources for classrooms for virtual learning. I told Nel-

son, rest up Sunday, because Monday we’re right back at this.”

As he got up to return to the task at hand, a woman on a nearby bench asked if we knew what they’re painting. “Black Lives mural,” Steve responded.

“That’s good,” the woman said.

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.

Dear Mr. Connolly,

Like you, I am a life-long resident of Somerville who remembers the transformation of Davis Square in the 80s and 90s. And, like you, I am concerned about the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the small businesses and restaurants of Somerville. However, it seems like that is where the similarities end.

I strongly disagree that the police are the appropriate service to deal with the situation you describe in Davis. You describe Davis Square as being in distress, but in fact, it seems like these individuals are also in distress, and that health and human services is exactly what they need. It is important to point out that homelessness is NOT a crime; mental illness is NOT a crime; and addiction is NOT a crime, although we often criminalize the

circumstances and behaviors associated with them.

As a former librarian and current LIS educator, I know full well that front-line and public services workers are often instructed to call the police for situations like the ones you describe, not because the police are the best or most appropriate responders, but because they are the only responders that have been made available. This practice is especially problematic because oftentimes folks experiencing the issues described here are also part of other marginalized communities, including those who are routinely profiled and targeted by law enforcement. In fact, I find the implication that folks who are homeless, mentally ill, or suffering from addiction are best handled by “uniformed police officer who possess weapons” deeply troubling. I would have fervently hoped that after all of the attention brought to

this issue by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and so many others, we would be so much more careful about advocating for the use of force by police, never mind suggesting that having weapons is equated with greater safety.

Folks who are homeless, mentally ill, or suffering from addiction need compassion, support, and resources best delivered by people who are trained in these areas. And to that end, I am also deeply troubled by your question of “how many health and human service staff are working nights and weekends?” I have a close family member who works for Boston Health Care for the Homeless, as well as many friends and family who work in public health, social services, etc. and I can assure you that they do, indeed, work nights, weekends, and really all hours of the day, every day of the year—including, for one small example, taking a census

of homeless people in Boston overnight during the month of January. If health and human services are not available in this city all of the days and hours we need them, it is only for lack of funding ... which, I suppose brings us to the central argument. You suggest that cuts to the police budget will worsen the problems you describe. I believe that restructuring funding to bolster health and human services will improve that situation far more than increased police presence. Somerville today is a much richer and better-positioned city than it was when I was growing up. I would like to think it is also a more compassionate one. I cannot believe that we can’t have both public safety and public health.

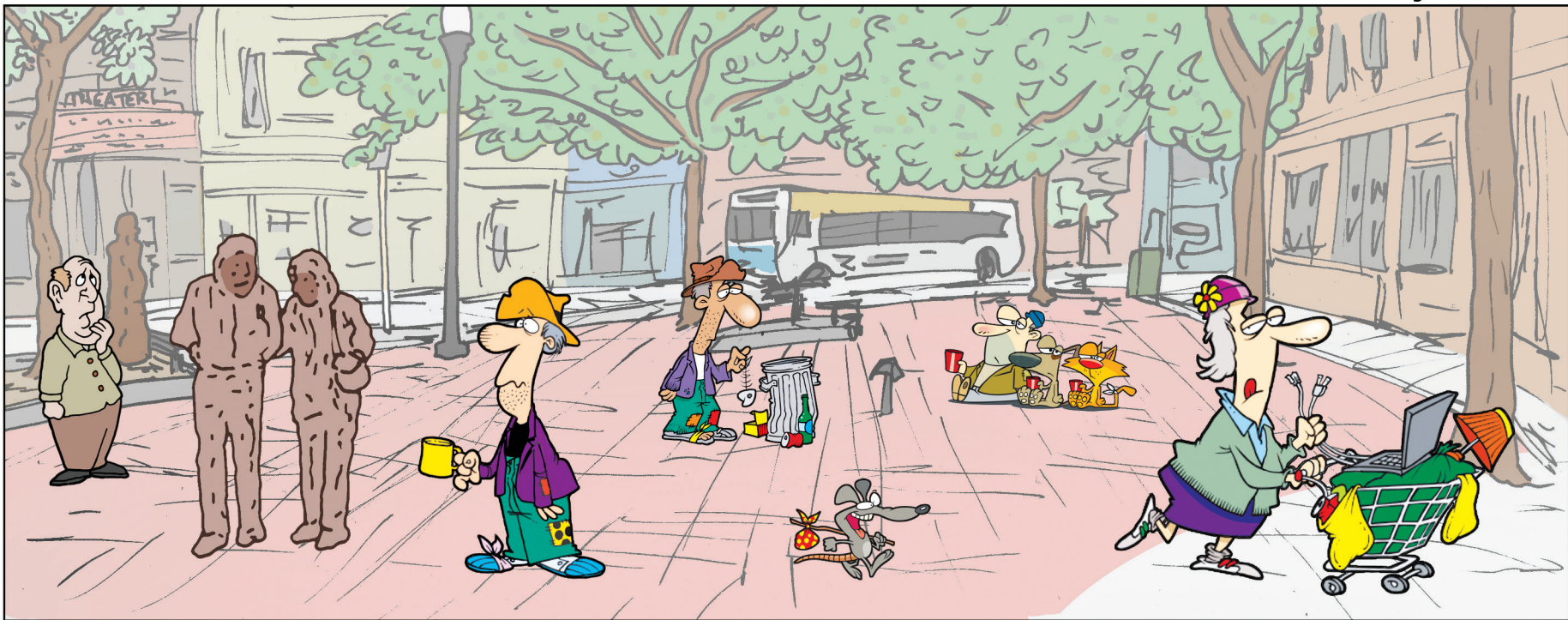
Sincerely,
Laura Saunders
Ward 1 Resident

Be sure to visit us online at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

COMMENTARY

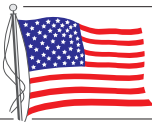
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Should homelessness in Davis Sq. be criminalized?

Our View Of The Times



Knowing what to do – if anything – about occupation of public spaces by the homeless is a complex issue.

Most of us feel compassion for these people, but few can offer viable solutions to both their needs and the public interest in keeping these spaces safe and uncluttered.

The latest flap over a noticeable increase of homeless individuals congregating in Davis Sq. has many of us debating what would be the best way to handle the situation.

Some propose that the police should step in and disperse these people, while others argue that compassionate intervention is the better way to go, by way of seeking to establish more shelters, work programs, etc. Yet others say they are not bothered by it at all and express the opinion that these people should just be left alone, since they don't seem to be acting in any aggressive or destructive manner.

One thing is certain, these folks have a right to exist and that existence needs to exist somewhere. If they are moved out of Davis they will simply have to go to some other part of the city, and then somewhere else if they are driven away from there. It's a Whack-A-Mole situation.

In a perfect world we might have better solutions right at hand. Shelters and jobs programs need funding. At this particular time the American economy is already strained to the near breaking point. And yet for years the same issue has persisted, in good economic times and bad. It's been a very long time, in fact.

Clearly, an effective and equitable solution is long overdue. Let's work on it.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Members of the public are invited to attend and speak at two virtual public hearings on Wednesday, September 30, at 6:00 p.m. both regarding the processes for enforcing zoning requirements. On the Order of Councilor Jesse Clingan, Chair of the Committee, the City Council's Committee on Public Utilities and Public Works Committee of the Whole will accept public testimony on the following: First hearing by City Council Order #210595: the process for ensuring that all conditions of a Special Permit are met prior to the final signoff by the Inspectional Services Department and the issuance of a certificate of occupancy; Second hearing by City Council Order#210596: the process for ensuring developers' compliance with the conditions of Special Permits and the Inspectional Services Department's enforcement of those conditions. More info and instructions for attending at <https://www.somervillema.gov/events/2020/09/30/public-hearings-enforcement-zoning-requirements>.

The City of Somerville Health and Human Services will be offering free outdoor walk up or drive-thru options for your vaccine this flu season. All clinics are by appointment only and you can find the dates and instructions on how to register at www.somervillema.gov/flu. Clinics are for anyone ages three and up, with or without health insurance. If you have insurance, we do ask that you bring your card to the clinic when you come for your appointment. They also offer high dose vaccine for those who are 65+.

Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott, and city staff invite you to a virtual community meeting to discuss a pilot project that would install quick-build bus and bike lanes this fall on Washington Street between Beacon Street and Union Square. In partnership with the MBTA, the city seeks to deploy low-cost mobility solutions to quickly improve bus service for essential workers and other transit riders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dedicated bus lanes can help meet current public health needs by shortening ride times and reducing crowding. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7, at 6:30 p.m. on the GoToMeeting webinar platform. To register for the meeting and to learn more about this project and other quick-build bus and bike lanes, visit somervoice.somervillema.gov/quick-build-bus-lanes.

The 6th Annual Evolution of HipHop Video Festival takes place on October 3, 3:30 p.m. – 11 p.m. Check out the following videos prior to Saturday: MA Rock Against Racism Rockumentary and Raperteers video (1984). The following videos will be centered around the following videos so please watch when you have a few minutes to prepare yourself. Video one: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1faXwcHehkG77s-JdPFMe0UMpJxxmiBYqW/view?usp=sharing>. Video two: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBPk918i-jkiZJGj0ZJv7dqZVjVRs5QR6?usp=sharing>. For Saturday's schedule go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/2502289186754374/>.

LEGOLAND® Discovery Center Boston at Assembly Row is reopening on Thursday, October 1. Due to local health restrictions, Factory Tour, 4D Movie Theater, Café, DUPLO Farm House and LEGO City Play Zone areas are temporarily closed. Please visit their Bricktastic Safety Page for details <https://boston.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/bricktastic-safety/>.

This is a time of year when we get a lot of new residents. You can find a comprehensive guide for new residents at somervillema.gov/moving. You can also stay on top of our local COVID-19 information at somervillema.gov/covid19. Don't forget to sign up for city alerts at somervillema.gov/alerts.

Like everything else, this year will look a little different. The 25th Annual Somerville 5K Road Race will be held over the long weekend of Friday, October 9 – Monday, October 12 with a virtual twist; you choose your exercise. Run, walk, bike or hike, you've got it covered. Choose your preferred method and go alone or gather your family or even your dog. Feel good and do good together. For the course, the world is your oyster and the choice is yours. Need to be inspired? Routes will be communicated soon! To register for the race, go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/>

Continued on page 13

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#750

1. The Palmer method is the method of what?

2. An American Family is a television documentary about what family?

3. Who said "Only the little people pay taxes"?

4. The mood ring was one of the biggest fashion fads of what decade?

5. What was the name of the bride in My Big Fat Greek Wedding?

6. What song had a dance called a "grave-

yard smash"?

7. What does V.D.B. mean on a Lincoln penny?

8. How many movies did James Dean star in?

9. What rapper's real name is Andre Romelle Young?

10. What airlines used the song Up Up and Away in their commercials?

11. Who invented the Cobb Salad?

12. What are the lyrics to U2's Sometimes You Can't Make It on Your Own about?

Answers on page 13

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Of all the words in the English language, the word "set" has the most definitions.
2. A bolt of lighting can strike the earth with a force as great as 100 million volts.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD
IN THE KITCHEN

ACROSS

1. Capital of Ghana
6. Paris in Tour de France
9. Wild ox of India
13. Admiral's group
14. "Mele Kalikimaka" wreath
15. Julian Barnes' "The ____ of an Ending"
16. Telephone company
17. Acronym in a bottle
18. Birth-related
19. Set briefly on fire
21. Separate solids from fat in melted butter
23. Crusty dessert
24. Uncouth person
25. Westminster broadcaster, acronym
28. Coffee break spot
30. Scald quickly in boiling water
35. Like desert
37. Like Civil War reenactment battle
39. Like old chips
40. Delhi dress
41. Subculture language
43. Good or bad it emanates from stoves
44. "As the World ____"
46. Like Jekyll and Hyde's personality
47. This over matter?
48. Encryption device, a.k.a. ____ machine
50. Practice in the ring
52. Low-____ image
53. Competitive advantage
55. NBA coach "____" Rivers
57. Dissolve browned food bits with liquids
61. Thicken by simmering
64. Love, to Catherine Deneuve
65. Pigeon sound
67. Pianist's exercise
69. Resembling a fish
70. Hawaiian Mauna
71. Smart candy?
72. Tire swing holder
73. Bruin legend Bobby
74. Yummy reward

DOWN

CROSSWORD											
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10
13						14				15	
16						17				18	
	19				20			21	22		
			23				24				
25	26	27		28		29			30	31	32
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48					49		50			51	52
				53		54			55	56	
57	58	59	60					61			62
64						65	66			67	68
69						70				71	
72						73				74	

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1. Back of the boat
2. Staff symbol
3. Text messenger
4. Short version
5. Like number 1 to hydrogen
6. Besides
7. Opposite of paleo-
8. '70s music genre
9. Wheel in grandfather clock
10. ____-perspirant
11. Defender of skies
12. Count on
15. Growls angrily
20. What lighthouse does
22. Williams sister's return
24. On account of
25. Turkey action
26. Hitler's Eva
27. Wispy clouds
29. Incorporate an ingredient
31. Niels Bohr's study object

32. Rock bottom
33. Star Wars attacker
34. Shepherds' flocks
36. Sound at door
38. ____sack
42. Clearing in the woods
45. Viscous
49. Wood-shaping tool
51. Capybara, e.g.
54. GEICO's mascot
56. Like a button, but more so
57. Cuckoo
58. Dubai dignitary
59. Departed
60. Debussy's "Clair de ____"
61. Serengeti sound
62. Preserve by adding salt
63. Old Norse texts
66. "____ the ramparts..."
68. D.C. time.

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Soulution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Soulution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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


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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEGAL NOTICE - HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The **Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)** will hold a public meeting and public hearings on **Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6:45pm** on the following applications, in accordance with the Historic Districts Act, Chapter 40C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, and/or the City of Somerville Code of Ordinances, Pt. II, Chap. 7, Sections 7-16 – 7-28.

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

TO USE A COMPUTER

Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7782818700112349710>
Webinar ID: 140-249-579

TO CALL IN

Phone #: +1 (562) 247-8422
Access code: 567-490-798

DETERMINATIONS OF APPROPRIATENESS (PUBLIC HEARINGS)

HPC.ALT 2020.38 – 145 Central Street
Applicant: Josh Safdie
Owner: same as applicant
Extend decorative wood fence.

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

HPC.DMO 2020.21 – 211 Holland Street
Applicant: Silva Realty 8, LLC
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2020.22 – 213 Holland Street
Applicant: Silva Realty 8, LLC
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2020.23 – 872 Broadway
Applicant: Stephen Cafferky
Owner: Elan Sassoon
Demolish principal structure


DETERMINATIONS OF "PREFERABLY PRESERVED" (STEP 2 IN THE DEMOLITION REVIEW PROCESS) (Public Hearings)

HPC.DMO 2020.19 – 24 Webster Avenue
Applicant: The 24 Webster Building Trust
Owner: same as applicant
Demolish principal structure

HPC.DMO 2020.20 – 13 Clyde Street
Applicant: Scott Zink
Owner: Clyde St, LLC / Scott Zink
Demolish principal structure

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

9/30/20 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

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

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

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/788149036425885456>
Webinar ID: 449-700-339

TO CALL IN

Phone number: +1 (562) 247-8321
Access code: 215-369-213


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

(PB 2017-05-R2-09/20)
455 Grand Union Boulevard (Block 5B) - Applicant PUMA North America Inc. proposes to construct rooftop signage in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use District (ASMD) under §6.4.14 as a revision to a Special Permit with Site Plan Review-A (SPSR-A).

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

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

9/30/20 The Somerville Times



City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6:00pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

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

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5061834185286504715>
Webinar ID: 480-998-803

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0060
Access code: 770-122-675


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

34 St. James Ave Applicants and Owners, Mona Kotecha and Nikhil Shanbhag, request the removal of condition #10 from the previously-granted special permit ZBA 2013-39.

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

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

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SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY
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Telephone (617) 625-1152

Web: www.sha-web.org

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Project Manager: Travis Panzini

The Somerville Housing Authority invites Quotes from contractors to complete the Capen Court HVAC Controls Upgrades at 1 Capen Court in Somerville, MA.

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


A walkthrough will be held at **10:00AM on Thursday, October 15th, 2020**.

Quote packages will be available Thursday, October 8th, 2020. Please email Travis Panzini at travisp@sha-web.org to request a quote package.

Quotes must be received no later than **2:00PM on Thursday, October 22nd, 2020** by preferred method of email to travisp@sha-web.org.

Questions should be directed to Travis Panzini at 617-625-1152 x 330

9/30//20 The Somerville Times



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 21-21

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


Flexible Spending Account Administration

A RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> or from the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **Wednesday, September 30, 2020**. Sealed proposals will be received at the above office or via Bid Express until: **2:00 PM, Thursday, October 15, 2020**. 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 email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Procurement Analyst
617-625-6600 x. 3400

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Project Manager: Travis Panzini

The Somerville Housing Authority the Awarding Authority, invites quotes from Vendors for the Elderly 667-4, Development for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by SHA Modernization Department

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


The work is estimated to cost **\$ 49,000.00**

Quote packages will be available after 11:00AM on Thursday, October 8th, 2020. Please email Travis Panzini at travisp@sha-web.org to request a quote package.

Quotes must be received no later than 2:00PM on Thursday, October 22nd, 2020 by preferred method of email to travisp@sha-web.org.

Questions should be directed to Travis Panzini at 617-625-1152 x 330

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Project Manager: Travis Panzini

The Somerville Housing Authority invites bids for a Three-Year Service Contract for Corian Shower Surrounds and Installation for the Federal Elderly Housing Developments in Somerville, MA.

Bids are subject to Davis-Bacon Rates.

Bid packages will be available after **11:00AM on Thursday, October 8th, 2020**. Please email Travis Panzini at travisp@sha-web.org to request a bid package.

Bids must be received no later than **2:00PM on Thursday, October 22nd, 2020** by preferred method of email to travisp@sha-web.org.

Questions should be directed to Travis Panzini at 617-625-1152 x 330

9/30//20 The Somerville Times

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to collocate antennas at a centerline height of 47.5-feet on a building whose highest appurtenance is approximately 55.5 feet above ground level. The top of the building's roof is 40.5 feet above ground level, and there is an existing equipment shelter 54.5 feet above ground level. The building is located at 51 McGrath Highway, Somerville, Middlesex, Massachusetts 02143. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30-days from the date of this publication to: Project 6120008218 - JD c/o EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, jdrayer@ebiconsulting.com, or via telephone at (727) 332-1595.

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Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 5



foreign flags ever to be raised over Japanese territory.

- The world's first outside telephone line was installed at One Arlington Street in Somerville.
- Mary Tyler spent her adult life in Somerville. She and her lamb were the objects of the famous nursery rhyme, *Mary Had A Little Lamb*.
- The Ford Motor Company in Assembly Square produced 1,338,652 cars from 1926 to 1958. The first to roll off the assembly line was Henry Ford's Model-T and the last 400 were his son Edsel's model, The Edsel.
- Somerville native Harry Ellis Dickson for many years was the Boston Symphony Orchestra Conductor and

the father-in-law of Massachusetts' Governor Michael Dukakis. The music room at the Winter Hill Community School honors him.

- Harold "Pie" Traynor became the best third baseman in Major League Baseball for ten years straight playing for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He then spent the rest of his career managing that team.
- Famous actress Bette Davis lived in Teele Square and Davis Square. She gave Hollywood actors the name "Oscar" for their Academy Awards.

It was here in this park that the hidden history of Marshmallow Fluff was announced and reborn. The Somerville inventor, Archibald Query, would be proud.



BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris

What's the best part about living in Switzerland?
I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.

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Virtual meeting to discuss plans to add quick-build bus and bike lanes on Washington St.

Somerville Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott, and City staff invite you to a virtual community meeting to discuss a pilot project that would install quick-build bus and bike lanes this fall on Washington Street between Beacon Street and Union Square.

In partnership with the MBTA, the City seeks to deploy low-cost mobility solutions to quickly improve bus service for essential workers and other transit riders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dedicated bus lanes can help meet current public health needs by shortening ride times and reducing crowding.

The Route 86 bus, which travels on the western portion of Washington Street in Somerville, has sustained high ridership throughout the coronavirus emergency. To build safer facilities for all users in this corridor, City and MBTA staff have developed plans for a pilot project that includes:

- New bus-priority lanes that let buses bypass waiting traffic at busy intersections.
- Protected bike lanes along sections of the corridor.
- Narrowed travel lanes to deter speeding and improve safety for all road users.

The proposed bus-priority lane could require the repurposing of up to 66 on-street parking spaces, or about half the available inventory in that section of Washington Street. City staff will develop a final plan based on feedback from community stakeholders.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7, at 6:30 p.m. on the GoTo-Meeting webinar platform. To register for the meeting and to learn more about this project and other quick-build bus and bike lanes, visit somervoice.somervillema.gov/quick-build-bus-lanes.



'Different Kind of School Year'

As Somerville students prepared for the start of a different kind of school year, community partners including Cradles to Crayons, Staples, and Kiss108 were ready to help make the transition a little bit easier with donations of backpacks, school supplies, and additional Chromebooks.

With 2,400 backpacks and accompanying school supplies from Cradles to Crayons, 385 student supply kits from Staples, and support from Kiss108 for the purchase of additional Chromebooks through their Chromebooks for Kids program, SPS students are off to a great start. Thanks to the many partners in education for supporting Somerville students.

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On This Day in History
September 30

- 1630 – John Billington, an original pilgrims who sailed to the New World on the *Mayflower*, becomes the first man executed in the English colonies.
- 1846 – The first anesthetized tooth extraction is performed by Dr. William Morton in Charleston, Massachusetts.
- 1927 – Babe Ruth hits his 60th home run of the season off Tom Zachary in Yankee Stadium, New York City.
- 1935 – George Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess* opens at the Colonial Theatre in Boston.
- 1943 – The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps becomes the Women's Army Corps
- 1954 – NATO nations agree to arm and admit West Germany.
- 1955 – Actor and teen idol James Dean is killed in a car crash
- 1965 – President Lyndon Johnson signs legislation that establishes the National Foundation for the Arts and the Humanities.

Get a taste of East Somerville with 'Meal of Fortune Week'

By Denise Keniston
tw:@denisekeniston

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 has pretty much touched everything and anything that has to do with restaurants, and that includes East Somerville Main Streets' much-loved Foodie Crawl, taking place every September.

Out of necessity, organizers are changing things up this year and rolling out a foodie week compliant with state COVID-19 rules. Meal of Fortune Week will offer food lovers a fun and flavorful event.

"We've created an exciting and delicious food experience that's as fun as Foodie Crawl. It's just different," says Executive Dir. Jennifer Atwood. "Foodies will have access to the same wide-variety of cuisines from around the world that East Somerville is known for, only this year it's a Surprise Meal for dine-in, pick-up or delivery."

This is how it works, foodies. First, you'll need to go online and purchase a ticket which covers the cost of your meal. \$25,

\$50, and \$100 orders cover one person, two people and four people, respectively. You'll be asked to fill out a Flavor Profile Quiz that asks you questions like, "Do you prefer sweet or savory food" and "How adventurous are you with your food choices?"

Volunteers evaluate your answers and match you with the perfect restaurant. Your Surprise Meal will be made especially for you with your preferences in mind.

Somerville resident Darlene Greene says she'll miss the annual Foodie Crawl, but she's excited for her meal and she's curious what volunteers will end up delivering. "I want to support the restaurants of East Somerville right now," she says. "I know they are struggling and it's a really hard time for them. Plus, the food in East Somerville is always great no matter where you go."

Participating restaurants are Rincon Mexicano (Taco Tuesday is legend), Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine (if you're in the mood for grilled meats), Lotus Express (spicy wontons and crab



Meal of Fortune Week replaces the Foodie Crawl of past years, but the experience and delicious world cuisines are still available. Support your local restaurants! — Photo by Denise Keniston

Rangoon are standouts), Vinny's at Night (try the beef braciola), Mount Verson Restaurant (an extensive wine list), Low Paisanos (the tostones are just like Grandma's), Montecristo (the Monte Christo is a standout).

Other participating restaurants include La Brasa, Fat Hen, and Fasika. "I think the Surprise Meal is a great idea," says Rincon Mexicano owner Lorenzo Reyes. He adds, "We know it's different this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the food is always delicious no matter where you order it from in East Somerville. Restaurants can really use your support right now"

A 15-20% tip will be added for restaurant staff and a delivery fee will be charged if you choose the delivery option. Meal of Fortune Week runs from September 28 to October 4. Go to <https://www.eastsomerville-mainstreets.org/fortune-meal-week> to get your ticket and support local restaurants.

Filene's Basement CONT. FROM PG 3

It was a fun place to work. In the early 80s I ended up working in the corporate offices on Innerbelt Road, for the VP who bought the 'overstocks,' including bridal gowns. My mother got her wedding gown there in 1950! We would see something we liked and watch it until the automatic mark-downs brought the price down. Even my father did that! It was a great store. Still can't believe it's gone."

"I remember when they used to have the discounted gowns. Crazy, everyone

just trying them on in the aisles. Price was right."

"Every year for back to school shopping, then lunch at Bob Lee's Islander!"

"My sister worked there and got her wedding dress for like \$6.95 and it was from The House of Bianchi (not sure on the spelling) it was a very high end bridal boutique in Boston back in the day."

We all have our own special memories of Filene's Basement, whether it was the crowds of anxious bargain hunters or the subway ride. I was amazed at how

many of my Somerville friends chimed in with their special memories of Filene's Basement. For me, I can still smell the fragrance department, and I remember the looks on the faces of frenzied bargain hunting crowds.

I still don't know how my mother got three kids dressed in winter clothes, to the bus stop, onto the train, into the bustling store, and back home in one piece. Those trips to Filene's Basement with my mother, sister and brother have a special place in my heart.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

MA/Somerville/Somerville5KDetourRace.

If you are not **registered to vote**, or need to update your address or party affiliation, you have until **Saturday, October 24**, to do so. Visit the city website at www.somervillema.gov/elections or the state website at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elefv/howreg.htm to learn more about your options for registering. **October 28** is the last day for your vote by mail application to be received

by the **Elections Office**.

#WearAMask to protect your friends and family. Wear one for the people in your community you don't know you're connected to: the friend of a friend, the elderly neighbor, the person with an underlying condition who shops at your grocery store.

Reminder: **city buildings** are still closed to the public. Although city buildings remain

closed to the public, a number of city services are still available online or by calling 311. Check the "City Service Status" tab on the city's COVID-19 page for more information.

Don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a **digital edition** of our paper, go directly online to our website over to the right side and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.

Ms. Cam's Olio

Answers

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Penmanship | 8. Three |
| 2. The Loud family | 9. Dr. Dre |
| 3. Leona Helmsley | 10. TWA |
| 4. 70's | 11. Robert Howard Cobb, of Hollywood's Brown Derby restaurant |
| 5. Toula | 12. The relationship between Bono and his father |
| 6. <i>Monster Mash</i> | |
| 7. Its designer, Victor David Brenner | |

Want to write local Somerville stories?
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Elm Street Sweets debuts as mouth-watering online bakery CONT. FROM PG 1

she describes as her “creative outlet.” Her ingredients are the purest butters, freshest creams, sweetest sugars, ripened fruits, and smooth chocolates, giving Elm Street Sweets’ confections something special. Pinnolis says, “We use only quality ingredi-

ents in all our pies, cakes, and cookies and we make everything from scratch,” she adds. “It’s like homemade, but better. I take my time and pay attention to every detail. That’s our commitment to Elm Street Sweets and our customers appreciate it.”



Annie Boursiquot dives into her favorite tres leches cake, a ridiculously moist, milk-soaked vanilla sponge cake. The “first half” she shared with her family and the “other half” was all hers!



From top left to bottom - peanut butter fudge pie (\$35), key lime pie (\$32), pumpkin cheese cake (\$32), peanut butter devil's food cake (\$45), Dutch apple pie (\$28). For now, you can only get these beauties online.

When Pinnolis finishes filling orders for the day, she walks her creations a few steps up Elm Street to Rosebud for customer pick-up. Standouts are the ridiculously moist tres leches, classic Dutch apple pie with all-butter pie crust, and the key lime pie with homemade graham cracker crust. “We all want Elm Street Sweets to succeed and, so far things are going great,” says Pinnolis. “We’re

always trying out new recipes which get tested and retested many, many times before we put them online. We’re about to start taking holiday orders and that’s going to keep me busy!” Annie Boursiquot is one of Elm Street Sweets’ biggest fans. Recently, she and her family celebrated her sister’s birthday with tres leches cake for dessert—, Annie’s favorite. “I love Elm Street Sweets’ tres leches with

a passion,” she says. “It’s the best tres leches in Boston and is just like how my aunts make it,” she adds. “It’s so moist, not spongy, sweet, but not too sweet. Everything about it is just right!” For now, you can only get these beauties online and it will take 48-hours before you can pick up your creation. Chef Pinnolis will start taking holidays orders soon. Go to www.elmstreetsweets.com to order today.

Important deadlines and dates for the November 3 general election

Whether you plan to vote by mail, in person during early voting, or in person on Election Day, there are several upcoming deadlines and important dates you should be aware of for the Tuesday, November 3, general election.

Voter Registration

If you are not registered to vote and would like to vote in the upcoming election, your voter registration must be returned to the City of Somerville’s Elections Department by 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 24. If you have a valid ID or driver’s license issued by the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, you can register to vote online. To register by mail, call (617) 625-6600 ext. 4200 and Elections staff will mail you an application. You can also download a voter registration form from www.somervillema.gov/elections.

Vote by Mail

Vote by mail ballot applications are currently being mailed to all registered Massachusetts voters who have not requested a ballot for the November 3 election. Applications are also available on the Elections Department’s website, www.somervillema.gov/elections. If you would like to vote by mail and have not already requested a ballot, your application must be returned to the Elections Department by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28.

If you have already requested a vote by mail ballot, it will be mailed starting the week of October 12. Vote by mail ballots must be returned to the Elections Department by 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, to be counted.

Both vote by mail ballot applications and ballots can be returned by mail or at one of the 10 drop boxes located around the city. Please keep in mind that it could take several days for your ballot application or ballot to reach the Elections Department if you mail it. As deadlines approach, consider using a drop box to make sure your application or ballot is received on time. Drop boxes are located at:

Concourse at City Hall, 93 Highland Ave.; In front of the Argenziano School, 290 Washington St.; Outside of the West Somerville Neighborhood School, 177 Powderhouse Blvd.; At the entrance to the Winter Hill Community School, 115 Sycamore St.; At the Glen Street entrance to the East Somerville Community School, across from 66 Glen St.; Near Fire Engine 7, 269 Highland Ave.; In front of the Tufts Administrative Building, 167 Holland St.; In front of The Somerville Community Baptist Church, 31 College Ave.; Near 351 Summer St. in front of the Dilboy Post; Near 182 Summer St. in front of St. Catherine of Genoa Parish’s parking lot (near the corner of Spring Street)

Early Voting

Early voting is taking place from October 17 to October 30 at Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave. The early voting schedule is as follows:

Saturday, October 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. • Sunday, October 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. • Monday, October 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Tuesday, October 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Wednesday, October 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Thursday, October 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. • Friday, October 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. • Saturday, October 24, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. • Sunday, October 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. • Monday, October 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Tuesday, October 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Wednesday, October 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Thursday, October 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. • Friday, October 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Election Day

Polling locations will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3. Please note that some polling locations were changed for the September primary and additional changes may be made to accommodate COVID-19 safety measures. More information will be shared as it is available. Please confirm your polling location before voting at www.somervillema.gov/mysomerville or by calling 311.

If you have additional questions about elections, please visit www.somervillema.gov/elections or call 311 and ask to be connected to the Elections Department.





OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'Sprawled Asleep'

by David P. Miller

Sprawled Asleep
By David P. Miller
Nixes Mate Books
Nixesmate.pub/books
Allston, Massachusetts
ISBN: 978-1-949279-21-4
70 Pages

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Dennis Daly

Too often contemporary poetry dwells on the versifier rather than the verse. The confessional reigns and the uniqueness and self-importance of the poet drives both the narrative and the music. In the worst and most extreme examples of this navel-gazing art the poet and his readers develop an unhealthy bond of elitism, which separates them from any objective world view and renounces the joy of detail shared by soulful creation.

David Miller's first full length book, *Sprawled Asleep*, does not do this. Its meditations are directed by an exactness of observation that deemphasizes the poet-observer to the point of irrelevance. As this poet-observer fades, his objects achieve a singular, eye-opening clarity that leaves one somewhat stunned. The motif in which this observer delineates his objects is often mass transportation. Alienation, counter intuitive as usual, finds a niche here.

In his poem *Look at the Sky*, Miller seeks word precision in his atmospheric scan. He does identify the observer's position as in a bus, his intellectual preparation (it doesn't take), and his sensory limitations. The piece opens with directness,

Pinned and plunging beneath the flat
of a thunderhead, a thick purple-
bruised ceiling more threatening
than night's translucent black.
The bus scrambled out
from beneath that dark table,
toward the blue shelf
opened at the horizon.

I can write thunderhead. Or write
these: horsetails, lenticular,
buttermilk sky. What I want:
to exhale ah! Altostratocumulus.
To know the mundane sky
direct as knowing the breath.
No study or action of mind.

Gaze, or Don't, Miller's poem of humorous denial or, perhaps, faux resurrection, triumphs with deadly accurate observations and deductions. The poet considers the life or death evidence pertaining to an unmoving sedentary elderly man attracting some attention from his fellow travelers on the subway. A determination is made in the heart of the poem,

Men in shirts of Egyptian cotton,
suede shoes of charcoal grey,
slumped at the railings in end seats,
chins at their chests, wide woven hats
upside down at their feet,
are: asleep.
Asleep at the end
of the line and asleep
when the train switches back.
Sleeping for us who gaze, or don't
at scaly red arms, the flushed crown
of a head, smart slim-fit jeans.
See his fingers are twitching.

Miller zeroes in on the mass of humanity in his poem *Landscape with Hilton*. He opens with the portrait of an elderly female beggar holding a paper cup in a wash of playgoers exiting a theatre. His action then moves to his well-drawn sketch of a waitress in a Faux-Fifties restaurant and past door men ushering a wealthy man to a taxi. This stratified jumble of society mixes in just the right way to elicit the connective Aha of memetic recognition. Next the poet surprises by etching historical contexts into the denouement of his urban landscape.

The poem concludes this way,

Slide one block to the Tenderloin—

pale block letters against
brick
remember Elegantly Furnished Rooms

Private phones Steam
Heat
Hot Water Elevator Service

Private Baths \$20 Month.
Above the sidewalk, a voided sign

for a vanished café, shaft rising
toward Corinthian columns and satellite dish,

overpainted entirely in white.

Taking one step beyond his usual ruminations, Miller's deadpan tone of "just the facts, Ma'am" becomes almost Kafkaesque in his piece entitled *Someone Else's Daughter*. Time in this strangely enclosed dimension intertwines with movement and thus with breath. The mode of transportation becomes more real than the travelers, who are reduced to mere passersby status. Instinct drives knowledge. Consider these lines,

The same train on the same rail
enters the same tunnel. Two faithful
train-on-track tones: the upper
thickens as tunnel walls resound
overtones against the body. Remember
how your dog always sat up when the Rambler
slowed, two turns before the house?
The train returns to open air and you rise,
Open eyes, the dog coming home.

My favorite piece in this extraordinary collection Miller entitles *Another Poem About Fireflies*. But this is not your generic firefly poem straining to connect the microcosm with the macrocosm. Instead Miller's delightful meditation happens after he is drawn onto his porch by a misconception. He thinks he hears a soft rainfall or drizzle, but the basis of his sensory perception is rather the sound of leaves caught in an air draft. Nature sometimes surprises and this confused state can illuminate other mysteries. The poet notices how his objects assume a fuller reality as his perception withdraws. They dominate this shared world, and, to some extent, dispossess mankind. The poet describes his irrelevance,

I don't remember when I last saw
fireflies, and I don't know if I will ever
see them again. So stark, their white-yellow signals
pull from deep in the yard across the street,
and down the street. Each its own light-
point cycle, so many aerial lighthouses.
Flash cycle nebula densing the more
the more I abandon eye focus. This erratic
point cloud beneath tides of treetops,
and me in the fade to black...

The abnegation of self becomes an exquisite meditation and more in the collection's concluding poem, *Half the Day is Night*. On the surface an ode to autumn's equinox, the piece delves into eternal stillness. The poet outdoes himself in these lines,

I sit outside this dark September night.
The hand of dusk across my heart, my spine
caressed by stillness. The listening to come
to what there is to hear when nothing is to hear.

Miller's remarkable poems lead us beyond his uncommon, well-wrought observations. They verge on the ethereal and visionary. *Sprawled Asleep* deserves serious artistic acclamation.



Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Cynthia Duda lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina where she enjoys tennis, gardening, and the company of her wire-fox terrier. She teaches writing on the collegiate level. Her work has appeared in *Ibbeston Street*, *The Comstock Review*, *Hanging Loose*, and *The Atlanta Review* among others.



Periodic Table

She never yelled or made snarky remarks
in her hard to hear, uninflected voice
to students like me who never found
anything in her chemistry class
to pique their interest, but I do remember
wondering where she bought the shapeless
gray dresses in the same shade as her hair,
scraped back in a knot all the way
from the widow's peak on her forehead
to the nape of her neck, anchored by hairpins
that often worked loose and threatened to drop
onto the lab table where she was mixing
a potion. I sat in the back where I could get
more than a peek into the contraband
on my lap that ranged from Exodus
to The Agony and the Ecstasy
in my longing for a world beyond the halls
of Central High in Nowhere City, Tennessee.
Maybe if Miss Shipe had worn snazzy
clothes or colored her hair I would have
found it by exploring the building blocks
of the universe with her, but I doubt it.
Leon Uris and Irving Stone knew me
better than any periodic table ever could.

— Cynthia Duda

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
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