City Councilor pushes for police reform

By Alex Reidy

At the latest meeting of the Somerville City Council, Ward 5 Councilor Niedergang responded to Acting Somerville Police Chief Charles Femino’s ten-page paper on SPD staffing with an alternative method on how to go about “reimagining policing” and budget allocations.

Femino has called for an increase in police staffing, whereas Niedergang suggests that resources would be better spent on other public safety works. “Public safety is broader than just police and fire: It’s housing, food, health, mental and emotional health, pedestrian and cyclist safety, and more,” he said.

Niedergang indicates that he values the police in his comments, but he cites “violence prevention” as a top priority for the residents of Somerville and feels that if Somerville invested more in “expanded care and prevention services” the city could spend less on police officers who are solving problems outside.

Continued on page 4

'Home is Where the Art is' at the Somerville Museum

A virtual exhibit showcasing the drawings of Jessica Howard’s Somerville High School portfolio class is part of the Somerville Museum’s Art of Observation exhibit.

After meeting with artist David Campbell, the class was invited to draw what was visually interesting and meaningful to them in their immediate environment.

“[Before the pandemic] I visited Jessica Howard’s art class at Somerville High School,” said Campbell. “This is an elective class and included students from all grades. They were working on a complex perspective assignment. I showed them examples of my pictures that engage the same visual problems. I was very impressed by their work and their concentration.

Campbell later met with Ms. Howard and some of the students and described his development as a plein-air painter working with whatever was around him.


Discovery by Verea Miller, acrylic on paper; part of the Somerville Museum’s Art of Observation exhibit, with works contributed by Jessica Howard’s Somerville High School portfolio class.
City Councilor Karjana Ballantyne is asking for your assistance in helping families at the Clarendon Hill Towers. She writes, "As we reach the one-year mark of living in a COVID pandemic, I know this last year has been intense and stressful for many of us. It has also been nearly a year since I let you know about 25-30 families at Clarendon Hill Towers who needed extra help with food, and incidental items. YOU GAVE! Nearly every month for about nine months we received donations of food, face masks, grocery certificates, personal hygiene items and more for our neighbors. Thank you! The duration of the pandemic has even more added economic pressures on our families, I am asking if you can help about 60 families at Clarendon Hill Towers. The request this time is the need for a $20 gift certificate from either Stop & Shop or Market Basket. Due date is Sunday, February 28 end of the day. Drop off at 49 Russell Road (last house in dead end), front porch, deposit in box on red Adirondack chair. (please no cash or checks) OR ... Purchase online https://marketbasketfoods.com/gift-cards/ for Market Basket gift card and https://stopandshop.com/pages/gift-cards for Stop & Shop gift cards fill in order and name on gift card, fill out to YAlvira (Jesse) Alvira, Clarendon Hill Towers, Resident Services Coordinator, email: YAlvira@firsthartford.com, 1372 Broadway, Somerville, MA 02144, 617-625-7150."

On Sunday, February 28, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., the Somerville Alliance for Safe Streets (SASS) will hold a virtual public summit focused on the safety issues faced by Somerville's street users. In just the past two years, four pedestrians were killed by drivers and at least 160 pedestrians and cyclists were injured in crashes with motorists. SASS has created a Declaration and Call to Action, available for review at https://tinyurl.com/ SASSDeclaration. The Declaration was submitted to the City Council with over 200 signatures. Consider signing on to the SASS declaration. The Declaration was submitted to the City Councilor Katjana Ballantyne with over 200 signatures. Consider signing on to the

Exercise Schedule
Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Thursday, February 25
Sunny 41°/23°
4% 2% WNW 20 mph

Friday, February 26
Sunny 41°/21°
5% 7% W 9 mph

Saturday, February 27
Rain 50°/40°
43% 29% $ 14 mph

Sunday, February 28
Partly Cloudy 49°/36°
9% 4% WNW 11 mph

Monday, March 1
Rain 46°/25°
46% 30% WSW 10 mph

Tuesday, March 2
Partly Cloudy 37°/25°
23% 17% NW 13 mph

NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.
A couple of years ago, we had to retrieve one of my favorite scarves that I left at Burton’s Grill in Burlington. I decided since it was right there, I’d do a little shopping at the Market Basket in the same complex.

As soon as I walked in the door of MB, the smell of newly popped popcorn hit me right in the face. I think many of us would agree that freshly popped popcorn is one of our favorite aromas. For me it reminded me of the old department stores that used to offer the warm, yummy treat. Zayre and JM Fields in Medford immediately came to mind. There was a store in Fresh Pond also. You would get that tall paper bag, or sleeve as some called it, full of popcorn and boy was it tasty! My mother would buy a bag when we first went in the store and my brother and sister and I would share it as we followed her around.

Of course, after about 15 minutes the butter would stain the bottom of the bag, but by that time all that was left were a few un-popped kernels. Sometimes when I get an idea for a story, I “pop” it onto Facebook to get other people’s thoughts on the subject. I can’t believe how many folks shared their memories about popcorn.

Back in the day almost all of the Zayre, Fields, Bradlees and Kresges type stores had a big old popcorn machine. In Davis Square we had both a Woolworths and WT Grant store. This lady shared a popcorn story:

“I remember going to the Saturday matinee, usually lots of great old horror films, at the Somerville Theater for 50 cents. My mother would tell us to go to Grant’s department store to get our popcorn because it was 5 cents, while the theater’s was 10 cents!”

When I was 16, I was hired as a stock boy at Woolworths and worked my way up to an occasional shift on the lunch counter. I didn’t make popcorn but the whole store always smelled like it ... except when you walked down the pet aisle.

Many stores now offer fresh popcorn the way Market Basket does. Tags Hardware in Porter Square has it (I think it’s free) and also Home Depot in Somerville. Well, they did back in the good old days of two years ago before we all went into solitary.

It’s funny how a smell can jump start your memory. When I took my boys to the movies on Sundays when they were little, we would get the ginormous size of popcorn. The aroma brought me back. The same thing happens whenever I walk into The Somerville Theatre. I look around the lobby, grab a whiff of popcorn, and I start thinking back to all the Saturdays we spent at that very theatre when we were kids. There used to be a lot of theatres in Somerville but I only remember the ones in Davis and The Broadway theatre in East Somerville.

You could also get
A not so long wait for police to arrive

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to the intersection of Washington Street and Myrtle Street last week on reports of a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

Upon arrival, the officers observed a vehicle in the street turned sideways with heavy damage to the driver’s side rear quarter panel. The driver’s side curtain airbags were also deployed.

The officers located the driver and passenger standing away from the car in the bus stop. The vehicle’s driver complained of left side pain and told police that she was heading westbound on Washington Street when a car that was speeding hit the driver’s side of her vehicle and spun her car sideways. The car then took off and she was assisted by a witness.

The vehicle’s passenger complained of neck pain and stated that he was getting an Uber ride by the driver when the car was struck and spun around. Both parties complained of injuries, but refused medical treatment at the time.

The officers also spoke with a witness, who stated that he was driving westbound on Washington Street, approximately two cars behind the suspect’s vehicle, when he observed it strike the victim’s vehicle and then flee up Myrtle Street. The vehicle directly in front of his followed the suspect’s vehicle while the witness assisted the victim and her passenger.

Police caught up with the striking vehicle and its operator, Brandon Daughtrey, of Woburn, at a Myrtle Street location. They asked Daughtrey what had taken place and he reportedly stated that he was involved in an accident, where a vehicle hit him and he pulled over right away. Daughtrey further stated he believed the vehicle that was following him was the vehicle that he was involved in the accident with.

Daughtrey was asked where he was coming from that night and he said at his girlfriend’s house. When asked where that was, he said on Washington Street, but couldn’t provide police with a street number.

Daughtrey also reportedly kept saying that he pulled over right away after the accident and waited for the police to arrive for 20-30 minutes, and he even stated an hour at one point, but then committed to 30 minutes.

The officers informed Daughtrey that the accident took place all the way at the end of the road (approximately 200 yards) and that the response time was not 30 minutes. They asked him if he had consumed any alcohol that night, to which he denied having done so.

During the conversation with Daughtrey, the officers observed him to be unsteady on his feet, his speech slurred, and his eyes were glassy and bloodshot.

The officers asked Daughtrey if he would be willing to perform field sobriety testing due to the suspicion of him being impaired, to which he agreed.

Prior to administering the test, Daughtrey was evaluated and medically cleared by EMT personnel. He was also asked if he had any medical conditions that would hinder him from performing these tests, and which he denied having any. The test was administered in the driveway of a Myrtle Street residence, on a well-lighted, flat, non-slippery surface.

After failing to pass the field sobriety test, Daughtrey was placed under arrest on charges of leaving the scene of personal injury, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, and operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.

Yovanni Hernandez, of Woburn, February 21, 3:16 p.m., arrested at Broadway on warrant charges of number plate violation to conceal identity, receiving stolen property over $1,200, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

Do your part - Leave a message on our tip hotline answering machine – All calls are confidential – Your Privacy is Assured. If you choose, you can leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned (not required). Also, if you prefer you may e-mail directly with your crime tip. We will follow up on all information provided to the best of our ability.

Thank you for your assistance.

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:
Brandon Daughtrey, of Woburn, February 16, 11:33 p.m., arrested at Washington St. on charges of leaving the scene of personal injury, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, and operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of liquor.
Yovanni Hernandez, of Woburn, February 21, 3:16 p.m., arrested at Broadway on warrant charges of number plate violation to conceal identity, receiving stolen property over $1,200, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

City Councilor pushes for police reform

According to Niedergang, solving all problems with police has in the past across the country sometimes led to violence and more problems. He feels that the reduction of police cruisers in the later shift would help with budget constraints and possibly this idea of reimagining policing. The later shifts utilizing police cruisers incorporates the same seven-man rotation, but they deal with far fewer incidents. So, according to Niedergang, it’s not prudent for Somerville to increase the amount of police officers when they already have too many staffed during late shifts.

One suggestion Niedergang makes is to establish a mutual aid call protocol. Rather than having more police officers on shift for a rare “all hands on deck” situation, Somerville would be able to call in Cambridge and Medford police officers to assist, and vice versa. He believes that this makes sense, since so few critical cases are called in the late night, having five or so officers is plenty, and if needed more can be called in.

Niedergang closed out his remarks by saying: “We certainly need to re-imagine policing and develop more effective ways to deliver the emergency services and response that currently only the SPD provides. But we also need to evaluate whether funds are best spent on reacting to problems or preventing and resolving them.”

Reiterating his main message of not turning to the hiring of more officers to solve all the city’s problems, Niedergang instead advocates the allocation of resources to the correct departments to create a more efficient and safe Somerville.
The Legislative Matters Committee held a remote meeting on Thursday, February 18. Five City Councilors as well as the City Chair, Vice-Chair, Liaison and Clerk, were present to discuss and approve matters on the legislative agenda. The Surveillance Technology Use Policy has been an ongoing issue in Committee talks for the past several months. Impact reports, drafted for the use of each type of surveillance technology, were examined by the Committee. The ordinance language was reviewed to ensure that effective oversight could be carried out in every instance of surveillance technology use by a city department.

The Committee discussed both the Police and Fire Chief’s capabilities to specially authorize use of surveillance technology under exigent circumstances. In any emergency where the Police or Fire Chief uses surveillance technology for an application not specifically outlined in the Use Policy, an impact report must be completed within 90 days of the emergency for the purpose of oversight.

Only the Somerville Fire Department, not the Police Department, will have the capacity to use new thermal imaging cameras, per the Surveillance Technology Use Policy. “If the police were using thermal imaging to look at where people are located in a house, that would not be permitted under this and if that is the case, I am comfortable with this impact report,” said Ward 3 Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen.

Use of thermal imaging cameras is common among firefighters as well as with investigative branches of fire departments who conduct inquiries into matters that may involve arson, according to Legislative Liaison Lauren Racaniello. The civilian review board of city policing is another issue that has been in discussions by the Legislative Matters Committee. Since the national conversation on policing started in light of events last summer, residents of Somerville have called for legislative action that aligns with the current attitude towards law enforcement.

The Committee is still working to produce a solution that will address the community’s concerns and is looking to hold public meetings on the subject as soon as March 24. Rather than taking the typical approach of having a councilor propose a draft to the Committee, says Ewen-Campen, two legislative staffers have been hired to coordinate with the City Solicitor’s Office. A policy analyst will conduct research and examine legislative solutions from other municipalities on the issue of civilian review boards for policing. An outreach coordinator has been hired for the purpose of involving as many stakeholders and perspectives as possible in order to achieve community buy-in, says Ewen-Campen.

The Somerville City charter requires the City Solicitor’s Office to produce a draft, which is why the Committee proposed to the City Council a timeline for the proposed policy.

“Some city departments are common among firefighting departments with the City Solicitor’s Office. A policy analyst will conduct research and examine legislative solutions from other municipalities on the issue of civilian review boards for policing. An outreach coordinator has been hired for the purpose of involving as many stakeholders and perspectives as possible in order to achieve community buy-in, says Ewen-Campen. The Somerville City charter has been revised to remove all gendered language, while ensuring that the language of the document is understandable for future reference.”

By Joe Creason

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**New Acting Deputy Chief in Somerville**

Acting Chief Femino has asked Christopher Ward to serve as the new Acting Deputy Chief in the Police Department.

Ward has served with the department for 32 years. He was instrumental in the department receiving its first certification by the Mass Police Accreditation Commission in May 2017. Deputy Ward must recently served as the Criminal Investigation Captain.

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**Conversation on COVID-19 Vaccine with Jhenny Saint-Surin and Alix Simeon (Haitian Creole)**

Tune into “Kwen Sante” (“The Health Corner”) on UDH Radio, WNTN 1550 AM on Saturday, February 27, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. for a discussion on the COVID-19 vaccine with Alix Simeon from UDH Radio and Jhenny Saint-Surin, Somerville Office of Immigration Affairs Haitian Creole Liaison.

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**The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week**

**Eagle Feathers #224**

**Washington Irving**
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

Washington Irving was born in 1783 in Manhattan near the Hudson River during the last week of the Revolutionary War and died 76 patriotic years later. During his lifetime, he was a known as a man of stories and letters.

His early writings spawned a wonderful mythology of Dutch Colonial New York, coining its townsman the Knickerbockers and their city Gotham. He loved the Hudson River and built his home, Sunny side, near its shore in Tarrytown.

Irving’s mother named him after President George Washington, and when he was 6 years old, he was blessed by him. It seemed fitting because Irving went on to write a five-volume biography, *The Life of George Washington*.
THE HOUSE AND SENATE. There were no roll calls in the House or Senate last week. This week, Beacon Hill Roll Call reports on the percentage of times local senators voted with their party’s leadership in the 2020 session. Beacon Hill Roll Call uses 260 votes from the 2020 Senate session as the basis for this report. This includes all roll calls that were not on local issues.

The votes of the 34 Democrats were compared to Senate Majority Leader Cynthia Creem (D-Newton), second-in-command in the Senate. We could not compare the Democrats’ votes to those of Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) because, by tradition, the Senate president rarely votes.

None of the 34 Democratic senators voted with Creem 100 percent of the time in 2020. That is a big change from the 2019 session when 14 (or 43 percent) of the Democratic senators voted with Creem 100 percent of the time.

Back to 2020: Three senators voted with Creem all but one time: Sens. Julian Cyr (D-Truro), Sal DiDomenico (D-Everett) and Adam Hinds (D-Pittsfield). Seven senators voted with Creem all but twice: Sens. Mike Barrett (D-Lexington), Joe Boncore (D-Winthrop), Will Brownsberger (D-Belmont), Brendan Crighton (D-Lynn), Cindy Friedman (D-Arlington), Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow) and Jason Lewis (D-Winchester).

Thirty-three (97 percent) of the 34 Democrats voted with Creem 90 percent or more of the time. Sen. Diana DiZoglio (D-Methuen) who voted with Creem 89.8 percent of the time was the only one who voted with Creem less than 90 percent of the time. The two other Democratic senators who voted the lowest percentage of times with Creem were Sens. Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) who voted with Creem 90.5 percent of the time and Walter Timilty (D-Milton) who voted with Creem 90.9 percent of the time.

The votes of three Republican senators were compared with those of GOP Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester). In 2020, as in 2019, none of the three voted with Tarr 100 percent of the time. In 2020, the Republican senator who voted the lowest percentage of times with Tarr was former Sen. Dean Tran (R-Fitchburg) who voted with Tarr 75.7 percent of the time. Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) with Tarr 68.4 percent of the time and Sen. Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth) sided with Tarr the most times - 91.2 percent of the time.

Those numbers are a big change from 2019 when Tarr got way more cooperation from those senators. In 2019, the Republican senator who voted the lowest percentage of times with Tarr was Sen. Fattman who voted with Tarr 90.8 percent of the time; Sen. Patrick O’Connor with Tarr 92.3 percent of the time and former Sen. Dean Tran sided with Tarr 93.7 percent of the time.

PERCENTAGE OF TIMES SENATORS VOTED WITH THEIR PARTY’S LEADERSHIP IN 2020

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 286 roll call votes. Others missed one or more roll call. 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 98.5 percent (4)

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

GOP MINORITY LEADER JONES ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TEAM AND MAKES COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – House Republican Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading) announced his 2021-2022 leadership team and appointments to committees. The leadership team remains the same as it was in the 2019-2020 session except for the addition of Rep. Kimberly Ferguson (R-Holden) as second assistant minority leader. She replaces former Rep. Liz Poirier (D-Antelors) who did not run for re-election in November. The returning team includes First Assistant Minority Leader Brad Hill (R-Ipswich) and Reps. Paul Frost (R-Auburn) and Susan Girfford (R-Wareham) as third assistant leaders. Reps. Todd Shola (R-Warren) was reappointed as the ranking Republican member on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

“With the completion of my leadership and committee assignments, I am confident that we have a strong leadership team in place for the 2021-2022 legislative session and a committee make-up that reflects the many strengths and talents of the members of the House Republican caucus,” Jones told Beacon Hill Roll Call.

“I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in the caucus to pursue a legislative agenda over the next two years that will prioritize assisting those families and businesses that are still struggling during the COVID-19 global pandemic while addressing the many other challenges Massachusetts is currently facing.”

REDISTRICTING (H 416) – The House and Senate both approved an order creating a 28-member special joint committee to draw Massachusetts legislative and congressional districts for the 2022 election based on the 2020 U.S. Census results. Redistricting is required every 10 years and was last done in 2011 for the 2012 election. Democrat Senate President Karen Spilka will appoint seven senators including six Democrats and one Republican while Democrat House Speaker Ron Mariano (R-Quincy) will choose 17 Democratic representatives and four Republican ones.

QUOTEABLE QUOTES

"I am looking forward to working with my colleagues in the caucus to pursue a legislative agenda over the next two years that will prioritize assisting those families and businesses that are still struggling during the COVID-19 global pandemic while addressing the many other challenges Massachusetts is currently facing."

"Foster care providers are there for our communities’ most vulnerable children while they are going through an incredibly difficult time in their lives. There have always been obstacles to accessing training and other resources to support foster families. The pandemic has exacerbated those challenges. Foster care providers are essential workers, and with a union, we can ensure that they are able to advocate for themselves as well as the children they care for." — Peter MacKinnon, President of SEIU Local 509 and a social worker, on legislation that would make the Bay State the first state in the nation to unionize foster care providers.

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 include 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 February 15-19, the House met for a total of 33 minutes while the Senate met for a total of 17 minutes.

Mon, February 15 No House session No Senate session.

Tues, February 16 House 11:01 a.m. to 11:08 a.m. Senate 11:10 a.m. to 11:17 a.m.

Wed, February 17 No House session No Senate session.

Thurs, February 18 House 11:09 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. Senate 11:09 a.m. to 11:19 a.m.

Fri, February 19 No House session No Senate session.

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com
Our View Of The Times

Last week’s news that schools in Somerville will be partially reopened – tentatively scheduled to commence the first week of March – has been extremely well received by many, but also met with some trepidation by those who are concerned that it may be too soon, considering the extent to which the coronavirus pandemic still affects us today. The first phase will only bring students in High Needs Special Education programs, English Learner programs, and Pre-K and Kindergarten back to the classrooms at first, with grades 1-8 to follow later.

Practically everyone wants to see a return to school for our children, under the right circumstances. We recognize the fact that children need socialization and proper instruction by qualified teachers. Parents have been doing their best to pick up the slack during the lockdown, but many believe that home schooling is a poor substitute for the full classroom experience.

Mental health and child welfare professionals bemoan the harm that can be caused by too much isolation and lack of contact with peers and qualified educators. And the pressures applied to parents as they cope with the responsibilities of assuming the dual roles of parenting and educating can cause further harm. Still, some feel that the school reopenings should not be rushed. That safety should come first, and that waiting a bit longer – until all teachers and most other have been vaccinated – is the wisest course of action. It’s a fine line to walk, and we pray that it works out well.

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to Sean Fingerson, who is celebrating this week. We wish Sean a good day. Happy birthday to Nancy Trane, a great person. We hope she has a good day for herself as well. Happy Birthday to City Councilor Kristen Strezo, we wish her a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to Christine Resmini. We hope she has a great day as well. Happy birthday to Steven Buckley of East Somerville, we hope he has a great day. Happy birthday to great guy, Eamon Fee, who celebrates this week. We hope he has a great birthday. Happy birthday to another good guy, Todd Kreimeyer, we hope Rod has a great day. Happy birthday to David Mangan. We hope David has a great day for himself as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Lauren Daddio, Las Carolinas, Wayne A. Fournier, Ann Bourque, Thomas Scott, Sarah Marcone, Lu Alves, Larry J Travaglione and Bill Roy a very happy birthday. To all those that are also celebrating this week, we wish a happy birthday.

Please contact SASS at somervilleafestreetsgmail.com.

Happy birthday to another great guy, Rod Kreimeyer, we hope Rod has a great day. Happy birthday to David Mangan. We hope David has a great day for himself as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Lauren Daddio, Las Carolinas, Wayne A. Fournier, Ann Bourque, Thomas Scott, Sarah Marcone, Lu Alves, Larry J Travaglione and Bill Roy a very happy birthday. To all those that are also celebrating this week, we wish a happy birthday.

Cha Somerville Campus Urgent Care – located at 33 Tower St. – will be closed on Saturday, February 27, to accommodate required electrical repairs by Eversource. Eversource will be curting power to the Cha Somerville Campus from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cha Public Safety staff will be available to advise and support anyone seeking care. Anyone with a serious illness or injury should call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest emergency room. Cha has 24-hour emergency care at Cambridge Hospital and Everett Hospital. Cha Somerville Campus Urgent Care is scheduled to reopen on Sunday, February 28, at 9:00 a.m. Normal hours are 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., seven days a week. For more information, visit www.challiance.org.

Visit www.somerville.k12.ma.us/transition for updates and a look at the new website as they get ready to start transitioning to in-person learning.

On Monday, March 1, at 2:00 p.m., you can tune in to watch Mayor Joe Curtate’s midterm address. In Somerville, mayors give a midterm address every other year to update residents on work done over the past year and outline goals and priorities for the coming year. Here’s how you can watch the speech live: Tune in to Somerville GovTV (RCN channel 11 or 611, Comcast channel 22). The midterm will be worked into regular GovTV programming after it is first aired. Visit Somerville CityTV’s website, www.somervillema.gov/citycable, or go to the nearest emergency room. Anyone accompanying a senior to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment at state sites are also eligible to get vaccinated. Anyone accompanying a senior to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment at state sites are also eligible to get vaccinated. Anyone accompanying a senior to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment at state sites are also eligible to get vaccinated.

The state has announced that those accompanying someone 75 or older to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment at state sites are also eligible to get vaccinated. Anyone accompanying a senior to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment at state sites are also eligible to get vaccinated. Anyone accompanying a senior to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment at state sites are also eligible to get vaccinated. Anyone accompanying a senior to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment at state sites are also eligible to get vaccinated. Anyone accompanying a senior to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment at state sites are also eligible to get vaccinated.

The midterm will be worked into regular GovTV programming after it is first aired. Visit Somerville CityTV’s website, www.somervillema.gov/citycable, or go to the nearest emergency room. Anyone accompanying a senior to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment at state sites are also eligible to get vaccinated. Anyone accompanying a senior to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment at state sites are also eligible to get vaccinated.

Cha Somerville Hospital offers free COVID-19 testing at Assembly Row. To make an appointment, call 817-665-2928, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The mobile.

Continued on page 9
Ms. Cam’s Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#769

1. Where is largest volcano in the solar system? 7. What does GOP stand for?
2. How many moons does Mars have? 8. How tall is the NBA’s Kevin Garnett?
3. How many molecules of oxygen does ozone have? 9. Who plays Sookie Stackhouse on the TV series True Blood?
4. How many Lord of the Rings films are there? 10. Oryza Sativa is the botanical name of what?
5. In what year was the first episode of South Park aired? 11. Which Beatle had dyslexia?
6. What was the name of The Strokes’ debut album?

Answers on page 15

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD MARCH MADNESS

ACROSS
1. Theories 5. T in Greek 8. Tarzan’s mom, e.g.
11. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, e.g. 12. Ingredient in talcum powder
17. Note taker 18. Last NCAA basketball winner
20. Any day now 21. Apostasy’s concern, pl.
22. Diana Ross and Michael Jackson movie, with The
30. Witch’s spell 31. Flocked-to destinations
34. Goo or slime 35. Plural of ostium
37. Leo mo. 38. Eurasian goat-like antelope
39. Showing signs of use 40. “Yo, ____!”
43. Wrap a baby 44. Ancient Celtic priest
45. ____-elimination 47. Outrage
48. Fraternity K 49. Deflect
50. Sanders’ campaign slogan “Feel the ____”
51. “National Velvet” author Bagnold
52. ____ 1 schools only 53. Fail to mention
55. ____less but pennywise 56. Decanter
59. Threesome 60. Turkish monetary unit, plural
62. Common conjunction 63. New York time
64. Male deer

DOWN
1. Singular of #1 Across 2. Rivers Island weapon
3. Bunka Fian椒 neighbor 4. Himalayan mountaineer
5. 2021 NCAA Tournament location 6. What is North by North West
7. ____-standing corn 8. Return from seed
9. Mid-major school that’s become major powerhouse
10. Kind of ray 11. Which Beatle had dyslexia?
14. Mixed breed puppy 15. Dream big
18. School with most NCAA basketball titles 19. Male deer
22. Diana Ross and Michael Jackson movie, with The
30. Witch’s spell 31. Flocked-to destinations
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43. Wrap a baby 44. Ancient Celtic priest
45. ____-elimination 47. Outrage
48. Fraternity K 49. Deflect
50. Sanders’ campaign slogan “Feel the ____”
51. “National Velvet” author Bagnold
52. ____ 1 schools only 53. Fail to mention
55. ____less but pennywise 56. Decanter
59. Threesome 60. Turkish monetary unit, plural
62. Common conjunction 63. New York time
64. Male deer

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. On average a hedgehog’s heart beats 300 times a minute.
2. “Canada” is an Indian word meaning “Big Village.”

The Somerville Times Crossword Puzzle of the Week

SUDOKU

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

Solution to last week’s sudoku puzzle:

Solution to last week’s crossword puzzle:
Partial school re-openings passed by School Committee

By Alex Reidy

There was one item on the agenda the special Somerville School Committee Meeting on Wednesday, February 17, and that was the vote to proceed with the rati-

fication of the agreement to open schools to the public. This includes only groups one and groups two, the special needs and ELO students and at capacities that are esti-

mated to be 95 percent and 65 percent respectively. The motion was made and seconded with a start date of March 4. The stu-

dents in later groups will be subsequently placed into schools at a tentative 45 per-

cent and at a later date that has not been announced. Covid tests will continue and be manda-

tory for the students at the school and all precautionary measures that are warrant-

ed will be taken possibly such as gowns and other PPE.

Somerville Superintendent of Schools update: Transition to in-person learning

We are pleased to share that on Wednesday evening, the Somerville School Committee unanimously voted to approve the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Somerville Educators Union (SEU) to begin our phased in-person learning. The SEU overwhelmingly approved the MOA last Thursday. With the Certificate of Occupancy for Somerville High School scheduled to be received before the end of February and air quality work on other school buildings progressing as anticipated, we are moving forward with plans to begin our transition to in-person learning starting the first week in March.

To provide families and staff with important information about the transition to in-person learning, we have created a new section on the district website: www.somerville.k12.ma.us/transition. These pages will be updated regularly with updates and resources, and we welcome your feedback. Please see also these fact sheets for information at a glance:

- Transition to In-Person Learning: Schedule of Phases: https://somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/SPS%20Sched-

ule%20of%20Phases%20final%202.19.21.pdf

As we plan last prioritizes students in High Needs Special Education programs, English Learner programs, and Pre-K and Kindergarten, with grades 1-8 to follow, as long as specific conditions are met, including building readiness. We will contact families as they become eligible to return to gauge their interest in returning to in-person learning and to address any questions. Any family who prefers their child to remain in remote learning may do so.

In partnership with the City, we have instituted a comprehensive set of health and safety measures (https://somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/SPS%20Health%20Safety%20Protocols%20final%202.19.21.pdf) to minimize the risks to all students and staff upon their return to our classrooms. These include an extensive coronavirus testing program for students and staff.

In addition, we will monitor a number of public and school health indicators (visit the SPS COVID-19 Dashboard) to ensure that it is safe to keep school buildings open: https://public.tableau.com/profile/cityofsomerville#!/vizhome/SomervillePublicSchoolsCOVIDDashboard_v1/Dashboard

We will keep you informed as we continue to finalize the details of these reopening plans. Our phased approach enables us to bring students back gradually, while making necessary adjustments and corrections along the way. Please note that we continue to work with the SEU on the Hybrid Learning Plan and will share information as details are finalized. We are also working on a plan to continue to offer Community Schools afterschool programming as we transition to hybrid in-person learning. We will provide regular updates at School Committee meetings, including one next Monday, February 22, at 7:00 pm. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. Visit our website for details: https://somerville.k12.ma.us/district-leadership/somerville-school-committee/school-commit-

tee-meetings

We ask for your continued patience and cooperation. We look forward to welcoming many of our students and staff back into our schools for in-person teaching and learning!

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper

Superintendent of Schools

COVID-19 testing unit also offers testing in our neighborhoods. Mobile testing schedules and more information on both can be found under the “Symptoms, Testing, & Medical Info” tab on somervillema.gov/covid19. The state also operates several Stop the Spread testing sites, including in the nearby communities of Chelsea and Everett. For more information, visit the state’s website: https://www.mass.gov/in-

fo-details/stop-the-spread.

**************************

Make sure you’re wearing the right face covering. The CDC has guidance on choosing a face covering that best pro-
tects those around you. Three things to keep in mind: Your face covering should be made of at least two layers of wash-
able, breathable fabric. It should com-
pletely cover your nose and mouth. It should fit snugly against the side of your face. That means if you’re getting a face covering for a child, you should look for one designed for smaller faces.

The Union Square Video Projection Series, curated by Andrew Ringer, features local artists whose works rep-
resent: storytelling, abstraction and dance from thirteen individual artists and artist collaborators. Since No-

vember 2020, SAC has shown works from each group looping during the evenings, from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. The projection art is shown on a building facade in Union Square. Through Feb-

ruary and March, they will be featuring dance-themed videos by artists: Steph-

anie Sherman, Michal Hall, Melissa Castro, Mike Brun, Margaret Wiss, and Carven Bouriquot. On March 3 at 6:00 p.m., join Facebook Live for a panel discussion highlighting some of the participating artists and the proj-

ect curator. More details will be added to the website soon: https://somer-

villeartscommission.org/projectionseries.

Somerville’s Winter Farmer’s Market takes place Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., through April 10, at 191 Highland Ave. Offering the best locally grown and produced agricultural items and more. Online pre-order market with a small outdoor “live” shopping market. They offer a diverse range of local and New England produce, as well as cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, chocolate, and wine. They feature rotating guest vendors each week, as well as live entertainment and activities. They ac-
cept SNAP/EBT, CREDIT and DEB-

IT cards. $10 SNAP match for EBT customers. For market information visit: http://www.uswinefarmersmarket.org.

Apply for small business relief funds. The City of Somerville has made $5 million available to small businesses in its third round of the Small Busi-

ness COVID-19 Relief Fund. Eligible businesses can apply for grants of up to $25,000. Applications are now available and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Learn more about the funding, includ-

ing eligibility requirements, or apply for funds online.

The Pandemic – Electronic Transfer (P-EBT) Program was created spring 2020 to provide eligible families funds to purchase food while schools were closed during the COVID-19 pandem-
ic has been extended through the end of the 2020-21 school year. Visit https://www.map-ebt.org/home/#ihdrab for additional information.
Ooh...that smell CONT. FROM PG 3

warm peanuts, cashews, and even chestnuts at some of those stores years ago. If you lived near the Davis Square area, you may recall the Lounds Candy store at Powder House Park. Thar place smelled so sweet. When you entered you were like a kid in a candy store. By the way, fresh ground coffee always reminds me of the A&P formerly on Summer St. near The Rosebud. We all have a memory of some sort around our house from the old days. I still have a Kow Shoe Polish can that has a Brudde's price tag on it. Also I have a coat check tag from The Jumbo Coat Check Tag from The Jumbo

Shoot at the City of Somerville will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for release of the Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as the Haley Playground Project. The project is located at 5 Maxwell St. at the Haley School. The project will include renovation of $50,000 sq. ft. of renovated synthetic turf, soccer field, support walls, park furnishings, and ADA access. This request is to expedite public housing development and will provide much needed recreational space for youth programs. The City of Somerville is requesting the release of $500,000 in Federal Community Development Block Grant funds.

The notices proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Mayor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, City of Somerville, 83 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02143 and may be reviewed via request to ric@somervillema.gov. Due to COVID restrictions the offices are closed for in person requests.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mayor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. All comments received by March 4, 2021 will be considered in the City of Somerville prior to authorization submission of a request for release of funds.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Somerville certifies to HUD that Joseph Curtatone in his capacity as Mayor, consents to the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to its proposal to site a facility. The City of Somerville has satisfied all requirements under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and all City of Somerville procedures to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Somerville’s certification for a period of fifteen days following its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) if only they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Somerville; (b) the City has omitted or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by HUD until authorization of the action is obtained from HUD; (d) new information has come to HUD’s attention concerning the project; or (e) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 58 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures 12 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to HUD Office of Community Planning and Development, Office of Associate Deputy Secretary, 400 7th Street, SW, Room 5625, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, or to the Office of Chief Counsel, Alan J. Perlman, General Counsel. The objections must be filed within 15 days, or if extended by agreement, 30 days, of the date HUD has notified the City of Somerville’s Certification of Need of the decision to release the funds.

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MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 595 Broadway, LLC to CSLF Alamosa, LLC, dated January 18, 2016 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 35274, Page 299, as affected by foreclosures and sales at public auction as published in the Somerville Times on February 21, 2021, 2/28/21, and 3/15/21, and as signed to SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP dated July 22, 2020 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 75181, Page 413, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at public auction at 2:00 PM, on March 3, 2021, 3/10/21 on the mortgaged premises being an 18 Irving Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, being all and singular the premises described in and contained in said mortgage.

The land situated in Somerville and Medford in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and bounded.

Beginning at the Southeast corner thereof, on Broadway, by lot 58 by number plan 21 drawn by Alfred Tutte, dated June, 1894 copies of which are recorded with the Middlesex (So. District) Deeds, thence running Westward by Broadway, seventy (70) feet, thence turning and running Northernly by land of said Griffin, to a line parallel with Broadway and 100 feet distant therefrom, seventy (70) feet distant from lot 59, one hundred (100) feet to the point of beginning.

The above described premises are conveyed subject to and with the benefit of, as the case may be, all other easements, covenants, restrictions, agreements, conditions, covenants and all other matters of record appertaining thereto and the condition that the same may be new in force and applicable.

For Grantee's title see recorded hereafter.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagee by deed of 595 Broadway D145, LLC dated January 24, 2016, recorded with Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67374, Page 42.

The premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of any easements, covenants, restrictions, agreements, conditions, covenants and all other matters of record appertaining thereto and the condition that the same may be new in force and applicable.

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 595 Broadway, LLC to CSLF Alamosa, LLC, dated October 18, 2016 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 77170, Page 207, as assigned to SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP dated July 22, 2020 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 75181, Page 413, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at public auction at 10:00 AM, on March 3, 2021 on the mortgaged premises being known as 10 Oak Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, being all and singular the premises described in and contained in said mortgage.

The land with the buildings therein situated in Somerville, Middlesex, Massachusetts being numbered 18 on the present numbering of Irving Street, Somerville, Massachusetts being known as 18 Irving Street, Somerville, Massachusetts belonging to Jesse Simpson, March 8, 1872, for $2,600, to Henry and Hortensia C.E. Recorded in Middlesex County, South District, Books of Plans To 21, Plan 44, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHASTYERLY on said Street, fifty 50 feet; SOUTHWESTERLY on Lot 75 on said plan, ninety (90) feet; NORTHWESTERLY on Lot 90 on said plan, fifty (50) feet; and NORTHWESTHERLY on Lot 73 on said plan, ninety (90) feet.

Containing four thousand five hundred (4000) square feet.

For Grantee's title see recorded hereafter.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall be in force and applicable.

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 18 Irving Street, LLC to CSLF Alamosa, LLC, dated February 15, 2019 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 72244, Page 383, as assigned to SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP dated July 22, 2020 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 75181, Page 413, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at public auction at 11:00 AM, on March 3, 2021 on the mortgaged premises being known as 18 Irving Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, being all and singular the premises described in and contained in said mortgage.

The land with the buildings therein situated in Somerville, Middlesex, Massachusetts being numbered 18 on the present numbering of Irving Street, Somerville, Massachusetts being known as 18 Irving Street, Somerville, Massachusetts belonging to Jesse Simpson, March 8, 1872, for $2,600, to Henry and Hortensia C.E. Recorded in Middlesex County, South District, Books of Plans To 21, Plan 44, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHASTYERLY on said Street, fifty 50 feet; SOUTHWESTERLY on Lot 75 on said plan, ninety (90) feet; NORTHWESTERLY on Lot 90 on said plan, fifty (50) feet; and NORTHWESTHERLY on Lot 73 on said plan, ninety (90) feet.

Containing four thousand five hundred (4,000) square feet.

For Grantee's title see recorded hereafter.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall be in force and applicable.

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 10 Oak Street, LLC to CSLF Alamosa, LLC, dated October 18, 2016 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 77170, Page 207, as assigned to SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP dated July 22, 2020 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 75181, Page 413, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at public auction at 10:00 AM, on March 3, 2021 on the mortgaged premises being known as 10 Oak Street, Somerville, Massachusetts, being all and singular the premises described in and contained in said mortgage.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall be in force and applicable.

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by 595 Broadway, LLC to CSLF Alamosa, LLC, dated December 22, 2020 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 75181, Page 413, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at public auction at 10:00 AM, on March 3, 2021 on the mortgaged premises being known as 595 Broadway, Somerville, Massachusetts, being all and singular the premises described in and contained in said mortgage.

The land situated in Somerville and Medford in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, and bounded.

Beginning at the Southeast corner thereof, on Broadway, by lot 58 by number plan 21 drawn by Alfred Tutte, dated June, 1894 copies of which are recorded with the Middlesex (So. District) Deeds, thence running Westward by Broadway, seventy (70) feet, thence turning and running Northernly by land of said Griffin, to a line parallel with Broadway and 100 feet distant therefrom, seventy (70) feet distant from lot 59, one hundred (100) feet to the point of beginning.

The above described premises are conveyed subject to and with the benefit of, as the case may be, all other easements, covenants, restrictions, agreements, conditions, covenants and all other matters of record appertaining thereto and the condition that the same may be new in force and applicable.

For Grantee's title see recorded hereafter.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagee by deed of 595 Broadway D145, LLC dated January 24, 2016, recorded with Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67374, Page 42.

The premises will be sold subject to and with the benefit of any easements, covenants, restrictions, agreements, conditions, covenants and all other matters of record appertaining thereto and the condition that the same may be new in force and applicable.

TODAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY PH: 617.666.4010 • FAX: 617.628.0422

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at TheSomervilleTimes.com and Facebook at Facebook.com/TheSomervilleTimes and follow us on Twitter at @TheSomervilleTimes

TO PLACE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SOMERVILLE TIMES, CONTACT US BY 12 PM MONDAY PH: 617.666.4010 • FAX: 617.628.0422

Be sure to visit our website at www.TheSomervilleTimes.com and Facebook at Facebook.com/TheSomervilleTimes and follow us on Twitter at @TheSomervilleTimes
Drive-by celebration for WWII veteran’s 100th birthday

The City of Somerville Veterans’ Services Department invites members of the public to join a drive-by birthday celebration to honor World War II veteran and 75-year Somerville resident Marvin H. Spitzer on his 100th birthday.

On Friday, February 26, members of the U.S. Coast Guard, the Somerville Police Department, and the Somerville Fire Department will lead a procession of friends, family, and other well-wishers past Mr. Spitzer’s residence in East Somerville. After the parade, in a private, socially distanced ceremony, Ted Louis-Jacques, director of Veterans’ Services, will present Mr. Spitzer with citations from the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, Governor Baker’s Office, the Massachusetts House of Representatives, the Massachusetts Senate, Mayor Curtatone’s Office, and the Somerville City Council.

Born and raised in Virginia, Mr. Spitzer spent four years in the U.S. Coast Guard, serving as a chef on the USS Murzim during World War II. He put down roots in Somerville in 1946 and worked as a master electrician in the Charlestown Navy Yard. Today, Mr. Spitzer is known as a proud great-grandfather, a gifted singer, and a generous neighbor who has prepared hundreds of Thanksgiving turkeys and birthday cakes for community meals over the years. The drive-by parade will be an opportunity to safely celebrate Mr. Spitzer’s milestone birthday and thank him for his lifelong commitment to service.

“Congratulations to Mr. Spitzer on the celebration of this momentous birthday,” said Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone. “While COVID-19 has made it difficult to celebrate big life events, I hope the drive-by parade of well-wishers brightens Mr. Spitzer’s day and shows how grateful we as a community are for his service in the military and his involvement in our community over the past 75 years.”

“This is an incredible milestone for Mr. Spitzer,” said Louis-Jacques. “Even the most challenging times cannot diminish our gratitude to his service and his family’s sacrifice. Our hearts will unite as we honor him. He paved the way forward for a new generation of soldiers to serve, and for that I will always be thankful.”

Anyone wishing to join the parade should meet at the La Quinta Inn parking lot, 23 Cummings Street, at 12:45 p.m. on Friday. In accordance with COVID-19 protocols, all parade participants will remain in their vehicles for the duration of the event. Questions may be directed to Ted Louis-Jacques at tjacques@somervillema.gov.

The USO: A look back at 80 years of continuous service

The United Service Organizations (USO), the nation’s leading not-for-profit charity that serves the men and women in the U.S. military and their families, is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year.

Founded just before the U.S. entry into World War II, the USO rapidly expanded from a patchwork of local efforts with a handful of volunteers into a robust international organization.

From Bob Hope to Marlene Dietrich to Bing Crosby, the USO offered now-legendary entertainment during World War II, as well as programs and services, quickly becoming an essential part of the war effort. “Honorary discharged” by President Truman in 1947 after the end of World War II and reactivated for the Korean War in 1949, it is widely believed that the USO was inactive during this time. However, recent findings in USO archives and external sources show that the organization actually never stopped serving.

Though the future of the USO was at first uncertain after World War II, it quickly became clear that even in peacetime, its contribution to the welfare of armed forces was essential. With hundreds of thousands of returning troops in-transit and new troops headed for occupation duty overseas — as well as the many thousands of soldiers and sailors recovering in hospitals — key government officials voiced a belief that the need for an organization such as the USO was just as pressing as it was during the war.

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Then-USO president, Lindsey Kimball said in February 1946, “We face a responsibility to stand by during the difficult days of transition from total war to total participation in an achieved peace.” And stand by it. With only a skeleton headquarters staff, between 1947 and 1949, the USO continued to operate clubs and lounges, as well as send entertainers to perform for thousands of wounded service members recovering in hospitals.

The USO is still building on its continuous 80-year history today. (StatePoint)

Historical Fact

Wrinkle and ‘The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.

He also brought historic romance to our Mystic River Valley with his Tales of a Traveller, which include stories of Kidd the Pirate and The Devil and Tom Walker. These tales feature the notorious Captain Kidd’s treasure, pirates, the devil, and the Mystic River. Kidd became rich from his ill-gotten fortune. It is said that he buried gold and jewels from Maine to Florida. Many people suspected his treasure was buried near Boston close to where he was captured.

One site was thought to be on the southern shore of the Mystic River. For years, treasure hunters dug holes in the hillside of Plowed, Winter, and Ten Hills. They were spurred on by hunches, legends, and counterfeit maps but to no avail. It is said that before Captain Kidd was captured, he was hiding in a house on the old Governor Winthrop’s Estate.

Flow ironic … Ten Hills was the birthplace of anti-piracy in America because the Blessing of the Bay was the first colonial ship to be armed against piracy.

After Irving’s death, he was honored before the Massachusetts Historical Society as the first show to feature a black artist.

On This Day in History

February 24

1803 – Chief Justice John Marshall, by refusing to rule on the case of Marbury vs. Madison, asserts the authority of the judicial branch.

1821 – Some 3,000 Mexicans launch an assault on the Alamo with its 182 Texan defenders.

1895 – The Cuban War of Independence begins.

1908 – Japan officially agrees to restrict emigration to the U.S.

1928 – The New Gallery of New York exhibits works of Archibald Motley, its first show to feature a black artist.

1968 – North Vietnamese troops capture the imperial palace in Hue, South Vietnam.

1991 – General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the coalition army, sends in ground forces during the Gulf War.

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Our poet this week writes, ‘My name is Jenna Gleason. I am a senior at Endicott College studying Psychology with a minor in Victimology. I have never taken a poetry class before, but I love to write! I wrote a book of poetry when I was a sophomore at Westover School called Serendipity and hope to write another book!’

A CUP OF CHAMOMILE TEA

Maybe I’ll just stay in bed with you, I’ll skip ethics and psychology, and instead put a kettle on the stove and watch you steam slow and soft, white mist to vacant air. Maybe I’ll meditate to your gentle whisper, breathe you in, clear my lungs and thoughts back to pure. You’re comforting to me; you’re warm and cozy, usually reliable with a little milk, and a lot of honey, sweet enough, but still strong, not diluted. I’d lay with you forever if I could, with a fuzzy blanket, and nowhere to be for at least a few more hours. Sometimes, I forget about you, I get distracted or fall back asleep, but I know you’ll always be right where I left you, sweet enough, but still strong, not diluted.

Ms. Cam’s

Answers

1. Mars, Olympia Monos 7. Grand Old Party
2. Two, Phobos and Deimos 8. 6’ 11 1/4”
3. Three 9. Anna Paquin
4. Three 10. Asian rice
6. Is This It 12. England

Mr. Stevens. And yet, if I were doing things over again, systems – whose study and application could enhance my knowledge of the complex world I live in – I would have chosen differently. What do you conform and not conform to expectations? What communities do you belong to now, and in what ways do you belong? What expectations for you? Did anything – or anyone – push those expectations? And what were the consequences?

From Pipette Dreams: What is your own measure of ‘success’? What is it for your loved ones, friends, and colleagues? Has your notion of ‘success’ changed over time? And how does success relate to happiness?

From Off the Shelf: You use two different last names, “Erdos” and Merrin. “Erdos” is your computer industry name and Merrin is for the theatre. Poet Wallace Stevens said that he would never reveal his identity as a poet to his colleagues in the insurance industry because he would lose his credibility. What is your take on this?

College/Bound: What were your parents’ expectations for you? Did anything – or anyone – push those expectations? And what were the consequences?

You can find out more about College/Bound and Pipette Dreams at collegeboundthemusical.com.
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