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The Somerville Times

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VOL. 9 NO. 8

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Memories of...
that smell

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Washington Irving

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Meeting Marlena
Merrin

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City Councilor pushes for police reform



Ward 5 Councilor Niedergang has voiced concerns about adding additional personnel to the current Police Department, suggesting instead that a redirection of funds would be optimal.

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

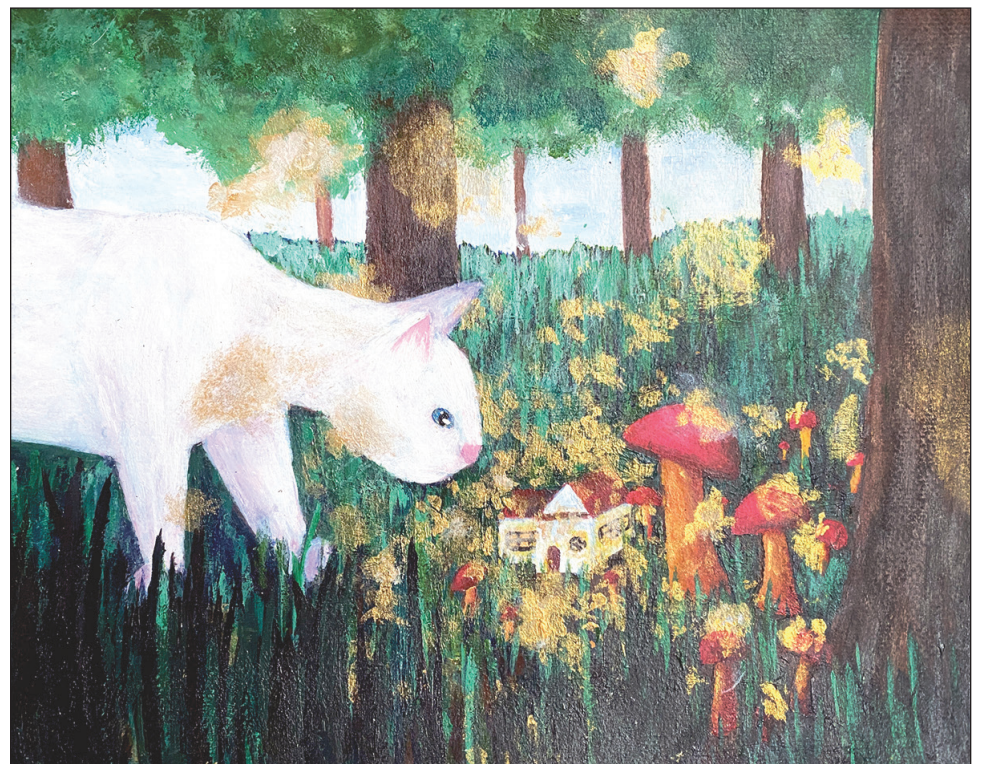
A virtual exhibit showcasing the drawings of Jessica Howard's Somerville High School portfolio class is part of the Somerville Museum's *Art of Observation* exhibit.

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.

At the Somerville Museum, One Westwood Rd, Somerville. <http://somervilmuseum.org>.



Discovery by Vere 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.

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NEWTALK








The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

City Councilor Katjana 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 certificates 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 Yetsanaira (Jessie) 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 Call to Action when you register by going to <https://tinyurl.com/SASSsignon>. For more information, *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of February 24 – March 2 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday February 24	Partly Cloudy	44°/37°	7%	4%	SW 13 mph
 Thursday February 25	Sunny	41°/23°	4%	2%	WNW 20 mph
 Friday February 26	Sunny	41°/31°	5%	7%	W 9 mph
 Saturday February 27	Rain	50°/40°	43%	29%	S 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%	NNW 13 mph

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

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

EVENTS

Zoom Book Club – Friday, February 29, 10:00 a.m. Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. Book club's next meeting is on Friday, February 19 from 10:00 to 11a.m. The book that will be discussed is In Praise of Difficult Woman by Karen Karbo. Please contact Natasha at either 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail her at NNaim@Somervillema.gov for the Zoom link or to ask any questions.

ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

EXERCISE

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

Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22
 The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Fit-4-Life YouTube

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hd26Hjpw-BI&t=68s>

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

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-cl2eBSS024&t=158s>

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

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

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF_EE-bqF0&t=130s

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

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

The Somerville Times

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Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

Ooh...that smell



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 Theatre 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 *Continued on page 10*

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Be safe and stay healthy – The Mount Vernon Restaurant

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

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. He was subsequently taken to the station for booking on these charges.

Once back at the station, the officers were able to speak with an additional witness via phone, who said he was following behind the victim's vehicle. He observed Daughtrey's vehicle in the distance apparently revving his engine before colliding with the victim's vehicle.

The witness also stated that Daughtrey then immediately attempted to flee up Myrtle Street before finally coming to rest in front of a Myrtle Street residence. He observed Daughtrey attempt to exit the vehicle, but told him to stay inside until the police arrived.

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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 Washing-

ton 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.

Yosvani 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

\$1200, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

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City Councilor pushes for police reform

CONT. FROM PG 1

their prevention detail.

Niedergang also suggests that waiting to hire a new Director of Racial and Social Justice would do nothing to impact making sensible budgetary motions. He said the idea of reimagining policing starts with reimagining how Somerville looks at problems, who will tackle each individual case and do they really need police or some other state department.

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 inci-

dents. 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.

Surveillance technology, police review policy addressed by city

By Joe Creason

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 ther-



Refining city policy on the use of surveillance technology and review of policing policy were highlighted topics at the latest meeting of the Legislative Matters Committee.

mal 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 which 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 has been revised to remove all gendered language, while ensuring that the language of the document is understandable for future reference.

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 most recently served as the Criminal Investigation Captain.



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 Immigrant Affairs Haitian Creole Liaison.

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week

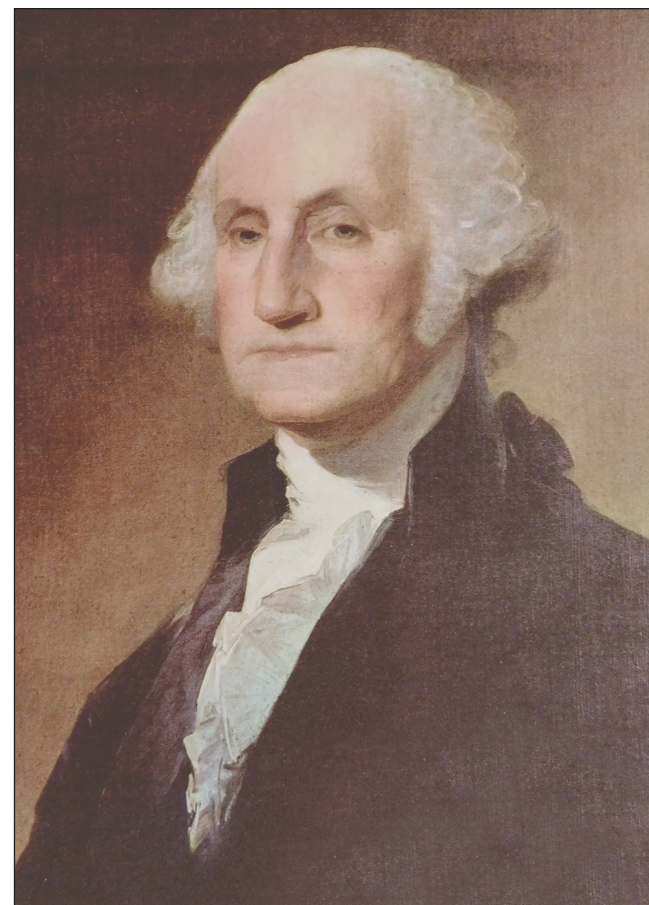


Eagle feathers #224

Washington Irving

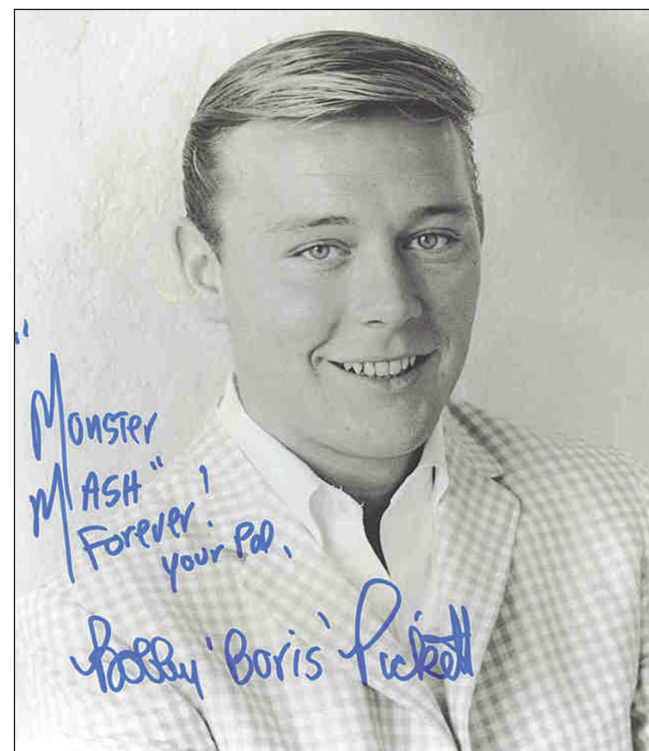
By Bob (Monty) Doherty

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 known as a man of stories and letters.



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

Irving's mother named him after President George Washington, and when he was six 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*.



What Bobby Boris Pickett and his Halloween song, *Monster Mash*, are to Somerville, the Headless Horseman is to Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow.

Early on, Irving brought romance to the Hudson Valley with his famous works of *Rip Van* *Continued on page 12*

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Beacon Hill Roll Call



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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 286 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 of 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 Cream 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 57.5 percent of the time. Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) voted 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 voted 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-Attleboro) 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 Gifford (R-Wareham) as third assistant leaders. Rep. 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 (D-Quincy) will choose 17 Democratic representatives and four Republican ones.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Human trafficking continues to occur in communities across our state, and we must do all that we can to support victims and survivors, especially vulnerable children, many of whom don't have access to traditional support systems during the pandemic. We are proud to be a part of this effort to provide improved training for law enforcement on the ground to help them identify and investigate human trafficking and assist survivors in accessing the services and support they need." — *Attorney General Maura Healey on the Baker administration's new Human Trafficking Law Enforcement Guidelines.*

"In Massachusetts, we recognize the value of a strong social safety net to help people put food on the table, access medical care and more. While fraud makes up a small portion of total public assistance spending, it has a disproportionate negative impact on public trust in these programs. At a time when more people are relying

on this assistance because of economic hardships, my office remains committed to ensuring these programs are run with integrity and fraud is quickly identified and stopped. — *State Auditor Suzanne Bump on her Bureau of Special Investigations which identified \$8.1 million in public assistance fraud during the past year.*

"Without transparency there can be no trust between a government and its citizens. These tenets are absolutely necessary if we are to ensure that the people of Massachusetts can have confidence in the elected officials we empowered to represent all of us." — *Lezlie Campbell, president of the Young Democrats of Massachusetts on his group's support for proposed new House rules that would make public all votes held in legislative committees; make bills public for 72 hours prior to a final vote; and reduce the threshold for a vote to be publicly recorded in the House from 16 to eight representatives.*

"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 involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of 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

COMMENTARY

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Welcome back?

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 so many.

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.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

please contact SASS at somervillesafestreets@gmail.com.

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to **Sean Fitzgerald**, who is celebrating this week. We wish Sean a good day. Happy birthday to **Nancy Trane**, a great person. We hope she has a great 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 Steve 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, **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 cutting 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 Curtatone'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 13 or 613, 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, and click on the "Watch Live Stream" to see the speech whenever it is aired on GovTV. The video will also be shared on CityTV's YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV, where it can be watched any time.

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 vaccine appointment must have an appointment scheduled at the same site, on the same day, as the senior they are accompanying. To make an appointment at a state site, visit mass.gov/vaccine or call 211. Keep in mind that phone wait times may be long, so please be patient. The **City of Somerville** is also available to help those who face barriers to accessing vaccines including needing transpor-

tation or language assistance. If you are currently eligible to receive a vaccine – including those in Phase 1 or who are 75 or older – and need help accessing local vaccine resources, please call 311. 311 can also connect seniors to the **Council on Aging** for support in signing up for State vaccine clinics.

You can sign up to receive occasional phone calls updating you on **the latest COVID-19 vaccine information**, including where and how to get a vaccine. To subscribe, please visit somervillema.gov/covidvaccine or call 311. If you are already signed up to receive email and text notifications through the city's alert system you will also get this information. Again, this for people who would prefer to get vaccine updates via phone call. COVID vaccine information is also posted on the city website at somervillema.gov/CovidVaccine. You can also visit the state's vaccine website, mass.gov/vaccine, for additional information.

CHA Somerville Hospital offers **free COVID-19 testing** at **Assembly Row**. To make an appointment, call 617-665-2928, **Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** The **mobile** *Continued on page 9*

FUN & GAMES

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 <i>True Blood</i> ? |
| 4. How many Lord of the Rings films are there? | 10. <i>Oryza Sativa</i> is the botanical name of what? |
| 5. In what year was the first episode of <i>South Park</i> aired? | 11. Which Beatle had dyslexia? |
| 6. What was the name of 'The Strokes' debut album? | 12. Stilton cheese is native to what country? |
- Answers on page 15

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- On average a hedgehog's heart beats 300 times a minute.
- "Canada" is an Indian word meaning "Big Village."

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

MARCH MADNESS

ACROSS

- Theories
- T in Greek
- Tarzan's mom, e.g.
- Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, e.g.
- Ingredient in talcum powder
- Spectator
- 5,280 feet
- Tiny river
- Note taker
- Last NCAA basketball winner
- Any day now
- Antiquarian's concern, pl.
- Diana Ross and Michael Jackson movie, with The
- Saw a nightmare
- Caribbean rattles
- Witch's spell
- Flocked-to destinations
- Goo or slime
- Plural of ostium
- Leo mo.
- Eurasian goat-like antelope
- Showing signs of
- "Yo, ____!"
- Nothing but it
- Wrap a baby
- ____-elimination
- Outrage
- Fraternity K
- One of the Bridges
- ____ 1 schools only
- ____ less but pennywise
- Decanter
- In a frenzy
- Threesome
- Turkish monetary unit, plural
- Dumpy establishment
- Common conjunction
- New York time
- Male deer

Down

- Singular of #1 Across
- Rikers Island weapon
- Burkina Faso neighbor
- Himalayan mountaineer

CROSSWORD												
1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11					12				13	14		
15					16				17			
	18			19					20			
				21				22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37			38			
39				40				41		42		
43				44				45		46		
				47				48	49			
	50	51				52				53	54	
55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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- | | |
|---|---|
| 5. Tarnish | 32. Oklahoma State's super freshman ____ Cunningham |
| 6. "____ fair in love and war" | 33. Mixed breed puppy |
| 7. School with most NCAA basketball titles | 36. 2021 NCAA Tournament location |
| 8. Choir member | 38. What Edward Scissorhands does |
| 9. Hammer part | 40. Stout relative |
| 10. Blunder | 41. Dream big |
| 12. Sad, to mademoiselle | 44. Ancient Celtic priest |
| 13. Radio studio sign | 46. Water nymphs |
| 14. Mid-major school that's become major powerhouse | 48. Fuzzy fruit, pl. |
| 19. Kind of ray | 49. Deflect |
| 22. Is no longer | 50. Sanders' campaign slogan "Feel the ____" |
| 23. Arabian sailing vessels | 51. "National Velvet" author Bagnold |
| 24. Restart from seed | 52. Expunge |
| 25. Uncredited actor | 53. Fail to mention |
| 26. The Wise Men | 54. Scotia preceder |
| 27. Acting as a prompter | 55. School-related org. |
| 28. Snow impression | 58. Liquor store pony |
| 29. Eric Heiden's "shoe" | |
- Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

Solution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Solution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

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

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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.

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 estimated to be 95 percent and 65 percent

respectively.

The motion was made and seconded with a start date of March 4. The students in later groups will be subsequently placed into schools at a tentative 45 percent and at a later date that has not been

announced.

Covid tests will continue and be mandatory for the students at the school and all precautionary measures that are warranted 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%20Schedule%20of%20Phases%20final%202.19.21.pdf>
- Building Assignments: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/SPS%20Building%20Assignments%20final%202.19.21.pdf>
- Health and Safety Protocols: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/sites/default/files/SPS%20Health%20Safety%20Protocols%20final%202.19.21.pdf>

As we mentioned last week, our plan 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-committee-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



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

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/info-details/stop-the-spread>.

Make sure you’re **wearing the right face covering**. The CDC has guidance on choosing a face covering that best protects those around you. Three things to keep in mind: Your face covering should be made of **at least two layers of washable, breathable fabric**. It should **completely 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 Ringler**, features local artists whose works represent: storytelling, abstraction and dance from thirteen individual artists and artist collaboratives. Since November 2020, SAC have 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 February and March**, they will be featuring dance-themed videos by artists: **Stephanie Sherman, Michal Hall, Melissa Castro, Mike Brun, Margaret Wiss, and Carven Boursiquot**. On **March 3** at 6:00 p.m., join Facebook Live for a panel discussion highlighting some of

the participating artists and the project curator. More details will be added to the website soon: <https://somervillearts council.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 accept SNAP/EBT, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$10 SNAP match for EBT customers. For market information visit: <http://www.somwintermarket.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 Business 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, including 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 pandemic has been extended through the end of the 2020-21 school year. Visit <https://www.map-ebt.org/home/#ihdtab> for additional information.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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, 2019 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 72147, Page 243, as affected by loan modification dated January 22, 2020 and recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 74019 and Page 202, as assigned to SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP, dated January 12, 2020 and recorded with Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 76676, Book 48, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at public auction at 12:00 PM, on March 3, 2021 on the mortgaged premises being known as 595 Broadway, Somerville, Massachusetts, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage to wit:

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

Beginning at the Southeasterly corner thereof, on Broadway, by lot 56 on plan number 21 drawn by Alfred Tufts, dated June, 1854 copies of which are recorded with the Middlesex (So. District) Deeds, thence running Westerly by Broadway, seventy (70) feet; thence turning and running Northerly by land now or formerly of Griffin, on a line parallel with the East side or boundary line of the lot hereby conveyed, and seventy feet distant therefrom, one hundred (100) feet thence turning and running Easterly by land of said Griffin, on a line parallel with Broadway and 100 feet distant therefrom, seventy (70) feet to lot 56, 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 rights, easements, covenants, restrictions, agreements, conditions, encumbrances and other matters of record appertaining thereto, if any, insofar as the same may be now be in force and applicable.

For Grantor's title see deed recorded herewith.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of 595 Broadway 02145, LLC, dated January 24, 2019, recorded with Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds, Book 72174, Page 40.

The premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, municipal or zoning regulations or requirements, outstanding tax titles, condominium charges, fees, or assessments, municipal or other public or governmental taxes, assessments, outstanding orders of condition or any municipal requirements, and any liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, and the rights of tenants and occupants of the premises, if any there be. No representation is made as to the status of any improvements on the mortgaged premises and the Buyer purchases subject to all requirements related thereto.

The premises are being sold with the express acknowledgment that the Mortgagee makes no representation or warranty as to the presence or absence to any wetlands or environmental issue at all,

or related to the septic or well systems, if any, or as to any contaminants or other substances, as noted under M.G.L. C21E or any other Massachusetts Statute, Code or Regulation does exist, the correction thereof will be at the Buyer's sole cost and expense, and shall be separate from the purchase price. The Buyer shall indemnify and hold harmless the Mortgagee from any and all costs, expenses or liability related to any of the aforesaid.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of \$25,000.00 DOLLARS shall be paid by the successful bidder to the Mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 189 Wells Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.

Dated: February 2, 2021 Signed: SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP Present Holder of said Mortgage
By its Attorneys, Barsh and Cohen, P.C.
Neil S. Cohen, Esquire Attorney for the Mortgagee 189 Wells Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459 (617) 332-4700

2/10/21, 2/17/21, 2/24/21 The Somerville Times

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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 19, 2018 and recorded with the Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 71770, Page 207, as assigned to SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP from CSLF Alamosa, LLC dated July 22, 2020 and recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 75181, Page 372, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing 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 said mortgage to wit:

The land with the buildings thereon situated in said Somerville being in the lot lettered C on a plan of land belonging to Mrs. R.H. Bent made by Charles D. Elliot, recorded in the Registry of Deeds for the Southern District of Middlesex County, at the end of Recorded Book 1998, bounded and described as follows:

NORTHERLY: by Oak Street, forty-six and 46/100 (46.46) feet;

SOUTHEASTERLY: by the lot lettered B on said plan forty-four and 54/100 (44.54) feet; NORTHEASTERLY: by said lot B six inches; SOUTHEASTERLY: by the lot lettered A on said plan, fifty-four and 4/100 (54.04) feet;

SOUTHWESTERLY: by lot 33 on a plan recorded in said Registry of Plans 8, Plan 51, thirty-nine and 54/100 (39.54) feet; NORTHWESTERLY: by Lot 31 on the plan last mentioned, seventy-two (72) feet. Containing according to said plan, 3302 square feet of land. For Grantor's title see deed recorded herewith.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of 10 Oak Street, LLC, dated October 19, 2018, recorded with Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds, Book 71770, Page 204.

The premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, municipal or zoning regulations or requirements, outstanding tax titles, condominium charges, fees, or assessments, municipal or other public or governmental taxes, assessments, outstanding orders of condition or any municipal requirements, and any liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, and the rights of tenants and occupants of the premises, if any there be. No representation is made as to the status of any improvements on the mortgaged premises and the Buyer purchases subject to all requirements related thereto.

The premises are being sold with the express acknowledgment that the Mortgagee makes no representation or warranty as to the presence or absence to any wetlands or environmental issue at all, or related to the septic or well systems, if any, or as to any contaminants or other substances, as noted under M.G.L. C21E or any other Massachusetts Statute, Code or Regulation does exist, the correction thereof will be at the Buyer's sole cost and expense, and shall be separate from the purchase price. The Buyer shall indemnify and hold harmless the Mortgagee from any and all costs, expenses or liability related to any of the aforesaid.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of \$7,500.00 DOLLARS shall be paid by the successful bidder to the Mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 189 Wells Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.

Dated: February 2, 2021 Signed: SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP Present Holder of said Mortgage
By its Attorneys, Barsh and Cohen, P.C.
Neil S. Cohen, Esquire Attorney for the Mortgagee 189 Wells Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459 (617) 332-4700

2/10/21, 2/17/21, 2/24/21 The Somerville Times

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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 72248, Page 363, as assigned to SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP dated July 22, 2020 and recorded with the Middlesex South 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 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 said mortgage to wit:

The land with the buildings thereon situated in Somerville, Middlesex, Massachusetts being numbered 18 on the present numbering of Irving Street and being Lot 74 on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Somerville, Massachusetts belonging to Jesse Simpson, March 6, 1872, Wm. S. Barbour and A. Hodges C.E." Recorded in Middlesex South District Deeds, Books of Plans 21, Plan 44, and being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

SOUTHEASTERLY: 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 NORTHEASTERLY: on Lot 73 on said plan, ninety (90) feet.

Containing four thousand five hundred (4,500) square feet.

For Grantor's title see deed recorded with said Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds in Book 71268, Page 124.

Being the same premises as conveyed to the mortgagor by deed of 18 Irving Street, LLC, dated June 25, 2018, recorded with Middlesex County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds, Book 71288, Page 124.

The premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, municipal or zoning regulations or requirements, outstanding tax titles, condominium charges, fees, or assessments, municipal or other public or governmental taxes, assessments, outstanding orders of condition or any municipal requirements, and any liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, and the rights of tenants and occupants of the premises, if any there be. No representation is made as to the status of any improvements on the mortgaged premises and the Buyer purchases subject to all requirements related thereto.

The premises are being sold with the express acknowledgment that the Mortgagee makes no representation or warranty as to the presence or absence to any wetlands or environmental issue at all, or related to the septic or well systems, if any, or as to any contaminants or other substances, as noted under M.G.L. C21E or any other Massachusetts Statute, Code or Regulation does exist, the correction

thereof will be at the Buyer's sole cost and expense, and shall be separate from the purchase price. The Buyer shall indemnify and hold harmless the Mortgagee from any and all costs, expenses or liability related to any of the aforesaid.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of \$25,000.00 DOLLARS shall be paid by the successful bidder to the Mortgagee in cash, by certified or by cashier's check at the time and place of the sale as a deposit. The successful bidder will be required to execute an Auction Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, by certified check, by cashier's check, or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney within thirty (30) days thereafter at the offices of BARSH AND COHEN, P.C., Attorneys for the Mortgagee, 189 Wells Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts, in exchange for which and at such time and place, the deed shall be delivered to the purchaser for recording.

The Mortgagee reserves the right to amend the foregoing terms of sale by written or oral announcement made before the auction sale, during the sale thereof or at the commencement of or during any postponed sale, the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, and to postpone the sale up until the time the property is declared sold by the auctioneer.

The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in the Notice of Mortgagee's Sale or its publication.

OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE SALE.

Dated: February 2, 2021 Signed: SGIA Residential Bridge Loan Venture V LP Present Holder of said Mortgage
By its Attorneys, Barsh and Cohen, P.C.
Neil S. Cohen, Esquire Attorney for the Mortgagee 189 Wells Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459 (617) 332-4700

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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.

"Honorably 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 occupa-

tion 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.

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 did. With only a skeleton headquarters staff, between 1947 and 1949, the USO continued to operate clubs and lounges, as well as sent 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 CONT. FROM PG 5

Winkle 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 hillsides 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.

How 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 American Man of Letters in a tribute given by Winter Hill's Edward Everett.



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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 – Mexico gains independence from Spain.
- 1836 – 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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Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

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 senior 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,
now lukewarm and waiting for my return
to feel my lips meet yours in the morning.

— Jenna Gleason

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:
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I first met Marlena Merrin at a Zoom meeting for the literary group The Bagel Bards that was once happily housed in Davis Square. The Bards remain, and the Au Bon Pain closed, lost in the Pandemic sea. When you first meet someone in a group you really don't know them until you talk one on one. I was glad to catch up with this accomplished woman, who has many dimensions and diverse interests.

Doug Holder: How has it been for you as a creative, living in Somerville and thereabouts for all these years?

Marlena Merrin: When I first moved here, which was right after college, I wasn't a creative person. I spent nearly ten years working in high technology, admiring creativity and creative people, and thinking I simply didn't have it in me.

I was in my thirties when I first attempted writing fiction. I found it intimidating to live here because of all the accomplished authors inhabiting every corner and cafe. I wondered what I had to offer. Fortunately, a very helpful and insightful life coach – Allan G. Hunter – managed to instill in me that it was important to write, and write creatively. It's because of him that I continued on with my writing, and then ventured into other creative activities – acting, improv, singing, standup comedy, and songwriting. I've had a large number of wonderful experiences – and met many wonderful people – because I didn't give up in discouragement when I was first starting out.

I also want to mention how much I've benefited from all of the arts education available in the area. This really mattered in the years before video conferencing. I've had excellent teachers! And I'm still learning.

DH: You are an accomplished computer scientist, occupying high level positions in the industry, when this was uncommon for women. One would not immediately associate "secure network software design" with the musical theatre, but you do.

MM: Yes, they seem to be not very related! However, both require attention to overall concepts and flow, as well as extreme care with very fine details. Also, both involve "different angles" on what may seem to be a commonplace situation. Here's one huge difference: In software, I work at having my designs be conceptually clean and elegantly spare; in theater – and in any fiction I write. I'm seeking rich entanglements of ideas, feelings, and characters.

DH: 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?

MM: I understand Stevens' point of view. While some of my computing colleagues think it's fun and interesting (in a good way) that I do arts, others have been terribly disconcerted by the simple fact that I have a love other than secure distributed systems – whose study and application could entirely fill one's life.

Obviously, I've chosen differently than Wallace Stevens. And yet, if I were doing things over again,



I'd chose an entirely different arts name. And I'd be more careful about which computing colleagues I reveal my arts life to. That said, I'd likely have some mis-steps anyway. One boss laughed at some songs I sang for him – I knew he would! – and still found my arts life distressing, even though I did very good work for him. Oh well...

DH: Can you talk a bit about your nascent exposure to the theatre and what plays sparked your passion for the art form?

MM: My mother took me to see shows in New York City starting from when I was about eleven years old. After taking the train and then subway in from New Jersey, we'd wait for our turn at the half-price ticket booth in Times Square. I got to see all sorts of plays, including musicals.

One of the musicals I saw early on was *A Little Night Music*. This show has a wonderful set of interacting storylines and great songs which are superbly matched to the characters and the predicaments they're in. It's also funny while having a soul. In my own musicals, I strive for the humor and depth that's in *A Little Night Music*.

DH: You wrote two full length musicals *College/Bound*, *Pipette Dreams*. You are working on a third one, *Risky Dishes*. Is there a strong thread among these plays?

MM: That's a great question! I'm surprised to find that the answer is "yes." Each show has a motif about "expectations": expectations from parents, from oneself, and one's community. The way expectations fit into each show though varies greatly.

DH: Why should people view your work?

MM: Get to know interesting characters, laugh a lot, and have things to think about and talk about with family and friends afterwards.

Here are some of the questions each show raises:

From *College/Bound*: What were your parents' expectations for you? Did anything – or anyone – upend 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 *Risky Dishes*: How did you stack up personally with ideals of each community you belonged to as a young adult? Did any of these communities know about ways you didn't stack up? What communities do you belong to now, and in what ways do you conform and not conform to expectations?

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

Ms. Cam's

Olivo

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Answers

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Mars, Olympus Mons | 7. Grand Old Party |
| 2. Two, Phobos and Deimos | 8. 6' 11 1/4" |
| 3. Three | 9. Anna Paquin |
| 4. Three | 10. Asian rice |
| 5. 1997 | 11. John Lennon |
| 6. <i>Is This It</i> | 12. England |



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