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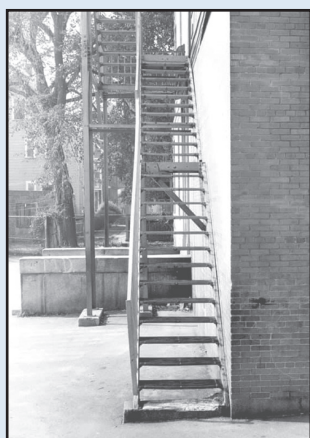


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SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021

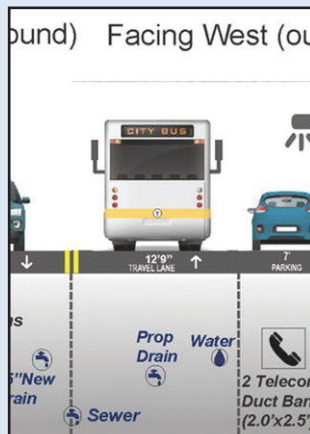
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

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revisited

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to schools

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From warehouses to laboratories in Brickbottom



Somerville's Urban Design Commission recently met to discuss plans for development of a new life science work complex in the Brickbottom District.
— Photo by Jay Venti

By Joe Creason

On Tuesday February 9, the Urban Design Commission met with a design and development team representing a group of local real estate developers, property management and architectural firms, in order to discuss plans for the construction of a new life science work complex.

Situated at the heart of Somerville's historic Brickbottom District, with close proximity to the MBTA Green Line Extension, the life science complex will support lab, office and retail space for pedestrians at the ground level. "It's really about the human experience, which we want to make sure is terrific in this neighborhood," said Douglas Gensler, Principle and Co-managing Director for Gensler Boston.

Gensler Boston is the design, architecture and real estate firm tasked with creating plans on how this new life sciences
Continued on page 4

'Language as Muse' and 'Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns' at Brickbottom Gallery

The works of three local artists – Marjorie Forté, Antionette Winters and Susan Schmidt – will be on display at Brickbottom Gallery through February 27.

The Muses, the daughters of Zeus, were the source of inspiration for the creativity, wisdom and insight on which all artists depend. For many artists language serves as Muse. It not only offers inspiration, but also interpretation.

Language as Muse, featuring the works of Forté and Winters, will explore different responses to language. In some instances, the works are visual responses to specific texts. In others, the text is incorporated with visual elements. In still others, the words themselves become the singular visual element.

Of her work, Susan Schmidt says, "*Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns* is an installation of projected drawings slowly moving over a screen of printed strips of paper. It began with drawings from the news media of immigrants in border detention centers that I later made into
Continued on page 5



The *Language as Muse* and *Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns* exhibit will be on display at Brickbottom Gallery through February 27.

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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 transportation 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.

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy birthday to **Donna Alibrandi**, who is celebrating this week. We hope she has a great day. Also celebrating this week is **Denise Racicot-Kallis**. We wish her the very best of birthdays. Happy birthday another popular lady, **Celia Taylor**, we hope she has a great day. Happy birthday to local realtor Continued on page 7

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of February 17 – February 23 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>February 17</i>	Sunny	30°/19°	3%	5%	NW 13 mph
 Thursday <i>February 18</i>	Snow	30°/30°	95%	36%	NNE 8 mph
 Friday <i>February 19</i>	Rain	33°/17°	73%	29%	N 12 mph
 Saturday <i>February 20</i>	Partly Cloudy	30°/14°	6%	10%	WNW 14 mph
 Sunday <i>February 21</i>	Sunny	32°/20°	5%	8%	WNW 10 mph
 Monday <i>February 22</i>	Snow	37°/26°	47%	17%	SSW 10 mph
 Tuesday <i>February 23</i>	Partly Cloudy	42°/31°	22%	8%	W 8 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Letters to the Editor – February 10

Usually drive, sometimes bike says:
Today around 2:00 PM, after reading these letters, I happened to drive from Davis to the high school. Almost all the street parking was taken. I encountered zero bicycles.
This proposal would eliminate all parking along the entire length of Highland ave, between Davis and McGrath, making the businesses on this burgeoning commercial corridor inaccessible to anyone without a Somerville parking permit, and much more difficult to reach for anyone else in a car, representing the vast majority of users. Driving from Watertown to Highland Kitchen with the family? Don’t bother – not possible. Coming from Boston to a big event at the Armory / high school? Don’t bother. Quick stop at a convenience store? Better look on Medford street.
Additionally, this would remove the occasional ability for cars to sneak past other cars when making turns at intersections, causing even more backups along Highland for most of its users, including buses. This may sound trivial, but these little micro-delays really compound.
Nobody who gets around by bike is going to suddenly start frequenting businesses on Highland Ave just because of the sudden presence of a bike lane – they were already going to those businesses. If they tell you otherwise, they’re lying. Also, nobody is going to take up biking simply because Highland has a bike lane – there are other ways to bike across Somerville & that decision was already made. And what’s most bizarre is that we’d force all these users, occupants and business owners of Highland ave into such contortions when we just spent 3 decades and untold dollars getting the state to give us a cool new bike path that parallels within a couple blocks the entire length of Highland Ave. If I’m commuting from Davis to Lechemere by bike I’m sure as hell going to take the new bike path, with or without bike lanes on Highland. It’s flatter and nicer.
In short, this does nothing for climate change, has negligible safety benefits, and would impose hardship on a great many people on a regular basis. I’m afraid to say it’s just an attempt by a small subset of bikers to get a shiny new toy.

Response to: Memories of SHS Auditorium, Part 1

Steve Keenan says:
Thanks for the memories, Jimmy. Mrs. Carafotes, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Limberakis were wonderful people and teachers. There were many fine teachers at SHS. My favorite teacher was Mr. David Jones; he was just the best! Steve Keenan-Class of 1968

Response to: Lyrical Somerville – February 10

Harris B Gardner says:
Excellent poem, Ed!!! One of Nature’s many warnings. Do Gypsy moths have natural predators or are they an invasive species?

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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

East Somerville, revisited



I've written many stories about one of my favorite parts of the city, East Somerville. A guy I know casually asked why I never write about East Somerville. I've actually done many East Somerville related stories since starting this column in 2008. I have my own great memories and there are so many stories. It's such a colorful and important part of the city, both now and then, that we needed another look at East Somerville the way it used to be. These are comments from the people who lived it, in their own words.

"The best school times in my life was at Northeastern Jr. High. Sauce subs at

Leone's. Lived around the corner from Khoury's. Used to get comics at Rainbow Spa. I went to Patsy's for bread. My mom worked at Apollo Cake."

"I graduated from Somerville Trade in 1967 - Electrical Shop - served in the US Navy Seabees 1968-1972 as a Construction Electrician. First duty station was US Naval Support." (Activity, Da-nang, Vietnam in 1969. thank you for your service.)

"Loved Joe Izzy's store (formerly on Glen St.) pickles in a barrel, 5 cents, when I bought them in the '50's."

"Joe Izzy had more than a shotgun by the counter (in plain view) he had about six guns hidden all over the store ... he even had one in the walk-in. The store was an armory." "Joe Izzy's dog was



named Lucky."

"Joe was a good guy. Many people made it because of the 'cuff' he provided. Gruff guy but he certainly was a major force in the Glen Park community. Royal Crown Cola, and popsicles, playing ball, nothing better. Wish my kids could have experienced the comradery of simpler times with no money."

Other former landmarks; "The Tin Roof, Donovan's, Cross Drugs, Daly's Bucket of Blood."

"I skated on Glen Park which was flooded by the DPW every year. Coasting on Franklin Street. Played stick ball at

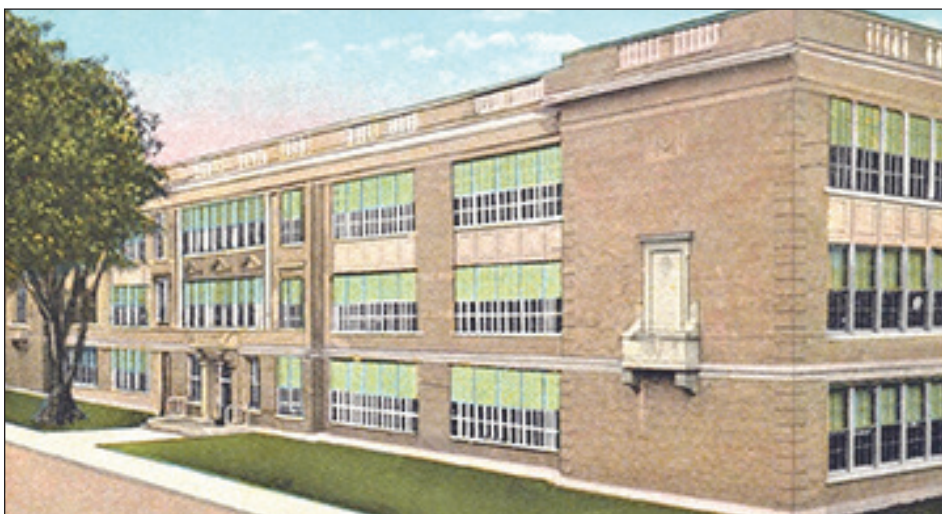
Prescott School yard and lived on Franklin Street for 65 years!"

"In the late 40's and early 50's the neighborhood kids, or as they used to call themselves, The Dukes, used to open the nearby hydrant to flood it. The fire department would be called and then just stand by until it finished flooding. I lived within steps of the park. It was great."

"Khoury's was the place to be on Friday and Saturday nights! Had so much fun there!"

"Sparrow, Stevie C, East Somerville legends." (Sparrow was a well-liked guy who led the patrons in an

Continued on page 9



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small business during this difficult time.*

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Be safe and stay healthy – The Mount Vernon Restaurant

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:	Grath Hwy. on warrant charges	bery, and assault and battery	February 16, 3:18 a.m., arrested	on, indecent exposure, destruc-
Rene Peralta , February 15,	of larceny from a person, as-	with a dangerous weapon.	at Cutter Ave. on warrant charges	tion of property over \$1200, and
11:33 p.m., arrested at Mc-	sault and battery, armed rob-	Michael Hogan , of Cambridge,	of assault with a dangerous weap-	disorderly conduct.

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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Thank you for your assistance.

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From warehouses to laboratories in Brickbottom

CONT. FROM PG 1

office complex will work and function within the existing ecosystem of the Brickbottom district. North River Company and Leerink Development in addition to RedGate, will be the other real estate groups partnering with Gensler on this project.

Gensler says taking an approach of simplicity, scale, sustainability and the proper attention to the streetscape will provide for a vibrant urban environment where communities can flourish.

Though the Commission believed the building design was elegant and functional, they had reservations about the

project that they felt should be addressed before construction plans can be finalized.

The Commission focused on the layout for the life sciences complex, which would position a main doorway for the complex away from the development's civic space. The civic space, designed to be open for strolling pedestrians and retail shoppers, is situated right at the cross section of Chestnut St. and Poplar St. at the core of the Brickbottom District.

Putting the doorway at the far end has the potential to disrupt the flow of foot traffic generated by the civic space, as well being a good distance away from the lo-

cation of the Green Line Extension station, which will be closer to the civic space.

Another area of concern for the Commission is the aesthetic character of the building within the historic context of the Brickbottom District. Beginning centuries ago, the clay rich soil of the Brickbottom district became the source for many of the bricks which laid the foundation for Boston and many other cities in the Commonwealth. It has been an industrial zone for decades, as well as being a home to artist communities over the years, and the Commission would like to see some of its historic character preserved.



"The building is shy, it looks very nice and clean but it could really be anywhere," said Commission member Heidi Cron.

Some Commission members believed that the current design did not pay enough homage to the district's storied past due to the lack of a brick motif and the many generally used construction materials incorporated into the overall aesthetic.

Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities seeks Commissioners

The City of Somerville seeks four residents to serve as Commissioners on the Commission for Persons with Disabilities. The Commission strives to coordinate and carry out programs designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities. Additionally, the Commission provides information, reviews policies, and provides recommendations on issues affecting people with disabilities.

Commissioners must be current residents of Somerville and able to commit to at least five hours of service per month. Additional requirements may apply for some positions. The Commission for Persons with Disabilities meets every second Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Open Positions: Four positions

Term: 3 years

Availability: Immediate

For more information, please contact Nancy Salamoun, the city's Manager of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, at 617-625-6600 x2323 or nsalamoun@somervillema.gov.



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City Council demands answers on Spring Hill Separation Project

By Hongyu Liu

At their latest regular meeting, the Somerville City Council approved an order requesting that the Director of Mobility and Director of Infrastructure and Asset Management collaborate in writing responses to their questions regarding the Spring Hill separation project.

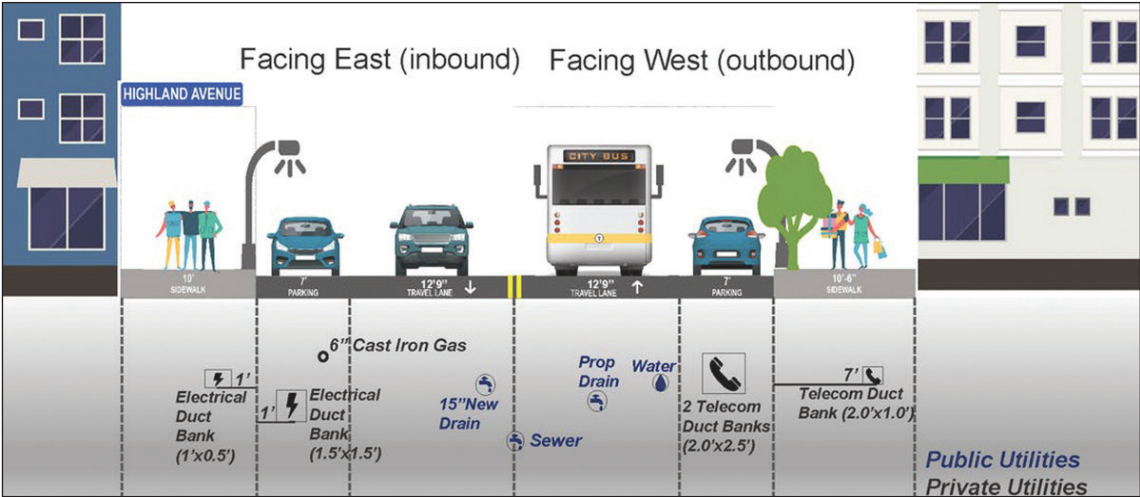
The Spring Hill Separation Project is aimed at mitigating flooding, reducing waterway pollution, and upgrading infrastructure throughout Somerville through the repairing and replacing of old drainpipes, improvement of road features in the community, and the construction of protected bike lanes in the Spring Hill area.

The Second Community Meeting regarding the project was held on December 14, 2020.

The sponsor of the order, Ward 7 City Councilor Katjana Ballantyne, explained that she brought up this order because she heard a lot of dialog and received emails regarding the Spring Hill Plan.

Ballantyne said most of the complaints are from the biking community, who are not satisfied with the plan by the administration to put off discussion of the dedicated bike path.

Questions regarding the project range from its schedule of finishing the design, to the plan for reallocating parking spots, and the estimated construction time of protected bicycle lanes.



Ballantyne said that her questions aim to “try to ascertain in more detail the thinking and thought behind delaying any decisions for the protected bike lane.”

Ballantyne believes this order is crucial for the advocacy groups to think about the future planning of the city. “This is the only time that the pedestrian, transit advocacy groups, the bike group can try to think into the future, be really forward thinking,” she said. “We’re always hampered with how things are working in the infrastructure project. I think it’s very important that we unpack those a little bit. And we have a conversation at both ends and really try to drive the future planning.”

The Council order passed with 11 votes.

'Language as Muse' and 'Joys, Sorrows, & Concerns' at Brickbottom Gallery

CONT. FROM PG 1

polymer plate prints. The projected images are a series of small symbols, such as a heads, drones and badges. The projection device was made by John Carney, from a discarded overhead projector. I am interested in the ways that drawing allows us to consider current social issues differently than the way we see them on screens. A slower, more imaginative response to crisis. In this installation piece, I was thinking about problems for people seeking asylum in the U.S. and my prints portray human beings within that system, suspended and uncertain.”

At Brickbottom Gallery, 1 Fitchburg Street, Somerville.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Roasted Peppers

This past week I found myself with 2 small bags of sweet peppers. When I have more peppers than what I know what to do with, I roast them and store in olive oil and garlic for a longer shelf life. They are great on sandwiches, in salads, frittatas, served along roasted chicken or any other dishes you like.

2 small bags of mixed sweet peppers or 2 red bell peppers
2 garlic cloves, finely minced
2 teaspoons olive oil, plus as much as needed to cover the peppers
1-2 glass jars with a lid, at least 8 oz. each

Preheat oven to 375°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or alumi-

num foil. Pour about 2 teaspoons of olive oil in the center of the baking sheet. Roll all the peppers and coat them in the olive oil. Spread them out on the baking sheet, and place in the oven.

Bake until the skin is blistered, about 40 minutes. Turn the peppers over about halfway through the cooking time. Once the peppers are roasted, place them in a bowl and cover them for about 20 minutes.

Once cool enough to handle, take off the stem and start peeling off the skin and remove the seeds. Do not rinse under water. If there are a few seeds still left on the peppers, it's fine. Add 1/3 of the minced garlic to the bottom of the jar.

Place 1/2 of the peppers into the jar and top with 1/2 of the remaining garlic. Then add the remainder of the peppers and the remaining garlic.



Now top the jar with olive oil, making sure the peppers and garlic are completely covered.

Store in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

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

Somerville School Committee tackles school scheduling

By Alex Reidy

The School Committee Regular Meeting took place virtually on February 8. The biggest news to come from the meeting was the tentative agreement between public schools to allow groups 1 and 2 – special needs and ELO students – back into in-person classes beginning in March.

No official timeline was given for grades K-12, and they await ratification of the deal itself before they move to plan the return of all students.

This return is dependent on maintenance work, specifically ventilation work. Students cannot return until Honeywell, the contractor in charge of the work, completes the plethora of cases that have been filed. 206 at Winter Hill alone, and only 43 of those have been completed so far.

A specific case brought up was the pressurization of a stairwell in the high school that has failed its test two times, but after a recent test the Committee might be ready to pass it.

The goal of the Committee right now is to reopen by March, pending positive tests of ventilation and maintenance completions.

During public remarks many issues were

raised, mostly in a negative light towards the Committee for inaction to return of the schools to in-person classes and to bring children back to a normal life.

Calls for a 5-day school week were made, and the issue of Spanish speaking adults feeling left out of the Committee’s activities and their children being far more affected and isolated than the rest of the children was brought up. Some felt that the Committee and the city’s lack of attention to the Spanish community was because of language. One person said, “language is the barrier of trust.”

Another problem mentioned was the tearing apart of Somerville communities and people are moving away in order to be able to place their children in private schools that are conducting in-school classes.

A general feeling of malice towards the Committee was noted, and emotions ran high as the public speakers pleaded for action to reopen schools as quickly as possible, just as other towns have done. Many were excited about the March agreement.

The Report of the Superintendent included the possible beginning of the next school year to start before or after Rosh Hashanah, with a September 9 beginning being proposed. There is a



continuation of a search for a principal and the application deadline is February 19. Initial interviews will commence on March 8 and candidates will be notified of any information on March 15.

Covid-19 metrics were gone over, including the information of 350 cases being counted in the last 14 days. Summer school was discussed and the logistics that it would entail in running it effectively. The vote on the school calendar was reserved for the next meeting, and a motion to continue to accept several key grants was made and seconded.

A special meeting is being held on Wednesday, February 17, to vote. GoToWebinar

6:30 p.m.: Executive Session 1. To discuss MGL, c.30A, sec. 21 (a) (3) for collective bargaining strategy. 6:45 p.m.: Special Meeting of the Whole 1. Ratification of Memorandum of Agreement between the Somerville Educators Union Units A and C and the Somerville School Committee for In-Person Instruction during 2020-2021 School Year. Please use the following URLs to preregister or on the date and time of these School Committee Meetings to watch them live – Executive Session: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2276572223586422029>. Special Meeting of the Whole: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8275149223941811469>

Ball Square Pedestrian Improvements Signed Letter

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Mr. Rawson,

We, residents and supporters of Ball Square, anticipate a considerable increase in pedestrian and bicycle traffic when the new Green Line station opens. The requests below have arisen through discussions about street safety improvements needed in the area immediately around the new station. The area, which includes Broadway between Josephine Ave and Winchester St., Boston Ave. between Sphere Luxury Apartments and Highland Rd., and Rogers Avenue at its intersection with Boston Ave., provides a number of persistent challenges to be addressed. We propose the following improvements to balance pedestrian, bike and car uses in this area:

- Install a crosswalk to connect Kelly’s Diner to MBTA station, which will serve residents accessing the station from Rogers, Pearson, Prichard, and Boston Aves., Highland Rd. and anyone from the east side of Morrison Ave. The current crosswalk at Josephine constitutes a detour that encourages unsafe pedestrian crossings of Boston Ave and Broadway.
- Create a 20 m.p.h. “Safety Zone” on Broadway through Ball Square, from Powder House Circle to Cedar Street, with radar speed signs and flashing signs, similar to other squares.
- Install physical infrastructure throughout Ball Square so the streetscape reflects the desired 20 mph. limit. Infrastructure can include raised tables, flex posts, speed bumps, concrete planters and pedestrian refuge islands. Physical infrastructure should be implemented with bicycles in mind and should allow for the straightest path.
- Create better No Right on Red signage for vehicles and bicycles traveling eastbound on Broadway (in front of Kelly’s Diner) onto Rogers/Boston in order to protect the crosswalks.
- Prohibit all vehicle and bicycle left turns (i.e., even on green) from westbound Broadway onto Rogers/Boston at all times and/or during rush hour periods and high vehicular traffic times in order to preserve crosswalks safety.
- Expand the sidewalk and public space area at Rogers Avenue and Boston Avenue, and Boston Ave at the bridge, to create public plazas, consistent with 2017 MIT design study: <https://dusp.mit.edu/cdd/project/neighborhood-plan-2017-ball-square-and-magoun-square> (page 37). This will provide benefits of narrowing an oversized roadway, slowing speed and U-turns, provide traffic calming, and spaces to advance placemaking and safety.
- Add raised tables on westbound Broadway at Winchester Street/ Medford to bring speed down as vehicles crest the bridge. This should be done in coordination with Medford to address concerns about the Winchester Street/ Albion Street / Broadway intersection.
- Last, we request a community meeting before March 21 (the beginning of spring) with OSPCD’s Mobility Department staff to discuss these points. We believe these changes will significantly reduce risks to pedestrians and cyclists in this area. Thank you for your attention.

Signed by 88 residents, businesses and supporters of Ball Square: Letter contributors

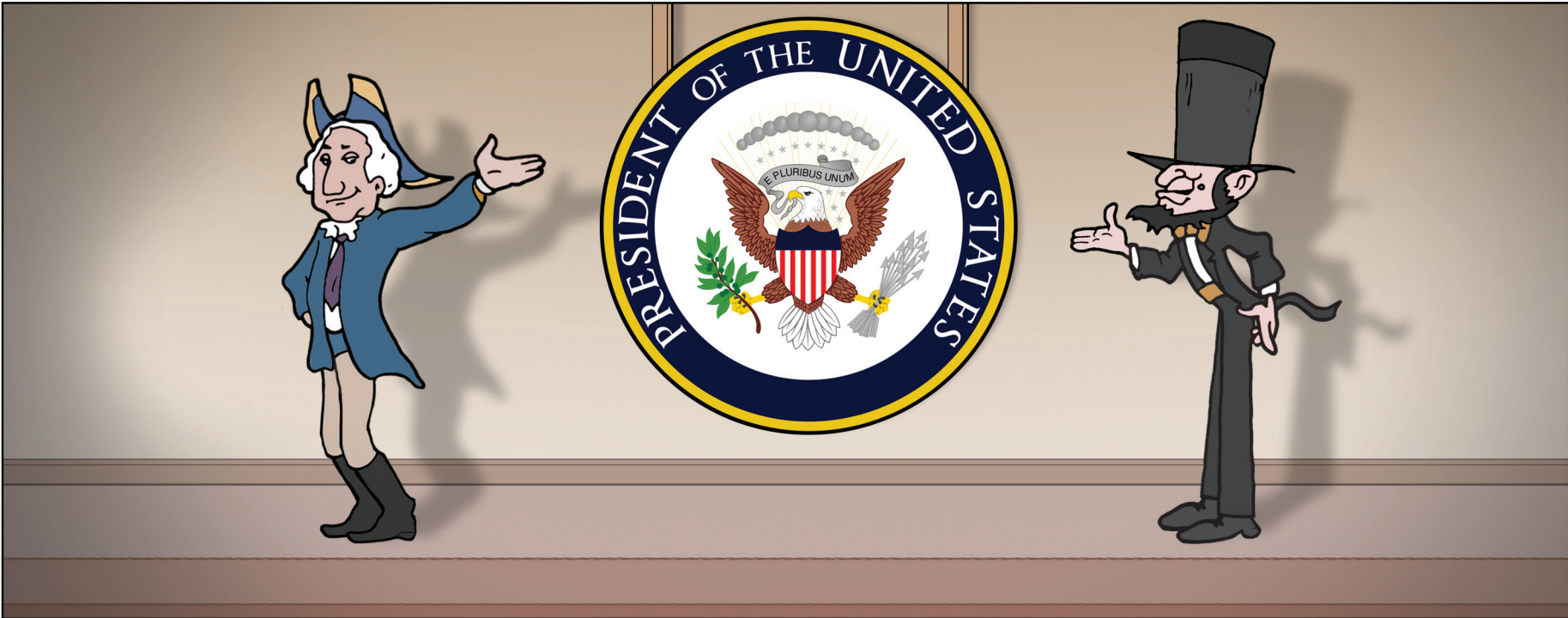
Rana McLaughlin of 96 Rogers Ave and entrepreneur, Toonsie Toys
Colin Macdonald of 78 Rogers Ave.
Jessica Macdonald of 78 Rogers Ave.
Jennifer Dorsen of 83 Josephine Avenue and representative, GLX Working Group- Ball Square
Jeff Shwom of 111 Boston Ave. and main organizer of the Ball Square District Association (BSDA) Stephanie Galaitsi of 44 Morrison Ave. and organizer of Powder-house Traffic Safety
Jim Silva of 115 Yale Street (S. Medford) and organizer of South Medford Residents Together
Alex Feldman of 80 Rogers Ave. and local artist, Alex the Jester
Mark Niedergang, Ward 5 City Councilor

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COMMENTARY

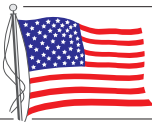
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



A very presidential President’s Day to one and all!

Our View Of The Times



The President's Day holiday puts us in mind of those great leaders who governed us throughout our country's tumultuous history: The American Revolution, the Civil War, two world wars, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam, and so on.

Greatness was thrust upon certain holders of that office by events that shaped their legacies, while others are relegated to general obscurity due to a lack of conflict and controversy during their times in office. Each one's tenure in office should be regarded as equally important. In as much as big events could have elevated their place in history at a moment's notice.

The man or woman who assumes the role of Commander and Chief of our nation must be ready willing and able to rise to the occasion when called upon to do so. Each one of us, whoever we may be supporting in this year's election, is searching our heart to determine who we feel will best fill those shoes.

Most of us seem to be very confident that our favored candidate was up to the task. Others bemoan a lack of integrity or skills required to do the job well among those who choose to run.

Let us hope that the new holder of the office will rise to the occasion and realize the potential they may have to become as great as others who have gone before them. We are facing more trying times, and the right choices are now more important than ever.

Most importantly, those of us who did our civic duty and voted last year did our part to help preserve our Republic.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Sammy Alves, who is celebrating this week. We hope she enjoys her day. A big happy birthday to a real good guy, Elio LoRusso, who is celebrating this week as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as Dave Ortega, Jeannie Malone DeMase, Joelle Hochman, Dee Manuel-raposo, Barbara L Amaral, AnneMarie Gates, Sheila Borges-Foley, Jason Rabin and David Tiger Williams, a very happy birthday.

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, please contact SASS at somervillesafestreets@gmail.com.

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.

Registration is now open for Somerville 3000, a free online February vacation program for Somerville youth. Blast off for a futuristic week of engaging activities to explore what life might look like in the next millennium. Activities will be offered Tuesday, February 16, through Friday, February 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Animate aliens, write out-of-this-world songs, and more with the Somerville Media Center, Farrington Nature Linc, Parts and Crafts, Somerville Arts for Youth, the Beautiful Stuff

Project, and Parkour Generations Boston. Come to one class or all of them, and bring your friends along to join the fun. Brought to you by SomerSocial, SomerPromise, the City of Somerville, Somerville Public Schools, and the Somerville Education Foundation. Sign up now at somersocial.com.

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 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://somervilleartscouncil.org/projectionseries>.

Continued on page 12

George A. Dilboy 125th Community Center fund established

Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church is pleased to announce the establishment of the George A. Dilboy Endowment Fund to honor George Dilboy’s 125th birthday on February 5, 2021. The Dormition community is raising an initial \$250,000 investment to seed the fund, which will support the new George A. Dilboy Community Center at Dormition, an annual scholarship for a Somerville High School graduating senior, and an annual Dilboy Medal of Honor awards ceremony recognizing Greek Americans who have made extraordinary charitable and philanthropic contributions to humanity.

“George Dilboy is a beloved son of both Somerville and the Greek community,” said Diane Karavitis, President of the Dormition Parish Council. “Dormition Church sees the opportunity to celebrate Dilboy’s memory in a way that is prestigious and everlasting, and also to educate the public about the selfless contributions of one of the greatest Greek-American war heroes to his native and adopted countries. We hope that all Americans will be inspired by George’s courage and service.”

George A. Dilboy was born in Alatsata, Smyrna in Asia Minor in 1896. His family emigrated to the United States when he was a boy and settled in Somerville. In 1912, at the age of sixteen, he volunteered to fight for Greece in the Balkan Wars, returning to Somerville in 1913. In 1916, he enlisted in the United States Army in the Mexican Border War, and he received an honorable discharge in 1917. Shortly thereafter, he re-joined the United States Army to fight in France during World War I, and on July 18, 1918 he sacrificed his life as part of the Second Battle of the Marne. Dilboy was the first Greek-American to be recognized with the Congressional Medal of Honor, receiving it posthumously for “gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty.” He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church (www.dormitionchurch.org), established in 1916, is a vibrant, active parish community of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Pastored by the Rev. Fr. Anthony Tandilyan, Dormition brings together four generations of Greek Americans and other Orthodox Christians from all walks of life.

Contact: The Rev. Fr. Anthony Tandilyan, Pastor; Diane Karavitis, Parish Council President; Richard Barrett, Fundraising Chair. Email: richardbarrett@johnofdamascus.org. Website: www.dormitionchurch.org. Phone: (617) 625-2222.



Somerville expands eligibility for COVID-19 small business relief

The City of Somerville is expanding eligibility criteria for its COVID-19 Business Relief Program to deliver direct aid to more businesses and nonprofits.

The City launched Round 3 of its COVID-19 Business Relief Program in January, allocating an additional \$5 million for businesses facing government-mandated closures, including restaurants and businesses in Phase 3 and Phase 4 of the Commonwealth’s Reopening Massachusetts plan. Over the past month, more than \$1.5 million of those funds have been administered to 118 businesses in Somerville. For a list of recipients to date, visit somervillema.gov/BizRelief.

While applications continue to be reviewed on a rolling basis, the City has now expanded eligibility requirements to include more businesses and some nonprofit organizations. Businesses that can demonstrate close ties to gyms, theaters, event spaces, or other sectors facing government-directed closures and whose revenues have decreased by at least 50% in the past year are now eligible. Florists or event planners, for example, may now qualify for assistance under the new guidelines. Nonprofits classified as gyms, fitness facilities, indoor recreation, and event facilities are also now eligible to apply. Applications and full eligibility requirements are available at somervillema.gov/BizRelief.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the City has allocated a total of \$6,750,000 in emergency aid and waived \$750,000 in fees for Somerville small businesses. In addition to direct financial assistance, the City’s Economic Development team continues to offer intensive, multilingual support to local businesses, including weekly virtual town halls, topic-specific webinars, one-on-one business coaching, and referrals to other economic stabilization funds, among other initiatives.



East Somerville, revisited

CONT. FROM PG 3

exciting singalong of *God Bless America* at the end of each live band performance. My band, The Echos, had the pleasure of backing Sparrow up many times, usually after we did *Separate Ways* by Journey)

"My Dad and Brothers were Venice (Café, formerly in Davis Square) guys, but my Grandpa was a Khoury’s guy! Lived down the street when he was much older and mom would find him there when we tried to visit!"

My friend Anthony, who contributes stories to this paper added this: "Northeastern Junior High, (formerly on Marshall St.) some called it "the rock"... some called it "the Penitentiary." Lots of exposed asbestos. Lots of melted bubble gum on the radiators and

lots of building decay. We were nervous wrecks back in elementary school, knowing we were going to this school in the 7th grade. The stories we heard ... teachers and students being tossed out 2nd floor windows. Desks being smashed, students starting fires in classes!" None, of course, happened when we got there.

You sat at picnic tables in the cafeteria and they were covered with years and years of graffiti written in pen ... some carved into the wood. The drinking fountains were these filthy mini sinks and in some rooms there were windows that the glass was missing or the weights were broke so that the window wouldn’t stay in the up position. Actually, some windows were

stuck in the up position.

What held that school together was a Vice Principal who dug his heels in to run the school – Mr. Silk, and very dedicated teachers who worked under very challenging conditions. God Bless them."

"The Broadway Movie Theatre at the end of Franklin Street was in operation from 1915 to 1982 – movies shown at the historic theatre covered a span from *The Tramp* with Charlie Chaplin to *Raiders of the Lost Ark* with Harrison Ford."

"Great sledding down Austin hill into Mystic Ave." (yikes!)

"Try sledding down Mason Street into Broadway!" (do not try this!)

"I worked at Tucks, worked there for years! Then worked at



East Somerville Health Center... loved growing up there and bringing up my kid in East Somerville."

"Little did my parents know that the \$2.00 they gave me got a 6-pack and a bag of chips at Joe’s!"


Today East Somerville is a

still growing, diverse community rich in culture. As I said, I have many personal memories of East Somerville and still visit a lot. Check out East Somerville Main Streets.

More stories related to East Somerville can be found in *The Somerville Times* archives.

LEGAL NOTICES

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



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Somerville City Council's Land Use Committee and the Somerville Planning Board will hold a joint public hearing on **Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:30pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. C. 30A, s. 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

REGISTER ONLINE
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6948076072564655117>

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following proposed amendments to the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

Clarifications and corrections to Section 2.1 Glossary.

Clarifications to Section 2.3 Building Types Overview.

Clarifications to and reorganization of Section 2.4 Standards & Measurements and corresponding building type table corrections.

Clarification to the "Development Review" section of every zoning district.

Clarifications and corrections to Sections 3.1 Neighborhood Residence and 3.2 Urban Residence.

Affirmation of the intended applicability of certain facade design standards in the MR3, MR4, MR5, and MR6 zoning districts to newly constructed facades and buildings.

Clarification of the Block Building and Commercial Block Building descriptions.

Clarifications to and reorganization of Section 8.3 Master Planned Development.

Correction of the Public Service use definition in Section 9.2 Use Definitions & Standards.

A clarification to Section 10.2 Accessory Structures concerning development review.

A correction to Section 10.3 Landscaping concerning a reference to national standards.

Affirmation of the actual eligibility for the entitlements of Section 12.3 Buyouts & Payments.

Clarifications to and reorganization of Sections 10.1 Land Platting and 13.2 Thoroughfares.

An Amendment repealing the two-story building base design guideline in the MR5 and MR6 districts due to a conflict with other standards.

An Amendment to Section 7.4 Assembly Square Mixed Use (ASMD) district creating a payment in-lieu of civic space located within close proximity to Interstate 93.

An Amendment to Section 9.2 Use Definitions & Standards to create the Recharging Station principal use category.

An Amendment to Section 10.2 Accessory Structures to create an Electric Vehicle Charging Station accessory structure.

An Amendment to prohibit vehicular entrances to parking along pedestrian streets.

An Amendment to Section 15.4 Certificates to align the timeframe for review and issuance of a Certificate of Zoning Compliance with other established processes and to correct the validity of Certificates of Zoning Compliance.

The proposed ordinance amendments identified above are posted online at http://somer villecityma.ig m2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=3073 under SZO Corrections Amendments. Final language of the above amendments may be modified by the City Council during the legislative process. Persons unable to attend the hearing may provide comments by email to planning@somervillema.gov.


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**USCIS Presentation:
The Naturalization Process**

On Thursday, February 18, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., USCIS Community Relations Officer, John McCarthy, will provide an overview of the naturalization process; describe eligibility requirements, the filing process and a description of the interview.

This virtual presentation is being offered as part of the Pathways to Citizenship grant from the MBLC.

Registration required:<https://tinyurl.com/the-naturalizationprocess>.





Section 00.11.13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the **Balcony Dividers at Properzi Manor**, SHA project #2021, for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Reverse Architecture dated February 10, 2021.

The Project consists of: Fabricating and installing a total of 60 new balcony dividers on 10 floors, 6 per floor. Removing existing metal bar dividers and patching. New dividers to be galvanized steel backup frame anchored to concrete balconies with phenolic core solid color panels on both sides.

The work is estimated to cost \$ 200,000.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by the Davis/Bacon Wage Rate. The project is subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the Somerville Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer). Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until _ and publicly opened online forthwith.

SUBTRADES
05 50 00 Miscellaneous and Ornamental Iron

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, General Building Construction, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement (Form CQ 3).

General bids will be received until **2:00 pm on Thursday, 11 March 2021** and publicly opened online forthwith.

All bids should be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com and received no later than the date and time specified above.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates) and made payable to the **Somerville Housing Authority**.

Bid forms and Contract documents will be available for pick up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of \$50.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc.

Plan Deposits may be electronically paid or by check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets upon return of the sets in good condition within (30) days of receipt of bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority.

Additional Sets may be purchased for \$50.00.

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for **\$40.00** per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to BidDocs ONLINE, Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

SUB-BID: PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:
Date and Time: **Wednesday, February 17 2021 at 10:30AM**
Address: Properzi Manor, Entry Lobby
13-25 Warren Ave, Somerville, MA.
Bidders must call to make an appointment to attend the Sub-Bid: Pre-Bid site visit. No more than one person from each bidder will be allowed to attend. All attendees must wear face coverings and practice social distancing.

It is strongly suggested all prospective sub-bidders attend the site visit.

GENERAL BID: PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:
Date and Time: **Thursday, February 18 2021 at 10:30AM**
Address: Properzi Manor, Entry Lobby
13-25 Warren Ave, Somerville, MA.
Bidders must call to make an appointment to attend the General Bid: Pre-Bid site visit. No more than one person from each bidder will be allowed to attend. All attendees must wear face coverings and practice social distancing.


It is strongly suggested all prospective general bidders attend the site visit.

Questions or requests for an appointment to see the work site should be directed to Travis Panzini at TravisP@sha-web.org or 781-570-6535 or 617-625-1152 x330.

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

Somerville Housing Authority 30 Memorial Road Somerville, MA 02145 617-625-1152	Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749 978-568-1167
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ADVERTISEMENT

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for Elevator Inspection, Maintenance and Repairs at Various Developments, SHA Job No. **P-ELV-042021** in accordance with the specifications prepared by the SHA Purchasing Department.

The work consists of a three (3) year "full service" monthly preventative maintenance contract as well as all other necessary repairs. Contractor must be able to provide twenty four (24) hour service 7 days a week.

General Bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Planning and Operation DCAM in the category of work: Elevator Constructor.

The work is estimated to cost \$300,000.00 per three (3) year term. Bids are subject to M.G.L.c. 149§44A J, and to the minimum wage rates required by M.G.L.c. 149§26 27H inclusive.


General Bids will be received until 11:00 A.M., March 11, 2021 and publicly opened forthwith, at the Offices of the Somerville Housing Authority, Administration Bldg., 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145. A "Go to meeting" will be arranged for bid opening. Viewing information will be posted on SHA website. www.sha-web.org, under our opportunities tab.

Bids may be mailed or dropped off to Somerville Housing Authority, 30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145 and must be received before the time specified. General Bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than 5% of the greatest possible bid amount (considering any alternates) and made payable to the Somerville Housing Authority.

Bid and Contract Documents will be available for download on Somerville Housing Authority web site www.sha-web.org, under our opportunities tab, at 11:00 a.m., February 17, 2021. There will be no charge for these documents. If downloaded, you must contact Anthony Crespo by email at Tonymc@sha-web.org and register\ leave contact information including an email to receive changes, or updates. You will receive a reply that your email has been received. Bidders\ Contractors are responsible for insuring that their email and bids are received.

A site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., February 22, 2021. You are not required to attend. Attendees must wear a PPE facemask, which covers the nose and mouth, and maintain social distancing, failure to do so may result in rejection of your bid. Attendees are required to provide notification that they will attend. Please notify Anthony Crespo by email at Tonymc@sha-web.org or at 617-625-1152 extension 336 if you are attending. All interested parties will meet at outdoors of Somerville Housing Authority, Modernization Building, 30R Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145.

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CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB#21-55

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

Healey Tot Lot Construction

An Invitation for Bid may be obtained online at www.bidexpress.com, www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing/bids, or Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 on or after **2/17/2021**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **03/10/2021 1:00PM EST**. The Purchasing Director reserves right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please contact Andrea Caruth at acaruth@somervillema.gov for more information.

Andrea Caruth
Assistant Purchasing Director
617-625-6600 x. 3400

2/17/21 The Somerville Times

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Prime Storage - Somerville located at 39R Medford St., Somerville, MA 02143 intends to hold an auction to sell the goods stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on **3/10/2021 at 12:00 PM**. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Roberta Mendoza unit #0431; Claudia Long unit #0771. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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Want to write local Somerville stories?

Call 617-666-4010 and speak to the Assignment Editor

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, 2021Signed: 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 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 letterd 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, 2021Signed: 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 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.I. 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 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, 2021Signed: 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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The Growing Center's Annual Seed Sale Fundraiser

The Growing Center is happy to announce their Annual Seed Sale Fundraiser. They are again partnering with High Mowing Seeds from Vermont, who offers them a percentage of seed sales to help support the Growing Center's activities.

Please check out the seed and seed kit information on their website and complete your order online by our deadline of February 19: <https://www.thegrowingcenter.org/seed-sale>.

Seed orders will be available for pick-up, following health and safety precautions, at the Growing Center, 22 Vinal Avenue in Somerville, on Friday, March 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., or Saturday, March 13, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

They will send you an email to confirm your order and pick-up details. If you have questions, please contact: info@thegrowingcenter.org.



Growing Center Community Learning: The River of Life with Cathy Haines

If your life were a river, what shape would it take? The River of Life exercise is designed to help you reflect and discover where you've come from. Building on the January Community Learning session, please join in for another learning opportunity on Sunday, February 21, at 3:00 p.m., featuring a guided River of Life activity.

Listen to a special piece of music written 140 years ago, inspired by the composer's love of nature, while through verbal and written prompts participants will create their own River of Life imagery. No special skills required. Suggested materials include: paper, crayons/colored pencils or markers, or alternatively, a piece of cloth or scarf to represent the river and nature items (stones, shells, leaves, sticks) or other meaningful objects to create your own story.

Cathy Haines, OTR/L is a community occupational therapist specializing in mental health and wellness who currently works as a consultant at the Center for Mindfulness and Compassion at Cambridge Health Alliance.

Register in advance at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwscOmqrjsiH9E5_X6avBbSjeOsHoP3eejw. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

With support from **Somerville Health Foundation, Mystic Learning Center, Somerville Education Fund** and **Somerville Media Center**, YouthStream will host a youth-led, peer-organized **Among Us Tournament from February 16 to 19**. This tournament is free to enter for young people ages 13-19 in the Greater Somerville area, and will offer cash prizes in several categories, including several that do not require skill or prior game experience in order to win. **Participant Registration Form - Among Us Tournament Winter 2021:** <https://forms.gle/YNavmTFpCLwKm9sZ7>. YouthStream is also recruiting youth moderators who want to earn paid stipends for

completing projects such as organizing virtual events and producing live streams. **YouthStream Moderator Application Form - Peer Leader Program 2021:** <https://forms.gle/BcXjuE9QEjj2aTve8>. Finally, if you have not already joined YouthStream's Discord Server, click this link to check out what's going on at the Villeside Digital Cultural Center and get connected for all future events: <https://discord.gg/AxUnJdU3Nt>.

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 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, 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.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



My friend has an awful disease where he can't stop telling airport jokes. His doctor says it's terminal.

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On This Day in History February 17

- 1801 – The House of Representatives breaks an electoral college tie and chooses Thomas Jefferson over Aaron Burr.
- 1864 – The Confederate submarine Hunley sinks the USS Housatonic in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.
- 1919 – Germany signs an armistice giving up territory in Poland.
- 1938 – The first color television is demonstrated at the Dominion Theatre in London.
- 1945 – Gen. MacArthur's troops land on Corregidor in the Philippines.
- 1955 – Britain announces its ability to make hydrogen bombs.
- 1960 – Martin Luther King Jr. is arrested in the Alabama bus boycott.
- 1973 – President Richard Nixon names Patrick Gray director of the FBI.
- 1985 – Murray Haydon becomes the third person to receive an artificial heart.

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'The Great Empty:
A Renga in Time of Corona'

by Somerville Poet Gary Duehr

The Great Empty: A Renga in Time of Corona
By Gary Duehr
Grisaille Press [2020]
\$9.95
<https://www.garyduehr.com/poetry>

Review by David P. Miller

The Japanese term renga indicates a series of linked poems. Each poem consists of five lines in two “stanzas” with specific syllabic counts, the first with three lines of 5-7-5 syllables, the second with two lines of 7-7 syllables. This, at least, is how the form manifests in standard English-language practice: the relevant concept in Japanese practice is mora or “sound units” rather than syllables. If 5-7-5 seems familiar, it is: the first renga stanza, called hokku, evolved into what we know as haiku. Typically, renga are written collaboratively, and can be quite lengthy. The linkages between poems may be based on different attributes, such as (free-)association, comparison, or contrast. (There are interesting comparisons with more recent forms such as the surrealist “exquisite corpse.” On a global, multimedia scale, have a look at the collaborative Telephone Project: <https://phonebook.gallery/>.)

Gary Duehr makes a thoughtful, evocative contribution to the literature of the COVID-19 pandemic with The Great Empty. This renga includes forty linked poems in orthodox English-language form. As suggested by the title, Duehr especially evokes the sense of alienation and social abandonment which marked the onset of the crisis, in the late winter and spring of 2020. I’m writing this around the New Year at the top of 2021. Although we are still far from coming to grips with the disaster, on all levels beginning with the devastation of individual lives, families, and communities, the situation is no longer new. This work recalls what it was like to have the pandemic suddenly crashed down on us.

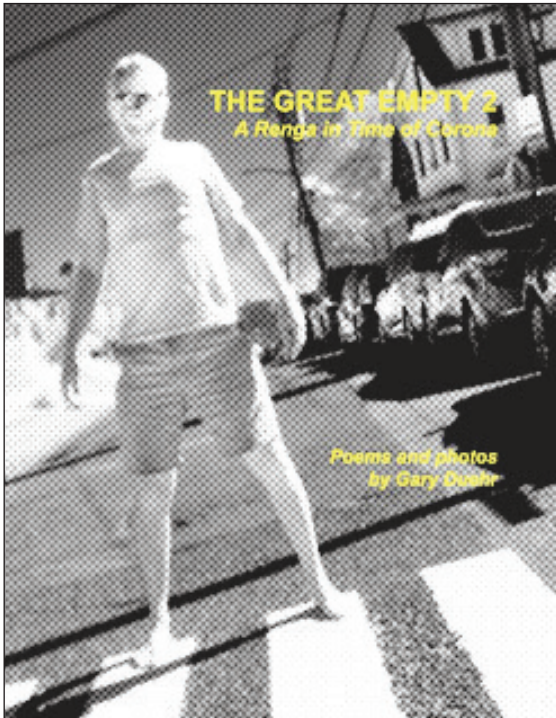
The Great Empty is not a group product. Nevertheless, Duehr makes use of different forms of linkage between poems, suggesting associative flows discovered in the process of writing. Individual words and phrases may be transmuted. A key image in the last line of poem 2 mutates in the second line of poem 3:

This face mask, smudged, torn blossom. (2)

On a U.S. map,

The pale pink smudges swell up, (3)

Stark contrasts may mark the space between poems. Poem 22 ends with an image of the early community applause for first responders: “Block by block, Brooklyn’s neighbors / Clap their hands: a pond’s ripples.” Compare this with the first stanza of 23: “Isolate, apart / A tribe of total strangers, / We roam dusty streets.” Images themselves may transform, as between poems 24 and 25. 24 ends with an image of late afternoon quiet, from the cessation of subtle sound: “Somewhere outside a dog yelps. / The house ticks, hums, falls silent.” This is



followed by an image of nighttime quiet disrupted by sound similar to, but different from, ticking: “Two a.m. Hard rain / Nails the walls down. Still awake, / You miss everything.”

Particularly complex associations link poems 34 and 35. Here is 34:

These tiny moments:

Look how bright the house-fronts are!

Night slides into day.

From the next room, the tapping

Of computer keys: light rain.

Poem 35 begins with a line repeated verbatim from 34. It sets into motion connections between rain/river, present/past, and house fronts/skyscrapers:

Night slides into day.

The house a watery dream.

A lifetime ago,

The river in Chicago

Lit up by sunny towers.

The Great Empty is, of course, more than a compendium of linkage techniques. Duehr expresses the combined shock and melancholy of the early COVID-19 period, when we learned that the disease was going to mean much more than a cruise-ship infestation. Poem 5 imagines the sudden disappearance of normal crowds from city streets as an optical illusion: “As in a 19th-century / Tintype, only transient ghosts.” From 9: “Here’s The Great Empty: / Terminals, hotel lobbies, / Train stations, plazas.” The crises of emergency hospitalizations and surges in mass deaths

Continued on page 15

Lyrical
SOMERVILLE
edited by Doug Holder

Poet Ann Macey writes: “I grew up in northern Ohio. I studied English and received my degree from Smith College. I read poetry at The Out of the Blue Gallery. There I was befriended by Deborah M. Priestly. I attended readings in her home. In February, I came back to this area. I had been tutoring writing to adults on Cape Ann.”



Word Portraits

I came earthbound, yet
winter begins pearly grey,
heavenward-I leave

The last streaks of light
cut the dark, pierce the night
woods in late autumn.

November sunlit.
So strange for this time of year.
Trees, streets, path walkway.

Embrace the sunset
nightfall over the water
A candle flickers.

Light from the windows
Illuminates the days now
Autumn in the park

— M. Ann Macey

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

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. London | 7. Denny's |
| 2. Woodstock '94 | 8. Hungary |
| 3. China | 9. Irving Berlin |
| 4. Chickpeas | 10. Insulin |
| 5. Cowboy hat | 11. Michael Jacobson |
| 6. Panasonic | 12. Savannah |

From page 8

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

EVENTS

Music & Movement – Thursday, February 18 at 10:30 a.m. Join Steve as he plays guitar, sings and leads gentle movements. Just tapping your toe or singing along can help move your body in new ways. Being physically active is not just good for our bodies, but it is also one of Mental Health America’s 10 tools to building resiliency; or the ability to overcome obstacles and manage through tough times. Physical activity can improve sleep, increase energy, decrease some kinds of pain, boost our immune systems and lower the risk for stroke and some cancers. It also helps to reduce our anxiety, depression, stress and tension. Join Steve as he shows us that exercise can come in all different forms and movements. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321. You will then receive your email invitation to join the program via ZOOM. Zoom.

Jeopardy Game Night – Thursday, February 18, 5:00 p.m. Our Health and Wellness Coordinator Chris will be hosting an hour long Jeopardy game over Zoom with questions that will cover such topics as: Health and Wellness, TV Shows, History, Sports, Music and Movies. For more information or to RSVP please contact Chris at 617-625-6600, ext. 2315 or email at CKowaleski@Somervillema.gov. Other dates include March 18 and April 15.

Caregiver Check-In – Tuesday, February 23, 11:30 a.m. Are you a caregiver for a loved one and want to connect with other caregivers? Would you like to discuss the joys and challenges of caregiving? The Somerville Council on Aging is hosting a monthly check-in via Zoom for caregivers. Please contact Natasha by either called 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail Natasha at NNaim@Somervillema.gov.

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=4hd26HjpwBI&t=68s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwHfyoEZaws&t=247s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcl2eBSS024&t=158s>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7EDtaldYSz0>
Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAnwfwGybTI>

Yoga YouTube

Yoga with Janine video #1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDGF_EEbqF0&t=130s
Yoga with Janine video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zezcj9XXBU>
For questions or to register for a Fit-4-Life Zoom exercise class, please contact Chris at CKowaleski@somervillema.gov or call 617-625-6600, ext. 2315.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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/>

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

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.

Virtual overdose prevention training

Learn how to prevent, recognize and respond to opiod overdose at this free virtual training session on Monday, March 15, 3:00 p.m. Register for the event at: <http://bit.ly/March15registration>

Additional trainings will take place on Tuesday, April 13: <http://bit.ly/April13registration>; Monday, May 10: <http://bit.ly/May10registration> and Tuesday, June 15: <http://bit.ly/June15registration>

Contact Tali Schiller at naschiller@challiance.org for more information.

'The Great Empty: A Renga in Time of Corona' by Somerville Poet Gary Duehr

CONT. FROM PG 14

manifest as surreal images of the mundane: “Beds flank a parking garage. / In a field, white tents billow” (11). Our lives’ in-person events, abruptly cancelled, resulted in blanks evoking hospitals and cemeteries: “Calendar squares lie empty: / Pillows, graves” (16). The sense of being unmoored expands to include time itself: “The day / Begins its long trip – // Alone, without any bags” (29). At the same time, the voice does not settle for despair. The poet repeatedly re-centers his perception. For example, while poem 6 begins, “We are ghosts, transients,” it concludes, “In his drive, a dad unloads / 12-packs from his Range Rover.” “Forsythias spark” in 10, there’s “a din of starlings” in 20. To focus on such phenomena is not to bypass the catastrophe. Rather, it’s to keep one’s fears and cautions situated in what has in fact not changed, what is also still real. It is not a matter of sentimentality but of psychological survival. Poem 32 melds The Great Empty’s most affirmative statement with an observation that’s acute as it is uneasy:

What can be read there?

Einstein: live as if all things

Are miraculous.

Two branches, high up, rubbed raw:

A violin’s plaintive cry.

We’ve seen that poem 35 moves to the memory a past life in Chicago. This revery continues through poem 37 and then pivots, as if a reminiscent daydream wakes into contemplation of early morning and its qualities: “The world falls open— / Breathing, quiet—the glossy / Red mouths of tulips” (39). With the 40th poem, the renga concludes, not in an easily-grasped redemption, but with space for each moment and sensation:

Between breaths, a pause.

A quiet slice of Thisness.

She’s asleep upstairs.

Your day has not yet opened.

Let each thought stretch out, release.

COVID-19 has confronted us with challenges that are, in their totality, beyond individual comprehension. Poets have provided all manner of responses, contributing perspectives that, combined, help us to understand the depth and extent of the crisis. See, for example, Voices Amidst the Virus, published by the Lily Poetry Review Press (disclosure: that anthology includes a poem of my own). The distinctions of Gary Duehr’s The Great Empty are its formal elegance and its meditative quality. While not denying the pain and alienation of this time, it allows us to step back and reset. It turns out that emptiness means room for panic to subside, as well as the vanishing of vehicles and crowds.

(Duehr has also published a sequel, The Great Empty 2, including “infrared, black and white photos taken in the spring and summer of the pandemic by the author, which reflect the apocalyptic, science fiction-like nature of the times.”)


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