

Somerville's
original
independent
newspaper

The Somerville Times

www.thesomervilletimes.com




VOL. 9 NO. 15
SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



Taking a ride on The Whip page 3



Taking on hostile architecture page 5



Meet your new Principal page 6

Somerville’s ‘Comedy Studio’ faces uncertain but hopeful road to reopening



Venues such as The Comedy Studio are turning to online streaming as a means of survival through the remaining covid restrictions period. — Photos courtesy of The Comedy Studio

By Timothy Kaplowitz

As COVID-19 vaccination rates rise in Massachusetts, many of the state’s live performance venues are finally eyeing reopening after over a year of closure. While indoor venues elsewhere in Massachusetts begin to reopen, Somerville’s local government has taken a more cautious approach, barring indoor performances, and restricting some forms of outdoor performance that involve high rates of aerosol projection.

Rick Jenkins, owner of The Comedy Studio in Somerville, says the pandemic has placed his business in an increasingly precarious position. Over the past year The Comedy Studio has received aid from Somerville, the State of Massachusetts, and the Federal Government.

While this aid allowed Jenkins to retain his staff for much of the pandemic, in January, facing drastically reduced revenue, he was forced to furlough the theater staff in

Continued on page 4

Little free libraries engage readers during COVID

By Shira Laucharoen
Somerville Wire

Copies of Kerouac’s *On the Road*, Sue Grafton mysteries, and an American cookbook line the shelves of Ellie Botshon’s Little Free Library on 28 Jay Street. While she has housed the structure on her property for about five years, similar book collections have been popping up all over Somerville for some time now, offering passers-by the opportunity to pick up a read or donate their own.

“It started with my sister, who is an English literature professor,” said Botshon. “She got one for her house, and I loved the idea, so I got one as well. At the same time, ironically, my business partner and our assistant also got a Little Free Library in their house, and we work together. It’s a nice way of connecting with each other and the people in the community. It gets used daily, and it’s cool to watch, seeing what books come in and go.” She added, “It’s

Continued on page 6



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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.

As businesses gradually reopen throughout the city of the next weeks and months, please remember the importance of **shop-ping local**. These businesses have taken a hit while remaining closed during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic lock-downs and they could sure use a boost as they take their first tentative steps towards getting back to normal. Now and into the future. We owe that to them.

Somerville seeks short video messages to honor **Memorial Day**. The **City of Somerville Department of Veterans' Services** invites local Veterans and family members of Veterans to submit short video messages to celebrate Memorial Day. Veterans and Veteran families are encouraged to record short messages, about 10 to 15 seconds long, to share what Memorial Day means to them or a message for troops deployed overseas. Submissions will then be compiled into a larger video to mark this year's holiday. Videos should be submitted by **Friday, April 30**. They can be emailed to **Ted Louis-Jacques**, Director of Veterans' Affairs, at tjacques@somervillema.gov or texted to him at 617-404-5290.

City Councilor At-Large Bill White announced this week that he will not be running for re-election in November. We want to thank Bill for serving the city of Somerville for the past 24 years and we wish him the very best in whatever he decides to do next.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: A big happy birthday to **Ward 7 Councilor Katjana Ballantyne**. We hope she has a great birthday for herself with her family. We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends such as **Mark Hnl Kaye, Eileen Langille, Lia Sophia, Jesse Moos, K Muti Standel, Missy Julien-Thelemarque, Olga Solomita, Janet Grigg-Uttaro, Joanne Veneziano Finnegan, Patricia Ferrelli, Carol Duffy and Jackie Coviello**, who are all celebrating this week. To all the others we may have missed *Continued on page 7*

The Somerville Times

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The Somerville Times is published every Wednesday

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Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of April 14 – April 20 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
 Wednesday <i>April 14</i>	Cloudy	56°/45°	15%	11%	ENE 14 mph
 Thursday <i>April 15</i>	Rain	54°/44°	39%	23%	ENE 15 mph
 Friday <i>April 16</i>	Rain	49°/41°	51%	31%	NE 16 mph
 Saturday <i>April 17</i>	Cloudy	55°/44°	25%	17%	NNW 12 mph
 Sunday <i>April 18</i>	Rain	58°/45°	32%	22%	E 11 mph
 Monday <i>April 19</i>	Rain	56°/44°	49%	26%	NNW 13 mph
 Tuesday <i>April 20</i>	Partly Cloudy	63°/45°	12%	9%	W 10 mph

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

TheSomervilleTimes.com

Comments of the Week

Response to: *Revitalizing local democracy through charter reform*

Villenous says:

Is the mayor not elected by the people? I'd much rather have an executive I can hold accountable than have 11 different councilors in a legislative body all pulling the city staff in different directions. That's a recipe for corruption and ineffective government. Somerville's had honest mayors for decades, but there's been a rogue's gallery of councilors. And those days are far from past. Just watch the guy from Ward 2 skeeze on the nearest woman if you don't believe me. And the city already has a legal department. Honestly, this whole thing seems like an exercise by the council in increasing their power to where they can pay themselves a full-time wage. My main thought on the charter is we all should get to vote on the changes. That would keep any shameless power grabs in check.

Yet another poster says:

I wholeheartedly agree with you villenous. We've had our share of sleazy councilors. Plus let's face it, a lot of what the mayor has to do is way above their pay grade, if you catch my drift. Deputizing them to micromanage the mayor is a recipe for disaster.

DatGruntled says:

Is there a way to give the city council less power?
Cause I would vote for that.
Though given our current choices for Mayor, I also want that office to have less power.

Follow the money says:

Nothing like having a comment from a woman that made thousands of dollars in donations to Matt McLaughlin's campaign. Matt McLaughlin was one of the people choosing this committee. I better never hear him criticize the mayor on his contributions.

Response to: *New public safety building plans presented*

Matt C says:

Its a bit absurd to put in a public safety building in the middle of the the proposed economic center of the city. why not put it a bit further out and use a spot that is spitting distance from the green line stop for business and housing.

Response to: *City Councilor Will Mbah announces candidacy for Mayor*

Sara Dion says:

Wow, congratulations! You most likely have my vote!

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

Life in the

VILLE

by Jimmy Del Ponte

The Whip



"Wow! Nobody believes me when I tell them about this truck!"

A hot summer's night, many years ago. People sitting on their front porches. Kids with popsicles and the sound of fans in widows. A truck pulls up and all the kids run over to it, but it's not the ice cream man. After stopping and getting money from their parents, the kids line up for a ride on The Whip! Along with the frenzied kids, what I remember most was the sound of the motor and the smell of exhaust. But boy was it a blast!

In the photo, one of the trucks says Uncle Sam. Now here comes the Somerville connection. When they saw the photo on Facebook this was the reaction:

"My wife's Uncle! Slamming Sam Pino, Boston University Football Hall of Fame! Running Back, Drafted and played for the Green Bay Packers with Bart Star."

More memories started pouring in reacting to the photo. "I remember this truck coming to Albion St. and it cost



10 cents. Trying to explain this to others is almost impossible for anyone to comprehend, if you never heard of it before." Indeed! A truck that went from neighborhood to neighborhood that had a fun filled amusement park ride? It's no wonder that the memories of The Whip were so numerous.

"Omg! I remember this coming to Magnus Ave. We always rode more than once. I told my kids about this and they thought I was crazy, now I can show them it was real."

"I still remember the excitement of seeing it come down the street (Montrose). And, weren't we always outside, playing on the street?"

"We used to yell faster, faster and it seemed like it did go faster ... the driver could throttle up the engine to make it go faster!"

My friend Phil recalls, "I remember my sister Linda giving me a dime to ride it. She became my hero then."

"I remember going to the Star Market parking lot back in 1971. That was part of the small carnival they set up every year. Kids would be wearing neck braces the next day. No one sued."

Can you imagine if The Whip truck came around today? There's probably new safety rules and restrictions in place.

I'll go out on a limb here and say that we kids took lot of chances back in the day. We played on the railroad tracks, and right in the middle of the street. We also gathered in city parks and played sports! remember leaving my house around 8:30 a.m. and not getting home until after dark. We thrilled when the traveling carnivals set up for a few days. We made a bee line for the ice cream truck but when The Whip came around, it was special.

It's no wonder that a friend made this comment: "One of my all-time favorite memories!"

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Additional types of outdoor performances, outdoor retail can resume April 19 in Somerville

With vaccines being made available to all residents over 16 beginning Monday, April 19, the City of Somerville will expand its reopening guidelines to allow more types of outdoor performances and outdoor retail to resume on that date. The city will also work with gyms on plans to safely reopen changing rooms and showers.

Outdoor performances that may cause moderate aerosol spread, including theater, comedy, and spoken word performances, will be allowed under guidelines previously established for outdoor performances. Activities like singing and playing wind instruments are not currently allowed.

- Outdoor retailers must still follow City permitting requirements:
- Flea markets must apply for a public event permit through CitizenServe.
- Individual retailers must apply for a permit through CitizenServe.
- Artists without a storefront have the option to work with an existing business to set up in front of its store and go through the individual retailer process or follow the flea market process to set up shop in a public space.

The City of Somerville continues to monitor COVID case trends, vaccination rates, and other related data on a daily basis. As more people are vaccinated there is hope for further reopening in the near future.

For more information and regular COVID-19 updates, visit www.somervillema.gov/coronavirus and sign up for City alerts at www.somervillema.gov/Alerts. Community members are encouraged to sign up for every alert method: phone call, text, email. Also follow [FB.com/SomervilleCity](https://www.facebook.com/SomervilleCity) and [@SomervilleCity](https://twitter.com/SomervilleCity).

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Too upset to be booked

Somerville Police officers were dispatched to Bairos Liquors on Broadway last Saturday evening on reports of an intoxicated customer who refused to leave the store after the manager refused to sell liquor to the defendant, Tyler Manning.

The store manager told police that he refused to sell liquor to Manning because of his level of intoxication. According to the

manager, Manning began to threaten him by saying, "I'm going to kick your ass. Come at me, I'll beat you up."

The manager said that he then informed Manning that he was calling Somerville Police.

Manning reportedly shouted at police, almost nose to nose with one of the officers on the sidewalk. As officers approached him, Manning took a combative

stance and began shouting and threatening them.

Manning was ordered numerous times to leave the area by one officer, but he reportedly belligerently shouting at the officer, and then chest bumped him.

Manning was pressed up against the building and then placed on the ground with an arm bar takedown.

A struggle ensued as Manning

was placed in handcuffs. He was then informed that he was under arrest. Manning reportedly made numerous attempts to get up and lunge at officers. He was then placed on a bench, and continued to try to get up and lunge at them, but he was held down on the bench by force.

Manning was placed in a police transport vehicle and taken to the station for booking

on charges of resisting arrest, threat to commit a crime, and disorderly conduct.

According to reports, the booking officer was unable to book Manning because of his behavior. He was placed into a prisoner cell so that he could have some time to calm down in the hopes that the officer in charge could finish the booking process.

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

Jeremiah Gagnon , April 5,	10:28 a.m., arrested at Rossmore St. on warrant charges of utter false check, forgery	of check, larceny over \$1200, and larceny from a building.	10, 10:19 p.m., arrested at Broadway on charges of resisting arrest, threat to com-	mit a crime, and disorderly conduct.
		Tyler Manning , April		

Hit-and-run driver sought by police

Troopers from the Medford Barracks, Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, and Crime Scene Services Section continue to investigate a hit-and-run crash that caused serious injuries to a pedestrian last night on William McGrath Highway (Route 28) at Broadway in Somerville. The victim, a 72-year-old Somerville man, was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital with potentially life-threatening injuries.

Troopers responded to the scene at 8:40 p.m. after State Police, Somerville, and regional dispatchers all received calls reporting a pedestrian was down on the roadway and was injured. Responding Troopers determined that the victim had been struck by a vehicle while crossing McGrath Highway from east to west. At the time he was hit, the pedestrian was apparently coming from the nearby Stop & Shop supermarket and was carrying several bags of groceries.

Evidence gathered to date suggests the vehicle that struck the victim was a white minivan or SUV. The vehicle sustained front-end damage in the crash, including a damaged headlight. Anyone who sees a vehicle matching this description or has information about this crash is asked to contact State Police-Medford at 781-396-0100.



Somerville’s ‘Comedy Studio’ faces uncertain but hopeful road to reopening

CONT. FROM PG 1

an effort to reduce expenses. Jenkins has already outfitted The Comedy Studio with plexiglass barriers and reduced seating in an effort to make the space safer. Despite these retro-fittings, The City of Somerville has yet to give the green light on indoor performances.

Across the Charles, Norm Laviolette, owner of comedy venues Laugh Boston and Improv Asylum, has already begun to host in-person shows at 50% capacity. Despite a sell-out crowd the weekend of Improv Asylum’s re-opening, Laviolette fears for the long-term health of his business. "The reality of the 'fifty percent open' is that you can't sustain on that. You can get your businesses started, and that's what we're doing. But none of these businesses are going to be able to survive in the long haul at fifty percent."

The pandemic has forced both

Jenkins and Laviolette, two multi-decade veterans of the Greater Boston comedy scene, to drastically shift their businesses towards online content. Zoom was a radical new format for stand-up comedians, demanding a shift in both their presentation and material. Jenkins explains, "The material is becoming a lot more personal and a lot more intimate. A lot less 'jokey.' You're looking in the eyes of your audience in the little boxes. There's no 'blinded by the lights,' it's very clear you're talking to someone."

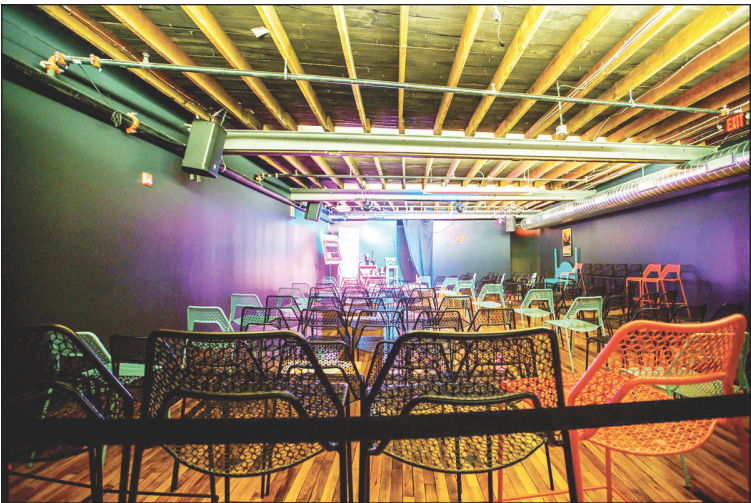
Laviolette plans to stream shows at his venues even after the pandemic. "We're gonna be offering online streaming tickets for almost every show that we sell there. And that's great, because now you take your 300-seat club. Well, now it's a 500-seat club, or 1000 seat club."

Though Somerville Mayor Joseph Curtatone is sympathetic

to local business owners, he is also well aware of the grave ramifications of the ongoing pandemic. "I'm acutely aware there are financial impacts," Curtatone explained, "but I'm also the person who gets the phone calls when 84 people die in my community. We will not do anything to put people's lives at stake."

Towards this end, the Mayor's Office has doubled down on making outdoor dining and performance spaces more accessible: waiving \$750,000 in permit fees, and removing almost all financial barriers to make the outdoors more accessible to Somerville business owners.

Though the future of Somerville's indoor performance venues remains uncertain, outdoor comedy has a bright future. On April 12 a spokesperson for the city wrote: "As of 4/19, comedy performances will be allowed outdoors. Indoor comedy performances are currently not al-



lowed in Somerville due to the continued high covid case rate in Greater Boston and the Commonwealth and the higher risk of indoor activities."

In challenging times, Laviolette believes the arts are essential. "It's the artists that help us get through psychologically, right? They're needed. It's not a 'nice-to,' it's a 'need-to.' So, remember that. Remember that's what got us through the dark days, so let's go out and let's support them as

better days are ahead."

The Comedy Studio is located in Bow Market in Somerville, information about their shows is available at thecomedystudio.com.

Laugh Boston is located in the Seaport District, information about their shows is available at laughboston.com.

Improv Asylum is located in the North End, information about their shows is available at improvasylum.com.

City Council addresses hostile architecture, police use of force

By Alex Reidy

The April 8 City Council meeting saw many resolutions passed, including that one appointing the Director of Mobility and Commissioner of Public Works work with the State Delegation to remove hostile architecture from the Davis Square MBTA station, as well as to ensure that no hostile architecture continues to be installed around the city.

Hostile architecture is specifically designed to target vulnerable populations such as the homeless to “push them out of an area” as Robert Rosenberger an associate professor of Philosophy at Georgia Institute of Technology writes.

Hostile architecture features in the MBTA stop at Davis

Square consist of armrests in benches, which at first were designed to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, but have gradually made them harder for people to use in the way that homeless people have been using them for years. This includes resting, sleeping, and reclining in comfortable ways.

It is, in effect, a way to push homeless people away from public spaces and out of the public eye. If the problem cannot be seen then the problem is not there, as some might see it.

Another important agenda item addressed was the unanimous approval of the regulation of chemical crowd control agents and kinetic impact projectiles. As stated in the briefing, “The

use of pepper spray by the SPD or any other law enforcement officer shall not be permitted unless an emergency exists that requires the immediate use of Pepper Spray to prevent serious bodily injury or death, (A) an Officer personally witnesses on going and illegal acts of violence, property destruction, imminent threats of violence, or imminent threats of property destruction involving a weapon, (B) is unable to arrest or detain an individual using a lower level of force, and (C) provides a clear verbal warning of the imminent deployment of Pepper Spray prior to its use and affords a reasonable opportunity for the individual(s) to cease and/or comply.”

These changes come in the wake of the George Floyd killing



So-called hostile architecture, which discourages resting and sleeping in public spaces, has been deemed inappropriate by the Somerville City Council.

that occurred in Minneapolis last year, where alleged excessive force by a police officer used in an arrest ended in the death of the detainee.

This change in policing tactics has been a common discussion in the Somerville government as seen in previous statements by Ward 5 Councilor Niedergang concerning reduction of the number of police officers in the city and how conduct their duties.

Pearl Street mobility improvements public meeting

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Ward 1 Councilor Matthew McLaughlin invite you to a virtual community meeting to discuss roadway upgrades and traffic safety improvements on Pearl Street. As part of the Pearl Street Reconstruction and Traffic Safety Improvements project, sidewalks will be reconstructed, the road will be repaved, and traffic safety upgrades will be installed on the eastern section of Pearl Street, between McGrath Highway and Mount Vernon Street. Construction is expected to begin later this year. At this meeting, City staff will introduce the project, provide existing conditions data, and present concepts for potential roadway changes to improve traffic safety and support sustainable, multi-modal transportation. Community members are invited to provide input about the conceptual designs and priority locations for different types of improvements. The meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. Learn more and register to attend at www.somervillema.gov/pearlstreet.



“CHA Management has taken us from hero to zero.”

— A registered nurse at Cambridge Health Alliance

How does the management team at Cambridge Heath Alliance (CHA) thank its nurses and healthcare professionals for their hard work and sacrifice during the COVID pandemic?



- By withholding long-overdue wage increases.
- By insisting on cutting their sick-time benefits.
- By dismissing their requests for simple, affordable improvements to nurse staffing.
- And by refusing to treat healthcare professionals from Everett Hospital fairly and equitably.

A year ago, when CHA nurses and healthcare professionals first began caring for COVID patients — often without proper PPE and always at the risk to themselves and their families — CHA management was happy to speak publicly about how much it valued its staff. But now that it is time to resume discussions with staff about their working conditions, management has changed its tune, instead opting to drag out an already long and unfair contract negotiation with the goal of ignoring needed improvements to staffing, pay, and benefits.

CHA’s nurses and healthcare professionals deserve better.

Matthew Buchanan selected as next Somerville High School Principal

Following a comprehensive search process, Somerville Public Schools (SPS) Superintendent Mary Skipper is pleased to announce that Matthew Buchanan, currently Principal at Hope High School in the Providence Public Schools in Rhode Island, will be joining the District's school leadership team as the next Principal of Somerville High School (SHS). Mr. Buchanan is wrapping up his second year at Hope High, and takes over the helm of the 1,250+ comprehensive Somerville High School from current Principal Sebastian "Sibby" LaGambina. Principal LaGambina, a graduate of SHS, announced in January his intent to retire at the end of this school year after a 35-year career in SPS, including the last four as Principal at SHS.

"I am incredibly excited to welcome Mr. Buchanan to our district as the next Somerville High School Principal. I am fully confident that he will continue to build on the outstanding work of Mr. LaGambina and all the students and staff at Somerville High School," stated Superintendent Skipper. "His focus on student-centered teaching and learning, his commitment to community and family engagement, and his energy and passion will allow us to continue to move forward on critical work we have undertaken at SHS over the last several years. I look

forward to working with and supporting Mr. Buchanan in his new role as we continue to build on the proud and successful tradition of SHS with a new state-of-the-art facility and an educational plan that aligns with our commitment to equitable access to rich and authentic learning experiences for all students."

"After spending my entire professional career in Rhode Island, primarily in Providence and PPSD, I have enthusiastically accepted the role of Principal at Somerville High School. I am extremely happy and excited about this challenge and look forward to continuing the amazing work that Mr. LaGambina has done," commented Mr. Buchanan. "The process was arduous and exhaustive but extremely rewarding. My student-centered approach and ability to work with all stakeholders is something I can't wait to continue implementing at Somerville. My beautiful wife Diana whom I have been married to for 19 years and my 3 wonderful children, Johnathan (21), Natalia (11) and our feisty 4-year-old Maribel are blessed to have been given this opportunity and I will work tirelessly for student advocacy, equity and academic excellence. To the Somerville families, thank you for believing in me and trusting me with your children's educational future. I will be their biggest advocate and provide

them with a platform and a voice. To the Somerville staff, I appreciate your questions, honesty and commitment to SHS. I am eagerly anticipating working with you all to continue to grow SHS and make it a model high school for the state. Lastly, to the Somerville students, get ready for a great ride while we continue to shine. Our goal is to become global citizens, ambassadors for our community and lifelong learners."

Mr. Buchanan was one of four finalists for consideration for the position out of an initial slate of 33 candidates. He brings a strong student-centered focus to his work and more than 20 years of experience in teaching, counseling and program development in a variety of settings in the Providence area. In 2019, Mr. Buchanan became the Principal of Hope High School, where as Instructional Leader and Turnaround Principal, he has focused on using data, building partnerships, and providing targeted professional development to strengthen culturally responsive practices that will lead to better overall outcomes for all students. During his time at Hope High, Mr. Buchanan has worked closely with the Community Advisory Board to align Hope High School's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan to the school's instructional and cultural priorities. Throughout his career as an educator, Mr.



Newly appointed Principal of Somerville High School Matthew Buchanan.

Buchanan has used his resources and connections in the community to develop programs and cultivate partnerships that further enhance the learning experience for students.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Buchanan was Assistant Principal at Rhode Island's Mount Pleasant High School from 2017-2019, and also served as the Alternative Evening Program Principal for the Juanita Sanchez High School from 2018-2019. He was Assistant Principal at Nathanael Greene Middle School from 2014-2017. Mr. Buchanan earned his Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership from Rhode Island College. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family studies with a minor in Afri-

can American Studies from the University of Rhode Island.

A special thanks to the members of the Somerville High School Principal Search Screening Committee for their extraordinary dedication and commitment to this search process. Members of the Screening Committee included Dr. Jessica Boston Davis, Francesca Broekman, Paul Cooley, Barbara Favalaro, Isaias Hernandez Rivera, Aidaratou Koita, Teresa Martinez, Chad Mazza, Jodi Remington, Beatriz Thomas, and Grace Torino. Assisting the Screening Committee in this process were search consultants Dr. Ray Shurtleff and Dr. Anne Wilson from the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at UMass Boston.

— Somerville Public Schools

Little free libraries engage readers during COVID

CONT. FROM PG 1

everything from Harry Potter for kids, to fiction, to a Java computer writing book. It's a very eclectic bunch of books. A lot of them are best sellers, and then you always get one or two that are like, what is this?"

A Little Free Library is a miniature house, often with shelves, that sits on a person's land outside their actual home. Curators like Botshon can support the circulation of books by depositing their own titles, but the way the libraries work is that anyone on the street can stop over and grab one for free or leave behind their unwanted texts. Botshon painted hers dark red to match her house and dug a hole in the ground, making the library sturdy by adding cement. She said that she has many regular visitors.

"Over the past year, there's been a very even flow of books going in and out," said Botshon. "It has its own culture. It has its

own life. Every day is different."

Rivkah Lapidus and Todd Kaplan have a Little Free Library called The Book House on 44 Kidder Avenue. They created theirs when they realized that they had an excess of books in their house that they wanted to clear out. The process of rotating the volumes quickly became very "interactive," and Lapidus even left a notebook out so that people could leave comments, saying what they took or what they liked. Theirs was envisioned to be bigger than most and was even mistakenly rated as a "bookstore with a poor collection," due to its size and on-going traffic.

"I think there's a huge hunger for books, and there's not a lot of resources," said Kaplan, speaking to the void in the community that the library fills. "We have one bookstore that's within one mile and one other within a couple miles, but there used to be

lots more. People actually drive here. We have people who walk by on 'Little Free Library Tours,' trying to go all over the area."

Emily Bhargava, who has a Little Free Library on 63 Irving Street, said that it has been practical for the city to have these miniature houses during the coronavirus. For people who cannot physically enter an actual library or bookstore, visiting the Little Free Libraries gives them a way of finding new reads. Other community members may incorporate a stop at one of the libraries as part of a regular walk around the neighborhood, while Bhargava added that she thinks many people see them as a destination as they spend some time outside. Incidentally, some have begun using the libraries as food pantries, sometimes leaving nonperishable cans or goods to help those in need. Caretakers like Ruth Faris, who has a library on 6 Spring Hill Terrace,

even held a COVID-friendly decorating party, where she invited local kids and residents to paint her own library, wearing masks and social distancing through the process.

The presence of the Little Free Libraries brings an element of whimsy and creativity to the neighborhood, said Botshon. They build community and have even created a subculture in Somerville, with even people from neighboring towns making a point to visit specific locations. Encouraging people of all ages to read, the libraries promote literacy among children and adults alike.

"Books are important for our society, and any way that you can create access is important," said Botshon. "Especially during COVID, when libraries are mostly closed—you can order books online and then pick them up somewhere—but it's not easy access to browse. It

gives people a way of browsing. It's also interesting to see what other people are reading, what they put there, or what they had in their house that they brought over." She added, "It is important, overall, for people to get excited by literature and learn about different things that they don't know about."

About the writer

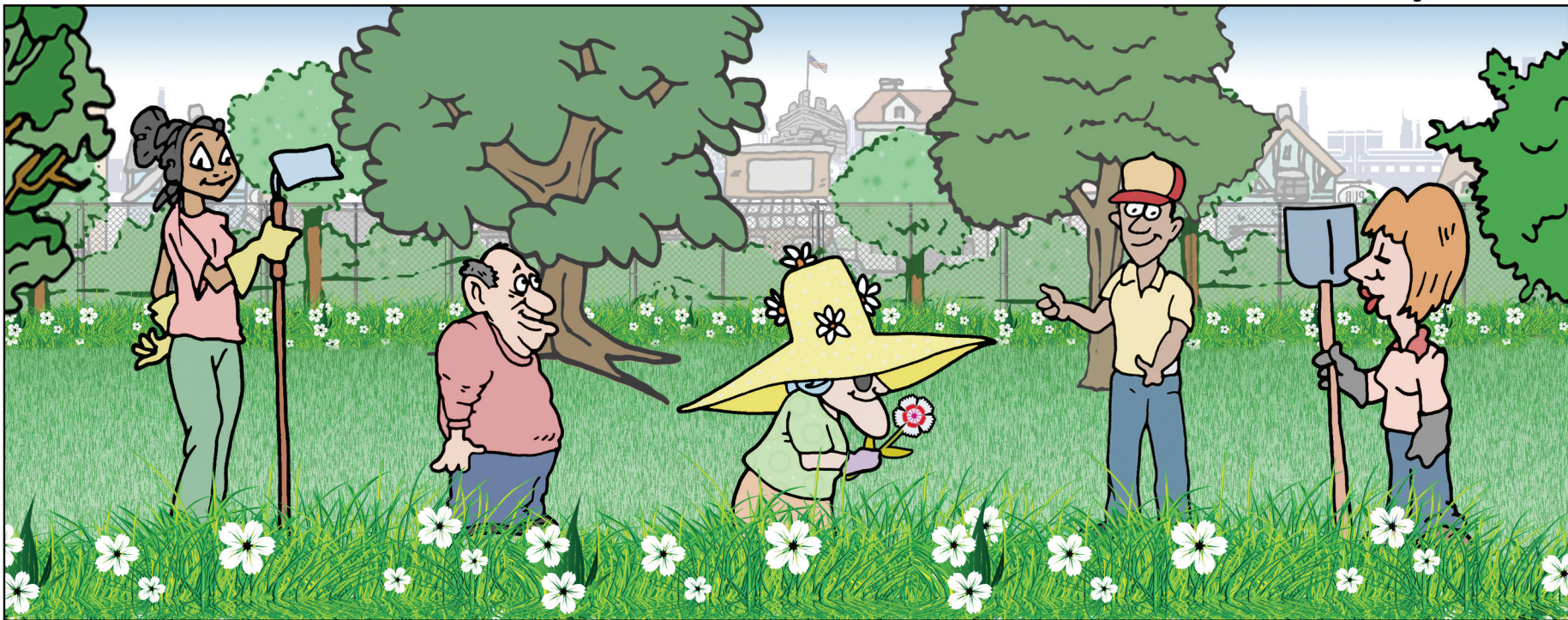


Shira Laucharoen is assistant director of the Boston Institute for Nonprofit Journalism and assistant editor and staff reporter of the Somerville Wire. She also writes for Sampan newspaper and The Somerville Times.

COMMENTARY

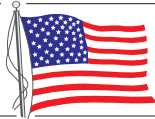
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville digs its native plants.

Our View Of The Times



If there's one thing most New Englanders agree on, it's the beauty of our natural surroundings, from our lush forests and picturesque mountain ranges to our thriving wetlands and spectacular coastline. We are indeed blessed with the best of what nature can offer.
In keeping with the spirit of preserving the natural habitat, the Somerville City Council recently passed an ordinance,

the first of its kind in the country, known as "The City of Somerville Native Planting Ordinance," which demands that native plant species be planted on city-owned land.
According to the city, the ordinance recognizes that in New England, there are 258 plant species recognized as endangered, and it states that its intent is to protect and promote appropriate native

vegetation.
The ordinance requires that 100% native plants be introduced in wetlands areas, plazas, and along the Community Path, among other places. Seventy-five percent of new trees planted in city parks must also be native plantings, while 50% of street trees must also be native plants.
The experts point out that native plants evolved to live in this ecosystem over

millions of years. They provide food and shelter to butterflies, moths, birds, bats, bees, and many other fauna, that also evolved to survive here. Plants are the foundation of the food web, and without them and the insects that rely on them for their own survival, life as we know it would disappear.
This appears to not only be a good thing to be doing, but also a vital one.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

and, yes, we must admit there are a few more out there. We sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 2 Councilor J.T. Scott, and city staff invite you to attend a virtual community meeting to introduce the Poplar Street Pump Station preliminary design and its integration with the ArtFarm project. The Poplar Street Pump Station project will develop a portion of the ArtFarm site in Somerville's Brickbottom neighborhood to provide critical stormwater management infrastructure and new park space. It is one in a series of projects underway to relieve flooding in the city, prepare for climate change, and reduce Combined Sewer Overflows in the region. Construction is estimated to begin in Fall 2022 and continue for three years. The meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 14, at 6:00 p.m. Learn more and register to attend at somervillema.gov/poplar.

Applications are now available for Somerville youth 14 and up to apply for the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program. Applications will be accepted through Friday, May 14. Employment oppor-

tunities are available in the Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, and other city departments. Some positions can be done remotely or in a hybrid of remote and in-person work. Youth who are hired can expect to work 20 hours for approximately six weeks starting in late June or early July. All positions pay the city's living wage rate, which is currently at \$15.46 per hour. Youth who would like to apply can do so by visiting <http://bit.ly/SomerJobs2021>. Interviews will be held on a rolling basis upon receipt of applications.

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan invite residents to participate in a community meeting on the Healey School tot lot renovation project on Thursday, April 15, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Landscape architects from Warner Larson Landscape Architects will review the construction schedule and plans, which include the Healey tot lot and schoolyard, a new U-12 recreation field, and a new ADA ramp and staircase that will connect the Healey School and Mystic Housing. How to participate: Visit <http://bit.ly/HealeyTotLot> any time before the meet-

ing to register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. You can also dial in using your phone. At the time of the meeting dial 631-992-3221 and use access code 640-540-316. Questions? Please contact Arn Franzen: AFranzen@somervillema.gov.

Deanna Cremin, a 17-year-old from Somerville, was found murdered on March 30, 1995. Her case remains unsolved. If you have any info about the unsolved homicide of Deanna Cremin, please contact Det. Alan Monaco at 617-625-1600 Ext. 7226. Please help bring closure to the Cremin Family.

The Somerville Arts Council (SAC) is partnering with Assembly Row to create a new art installation in the form of three giant vertical banners (16'5" w x 58'5" h) that will hang on a facade along Great River Road and face the Mystic River and the Orange Line. For this project, titled "We are Somerville," they seek new work that conveys the people of our city. They are open to many different mediums. They seek original work that is colorful, vibrant and captures a person's – and our city's – personality.

They are open to three single images of three different people, as well as "collages" that incorporate different people within a single banner. Somewhere in the design – it could be quite simply – they seek to include the text: "We are Somerville." They are looking for one artist to create and manage this project. Artists may choose to feature solely their own art, or work with other artists or an organization. For more information and to apply: <https://tinyurl.com/yh4ftrdy>.

The City of Somerville's Elections Department has set up an online appointment system to allow candidates for municipal office to safely pick up and drop off nomination papers and speak with Elections staff while City Hall remains closed to the public. Candidates can sign up for a 30-minute appointment between May 3 and June 9 at www.somervillema.gov/elections. For more information about municipal elections, including how to run for office and a full election cycle calendar, visit www.somervillema.gov/elections

The Somerville Museum is now open to the public. Hours are Thursdays, 2:00 – 7:00 p.m., Fridays, Continued on page 14

Ms. Cam's *Olio*

#775

- Answers on page 11

1. Average lifespan of a major league baseball: 5 pitches.
2. Nepal is the only country that doesn't have a rectangular flag.

FICTIONAL MONSTERS

1. "Turkey" dance
5. X minus III
8. Accounting acronym
11. Angel's glow
12. Like list of chores
13. Inside info
15. "National Velvet" author Bagnold
16. Heavy Metal band Quiet ____
17. Worn by monster hunters and dragonslayers
18. Sea monster with atomic breath
20. Brooms and cauldrons to a witch, e.g.
21. Subject of biographies, pl.
22. ____ of Aquarius
23. Saudi's southern neighbor
26. Ceremonial flight
30. "I" problem
31. Sweet-talk
34. Marine eagle
35. The Revenge of the ____, 1984
37. ____ you sure?
38. Desires
39. Russia's Romanov, e.g.
40. Comfy pants

1. England's favorite drink, in French 27. Lock horns
2. Addams Family's Lurch: "You _____?" 28. Darlene or Jacob of Ozark

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3. A dish of stewed meat
 4. Waddle
 5. Bridal veil fabric
 6. Objects of worship
 7. Just a little
 8. Michael Douglas' 1978 mystery thriller
 9. Like the Weasleys of "Harry Potter"
 10. Second qtr. calendar month
 12. Alex Trebek's forte
 13. Drooping
 14. Jeepers ____, sing.
 19. Coats with Zn
 22. Tap order
 23. Yiddish busybody
 24. Opposite of digest
 25. Like high ground
 26. Pestilence pest
 27. Lock horns
 28. Darlene or Jacob of Ozark
 29. MCAT and LSAT
 32. Amity Island fish
 33. Bonanza find
 36. Transylvanian bloodsucker
 38. Shylock's practice
 40. Use a Singer
 41. Up until now, 2 words
 44. Like luxurious sheets
 46. Another name for manatee
2 words
 48. Not kayak
 49. Follow rules
 50. Shakespearean "you"
 51. What snob puts on
 52. Minotaur is half man, half
 53. Mongolian desert
 54. Deserter's acronym
 55. ____, The Beloved Country
 58. Zeppelin predecessor
- Answers in the next edition of The Somerset*

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

CALL 1-855-208-9533

* Free date changes anytime up to 45 days prior to departure for land tours, up to 95 days prior to departure for cruise tours. Deposits and final payments remain non-refundable. Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 6/30/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.

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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.

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OBITUARY

Patricia A. Davenport1946 – 2021



DAVENPORT, Patricia A. (lovingly known as Pooh), age 74, died peacefully in her home in Medford, MA on April 3, 2021, with her son and sister by her side. Patricia lived a full and happy life for 17 years after being diagnosed with metastatic cancer, thanks to exceptional medical care, the love and support of family and friends, and the joy of her two grandsons. Her adventurous

spirit and love for travel brought her many memories and lifelong connections from across the world. She was an independent, dignified, and incredibly strong woman with a keen intellect and interest in world events. Her generous nature was always to help others, rooted in her core values of family and community. For many years she worked as a dedicated ESL teacher at Somerville High School, instilling her passion for literature and writing in her teaching. She touched the lives of the many students that passed through her class, well beyond their graduation. In her later life, she played a central role in the childhood of her two beloved grandsons. Patricia's wisdom, perseverance, and unyielding spirit were an example to all, blessing the people that surrounded her and providing a pillar of support for her family. She is survived by her son, Federico Sparisci of Medford, MA and his wife, Cristina Martinez, and her two grandsons, Marcos and Diego Sparisci, to whom she was their loving "Bama." She is also survived by her sister, Elizabeth Davenport of Lexington, MA and her husband, Harvy Simkovits; and was the beloved aunt of her niece and nephew, Mathew and Lana Simkovits. She was the caring sister of Rick Davenport and a wonderful influence on her family, friends, students, and colleagues. The deep love she gave others and values she believed in will live on in our hearts. In light of the ongoing pandemic, the family has decided to have a small private service at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to support the Jerry Younger, MD Endowed Chair in Breast Medical Oncology at the Mass General Cancer Center. Gifts can be made online at: <https://giving.massgeneral.org/donate/> in the loving memory of "Patricia Davenport."

OBITUARY

Peter P. Fantasia1916 - 2021



FANTASIA, Peter P. of Somerville, April 12, 2021. Beloved husband of the late Mildred D. (Mooney) Fantasia. Loving father of Francis M. Fantasia and his wife Linda of Chelmsford, Peter P. Fantasia, Jr. and his wife Rena of Nahant, Martha A. Mesiti and her husband Robert of Lawrence, Annette M. Gillis of Wakefield and her late husband Bruce. Brother of the late Rose Traniello and Mary Adams. Dear grandfather of Kathryn, Brendan, Mark, Matthew, Eric, Nicole, Neil, Jennifer, Patrick and the late Kevin. Also survived by 4 great-grandchildren and 6 great-great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews. Funeral procession from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.), SOMERVILLE, Friday morning at

9am, followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Joseph Church, (Union Sq.) Somerville at 10:00. Relatives and friends invited. Calling hours Thursday 4-7. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, interior capacity of the funeral home is limited to 50 people inside at any given time. We respectfully ask you to please pay your respects and then exit to allow others to do the same. Face masks and social distancing protocols are required for all services. If attending St. Joseph Church please register at www.stsmartinparish.org/register-event. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Peter's memory to the Yankee Division Veterans Association, 17 Lilac Lane Weymouth, MA 02188. Peter was a late veteran and a member of the Greatest Generation, serving proudly in the US Army, a Silver Star recipient of WWII, former POW and member of the George F. Dilboy Post 19, DAV Somerville. Longtime US Postal Carrier, City of Somerville.

Go to <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/68669> to read a tribute to Peter Fantasia on the occasion of his 100th birthday, written by William C. Shelton.

Pathways to Citizenship: Beginner ESOL/Civics Class

HomeEventsPathways to Citizenship: Beginner ESOL/Civics Class will be held virtually on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (through June 2) on Zoom and is for adults who are interested in improving their English skills in order to apply for US citizenship. Registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/beginneresolclass>.

If you need help registering, please contact Brigid Pigott at 617.623.5000 x.2935/bpigott@minlib.net.

ESL and citizenship workbooks will be provided and can be picked up at any library location once they are ready. Students will also be able to keep these books.

There is a limit of 15 students and a wait list though if the 15 student limit is met.

Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Cod en papillote

Cod en papillote, French for enveloped in paper, or cod al cartoccio, Italian for folded pouch is a method of cooking that uses the moisture of the food or an additional liquid, like wine, lemon juice, stock, or water to steam the food while baking in the oven or on a grill.

This is a great way to feed a crowd and can be easily made ahead and stored in the refrigerator and baked off about 20 minutes before serving. Here are detailed instructions on how to fold the parchment around the fish, <https://www.finecooking.com/article/how-to-fold-and-bake-fish-in-parchment-paper>.

The results are a flaky, moist fish with crispy steamed vegetables. Definitely a great way to cut down on calories.

- 2 (6-8 oz) pieces of cod loin 1-1/2" Thick
- 1 Medium shallot, thinly sliced

- 2 Small Carrots, julienned 1/4" and/ or 4 baby bok choy, cut in half
- 1 Teaspoon ginger, grated
- 1/2 Teaspoon dried thyme or 2 fresh sprigs of thyme
- 1 Lemon, 4 thin slices, plus a squeeze of lemon juice
- Salt and pepper
- 2 pieces of parchment paper or aluminum foil (12"x16")
- Excellent quality olive oil for finishing

Preheat oven 400°. In a medium bowl, add the shallot, carrots and/ or bok choy and grated ginger. Season with salt and pepper and stir the mixture to incorporate the flavors. Prepare the parchment, see above instructions.

Add the shallot and vegetable mixture between the 2 pieces of parchment. Season the fish with salt and pepper, and place on top of the shallot and vegetable mixture. Add the thyme, squeeze of lemon juice, approximately 1 teaspoon each serving.



Place the lemon slices on top of the fish and fold the papillote.

Bake on a sheet pan for 15 minutes. Add an additional 2 minutes to baking time if made ahead and stored in the refrigerator. Cut open the pouches, exposing the fish, but don't let the

juices run out. Drizzle with a good quality fruity olive oil and serve on a plate. Serve with a side salad.

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

LEGAL NOTICES

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



**Section 00.11.13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID**

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Highland Gardens Site Improvements, SHA project #1912, for the Somerville Housing Authority in Somerville Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by CBA Landscape Architects LLC dated March 31, 2021.

The Project consists of: The removal and replacement of shrubs, perennial plants, and trees; removal of existing nonfunctioning light poles; replacement of one missing light pole with another light pole from on site; power washing and selective resetting of existing brick pavers; repainting of fences and benches, and any other miscellaneous site improvements as shown on the drawings and in the specifications.

The work is estimated to cost \$57,943.73

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c. 30 §30M and 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).

General bids will be received until **10:00 am on Thursday, 22 April 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 shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternatives) 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.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:
Date and Time: **Thursday, April 15 at 10:00 AM**
Address: Highland Gardens,
114 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02145.

It is strongly suggested all prospective bidders attend the site visit. Bidders are required to register for the site visit with the Somerville Housing Authority representative listed below and will be required to adhere to Covid-19 safety measures of wearing face masks and maintaining social distance of six feet between attendees.

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

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
--	--

4/7/21, 4/14/21 The Somerville Times



**DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AND CONTINUED OCCUPANCY/RENTAL ASSISTANCE
JOB DESCRIPTION**

The Director of Admissions and Continued Occupancy/Rental Assistance is under the general supervision of the Deputy Director. This position is responsible for planning, directing, monitoring and evaluating the services and activities associated with the management of the Tenant Selection Department and to the management of the subsidized Section 8 Department, which includes other special programs, such as the SRO, SNAP/Shelter Plus Care, AHVP and MRVP Programs. The Director of Admissions and Occupancy/Rental Assistance supervises and trains staff members and performs various other duties in order to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the Tenant Selection and Section 8 Departments.

For full job description visit Somerville Housing Authority's website at www.sha-web.org.

Please send resume and cover letter to:
Emily Eschmann, Executive Secretary
30 Memorial Road, Somerville, MA 02145
EMAIL: emilyh@sha-web.org

4/7/21, 4/14/21 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website:
www.TheSomervilleTimes.com



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
CITY COUNCIL**

There will be a Public Hearing before the **City Council's Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Monday, April 26, 2021, at 6:00 PM**, on the petition of Greentown Labs for a Garage License at 444 Somerville Avenue, for mechanical repairs and storing vehicles only, storing 4 vehicles inside and none outside, not serving the public, Sunday through Saturday from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Because of Governor Baker's and Mayor Curtatone's recent orders limiting the number of people that may gather in one place, **this meeting will be conducted via remote participation, online in a webinar hosted on the GoToWebinar platform.**

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

- To attend and be heard, enter this link exactly as it appears into your internet browser anytime before the meeting:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5280307149705205516>. You can also find this link on the City website's calendar. You will then be asked to register, and after registering, you will receive an email with instructions to join the webinar.
- If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may send written comments by US mail to the City Clerk at the address below, or by email to cityclerk@somervillema.gov. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Committee.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

**JOHN J. LONG
CITY CLERK
CITYCLERK@SOMERVILLEMA.GOV**

4/14/21 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE
City of Somerville
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD)
RFP# 21-PS1 CD
RFP # 21-ESG/ESG-CV CD

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSPCD) invites sealed proposals for the 2021-2022 HUD Action Plan for the:
**Community Development Block Grant Program
Emergency Solutions Grant Program
Emergency Solutions Grant-CV Program.**

Community Development Block Grant Program. Proposals must be for programs that provide Public Services to low- and moderate-income residents of the City of Somerville. Bid Number RFP # 21-PS1 CD
Emergency Solutions Grant Program and Emergency Solutions Grant-CV Program. Proposals must address the needs of homeless individuals and families in the City of Somerville. Emergency Solutions Grant-CV funds must be related to COVID-19 relief. Both funds for the Emergency Solutions Grant and Emergency Solutions Grant-CV are provided by the federal Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. Bid Number RFP # 21-ESG/ESG-CV CD

Request for Proposal packages for both programs will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at **8:30 A.M. Wednesday, April 14, 2021** at www.somervillema.gov/CDBGGRFP and www.somervillema.gov/ESGGRFP
Print copies available upon request to Lauren Morton at OSPCD@somervillema.gov.

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to OSPCD@somervillema.gov and proposal packages must be submitted no later than **12:00 P.M. Friday, May 14, 2021** for Emergency Solutions Grant **12:30 P.M. Friday, May 14, 2021** for Public Services to the above email address.

Please contact Lauren Morton, Program Compliance Officer, by email LMorton@somervillema.gov or phone 617-429-5711, for information and proposal packages.

George Proakis, Executive Director
617- 625-6600, x 2500

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, April 26, 2021** at 4:00PM, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for an Entertainment by Performers Outdoors License, for Mike's Bar Corporation, d/b/a Mike's Bar, 97 Washington St., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying at this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission
Christopher Allen
Christine Lindgren
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

**Attest: Lori Batzek
Administrative Assistant**

4/14/21 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

Legal Notice of Public Hearing

The **Community Preservation Committee** will hold a public hearing for all interested parties on **Wednesday, April 28, at 7:00 pm**. The hearing will be held virtually on the GoToMeeting platform in compliance with Governor Baker's emergency orders regarding the Open Meeting Law during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Committee seeks public input on how the City should prioritize spending \$2 million in Community Preservation Act funding. The draft FY22 Community Preservation Plan and other information about the Community Preservation Act in Somerville are available at www.somervillema.gov/cpa. A presentation for individuals and organizations interested in proposing a CPA funded project on City land or proposing a project for a feasibility study will be offered before the hearing from 6:30 -7:00 pm.

Please join the presentation and hearing from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/792438397>. You can also dial in using your phone. United States: +1 (646) 749-3122. Access Code: 792-438-397. The hearing will also be recorded and made available on the CPA website.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Community Preservation Committee at the hearing and by submitting written comments by Friday, May 14 by email to itumusiime@somervillema.gov. You can also share your ideas by taking the Community Preservation Committee survey at www.somervillema.gov/cpa.

Attest: Laura Beretsky, Chair

4/14/21 The Somerville Times



**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 **Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 6:00pm**. 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://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8290728205411429645>

The purpose of this hearing is to receive public comments concerning the following:

Proposed Zoning Map Amendment for 256 Elm St., 270 Elm St., 58 Day St., & 7 Herbert St. (Council Item #211170).

Proposed Amendments to Section 8.3 MPD Overlay District, Section 12.3 Buyout & Payments, and Section 13.1 Civic Space (Council Item #211433).

Proposed Amendments to Article 8.2 Small Business Overlay District and the Official Zoning Map. (Council Item #211693)

Proposed Amendments to the Body Art Services use standards and Table 9.1.1 Permitted Uses, including the corresponding zoning district use tables. (Council Item #211611)

Proposed Amendments to regulate rooftop mechanical systems and mechanical penthouses. (Council Item #211612)

These proposed amendments can be found online at the Somerville City Council's meeting calendar <https://tinyurl.com/citycouncilcalendar> by clicking the same item numbers or descriptions identified above under the 12/31/2021 meeting date or the 4/29/2021 meeting date *after* the agenda is posted prior to the hearing.

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.

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, April 26, 2021** at 4:00PM, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for an Entertainment by Performers Outdoors License, for New England Neopolitan d/b/a Midici Restaurant, 463 Assembly Row, Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying at this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission
Christopher Allen
Christine Lindgren
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

**Attest: Lori Batzek
Administrative Assistant**

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

LEGAL NOTICES

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



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6:00pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

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

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7620590162079911439>
Webinar ID: 308-828-803

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (914) 614-3221
Access code: 748-935-124

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

255 Powder House Blvd Applicants Jonathan and Kathleen Evans propose to construct a fence within the frontage area with a nonconforming height and opacity, which requires two Hardship Variances.

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

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

4/14/21 The Somerville Times



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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 6:00pm**. Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as well as Mayor Curtatone's Declaration of Emergency, dated March 15, 2020, this public hearing will be conducted via remote participation.

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

Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2645983942626009103>
Webinar ID: 838-864-595

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 655-0060
Access code: 986-544-364

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

379 Somerville Ave 379 Somerville Ave LLC proposes to construct a 5-story net-zero ready general building and establish a Household Living principle use for ten (10) dwelling units in the MR5 zoning district with no parking provided on-site. This proposal requires Site Plan Approval and a Special Permit.

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

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

4/14/21 The Somerville Times



Request for Qualifications

The Somerville Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Construction Manager at Risk for construction of the Water Works II building on a 1.1 acre site that is part of the larger Capen Court cam-pus, an affordable senior living complex operated by the Somerville Housing Authority (SHA). Mystic Water Works Housing Phase II is the proposed second phase of a two phased affordable housing development in the West Somerville neighborhood at the in-tersection of Mystic Valley Park-way, Alewife Brook Parkway and Capen Court.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Construction Manager at Risk for 21 single bed-room living units and related public spaces contained in a single three-story structure. Phase II is situated on the Capen Court campus, an affordable senior living facility oper-ated by an affiliate of the Somerville Housing Authority. The units will be rented to seniors and persons with disabilities. The construction method will be modular.

Please contact Josh Luttrell at Anser Advisory
98 Magazine St.
Boston, Ma. 02119

508-902-7755
Josh.luttrell@anseradvisory.com

RFQ available on **Wednesday, April 14th at 10 AM** from Josh Luttrell.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAMM) in the category General Building Construction. General Bidders must include a current DCAMM Prime Contractor Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Prime Contractor Update Statement.

General RFQ deadline for submission is **April 28th, 2021 at 5:00 PM**

For additional information regarding this project contact Josh Luttrell, information above.

Somerville Housing Authority.
Joseph R. Macaluso, Executive Director

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, April 26, 2021 at 4:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for an Entertainment by Performers Outdoors License, for Galwegan, Inc. d/b/a The Burren, 247 Elm St., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying at this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission
Christopher Allen
Christine Lindgren
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

Attest: Lori Batzek
Administrative Assistant

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, April 26, 2021 at 4:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for an Entertainment by Performers Outdoors License, for TBD Brewing, LLC d/b/a Aeronaut Brewing Co., 14 Tyler St. Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying at this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission
Christopher Allen
Christine Lindgren
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

Attest: Lori Batzek
Administrative Assistant

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, April 26, 2021 at 4:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for an Entertainment by Performers Outdoors License, for the Jungle Club, LLC, d/b/a The Jungle Club, 66 Union Sq. Plaza, Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying at this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission
Christopher Allen
Christine Lindgren
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

Attest: Lori Batzek
Administrative Assistant

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, April 26, 2021 at 4:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for an Entertainment by Performers Outdoors License, for Barra.bars, LLC d/b/a Barra.bars, 23A Bow St., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying at this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office

For the Commission
Christopher Allen
Christine Lindgren
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

Attest: Lori Batzek
Administrative Assistant

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, April 26, 2021 at 4:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for an Entertainment by Performers Outdoors License, for Bow Market Entertainment, LLC d/b/a Bow Market, 337 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying at this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission
Christopher Allen
Christine Lindgren
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

Attest: Lori Batzek
Administrative Assistant

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

A Public Hearing for all persons interested will be given by the **Somerville Licensing Commission** on **Monday, April 26, 2021 at 4:00PM**, to be held by remote participation, on the Application for an Entertainment by Performers Outdoors License, for The Center for Arts at the Armory d/b/a The Center for Arts at the Armory Cafe, 191 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA. For instructions on testifying at this public hearing go to the calendar at www.somervillema.gov or contact the City Clerk's Office.

For the Commission
Christopher Allen
Christine Lindgren
Joseph P. Lynch Jr.

Attest: Lori Batzek
Administrative Assistant

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

NOTICE:

Free: Sofa, seats 3, off white in pristine condition.
If interested call Paul 781-736-9350.



CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
IFB#21-74

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

Holland Broadway Water Main Upgrades

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 **4/15/2021**. Sealed bids will be received at above office until: **05/06/2021 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.

A 5% bid deposit will be required.

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

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

4/14/21 The Somerville Times

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Answers

From on page 8

1. Boston Marathon

reason"

2. Boston's North End

7. The dinosaur

3. Bette Nesmith Graham invented correction fluid

8. China

4. Giornale per i bambini as The Story of a Puppet

9. Catskill Mountains, New York

5. Bob Geldof and Midge Ure

10. Gennaro Lombardi

6. Thomas Jefferson, to represent the "authority of nature and power of

11. Flea and Dave Navarro of the Red Hot Chili Peppers

12. White House south of the East Colonnade

Virtual & Call-In COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A Discussion, 4/14

Somerville residents and workers are invited to join a virtual (online and phone) COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A on Wednesday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. hosted by the Somerville Health and Human Services Department and the Cambridge Health Alliance.

During the virtual event, a panel including health care providers and Health and Human Services staff will provide information about the COVID-19 vaccines including how they work, vaccine safety and efficacy, what to expect when getting your COVID-19 vaccine, and when and how to get a vaccine. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask the panel questions about the vaccines.

The city has also been holding vaccine question and answer sessions in other languages. A Spanish language question and answer session is scheduled for April 21 at 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit somervillema.gov/virtualevents or call 311 (617-666-3311). To view recordings or check for future events in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Kreyol, or Nepali, visit somervillema.gov/vaccine.

Join the COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A:

- ♦ **Join on Zoom either online or from any phone:** The meeting will be hosted via the teleconferencing platform Zoom. Participants can join online or call in from any phone. At the time of the meeting, go to tinyurl.com/CovidVaccineQA or dial 312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID 933 8892 8117. The link and call-in instructions will also be available at somervillema.gov/virtualevents.
- ♦ **Join on Facebook Live:** Visit the City's Facebook page to join via Facebook Live: facebook.com/SomervilleCity
Call-in information will also be available starting the afternoon of the meeting on City-run GovTV and EdTV (RCN Channels 13, 613 & 15 or, Comcast Channels 15 & 22) or by calling 311 at 617-666-3311.

Watch: The meeting will be live-streamed and made available for later watching and on demand.

- ♦ Watch live and repeats on GovTV and EdTV (RCN Channels 13, 613 & 15 or, Comcast Channels 15 & 22)
- ♦ Watch live or on-demand on the City's Facebook page: facebook.com/SomervilleCity
- ♦ Watch live or on-demand at City YouTube: youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV
- ♦ Watch live via the City website: somervillema.gov/TV (Select "Watch Live Stream")

For more vaccine information, answers to your questions, to sign up for vaccine alerts, or see the calendar of upcoming informational events, please visit the City website at somervillema.gov/vaccine. To find out when and where you can be vaccinated, visit the State's website at mass.gov/vaccine.

Virtual & Call-In Spanish Q&A on the COVID-19 Vaccine, 4/21

Somerville residents and workers are invited to join a virtual (online and phone) COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A in Spanish on Wednesday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. hosted by the Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs, Somerville Public Schools, The Welcome Project, and Cambridge Health Alliance.

During the virtual event, a panel including health care providers, city and school staff, and staff from community organizations will provide information about the COVID-19 vaccines including how the vaccine works, vaccine safety and efficacy, when and how to get a vaccine, and why the vaccine is important for our community. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask questions to the panel about the vaccines.

Join the Spanish COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A online or by phone:

- ♦ **Join by Zoom either online or from any phone:** The meeting will be hosted via the teleconferencing platform Zoom. Participants can join online or call in from any phone. At the time of the meeting, go to tinyurl.com/CovidVacunaReunion or dial 312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID 983 2522 5917. The link and call-in instructions will also be available at somervillema.gov/virtualevents.
- ♦ **Join on Facebook Live:** Visit facebook.com/SomervilleCiudad to join live via the City's Facebook page.
Call-in information will also be available starting the afternoon of the meeting on City-run GovTV and EdTV (RCN Channels 13, 613 & 15 or, Comcast Channels 15 & 22) or by calling 311 at 617-666-3311.

Watch: The meeting will be live-streamed and made available for later watching and on demand.

- ♦ Watch live and repeats on GovTV and EdTV (RCN Channels 13, 613 & 15 or, Comcast Channels 15 & 22)
- ♦ Watch live or on-demand on the City's Facebook page: facebook.com/SomervilleCiudad
- ♦ Watch live or on-demand at City YouTube: youtube.com/SomervilleCityTV
- ♦ Watch live via the City website: somervillema.gov/TV (Select "Watch Live Stream")

For more vaccine information, answers to your questions, or upcoming informational events, please visit the City website at somervillema.gov/vacuna. To find out when and where you can be vaccinated, visit the State's website at mass.gov/vaccine.

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER
By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Where do beef burgers go to dance?
The meatball.

On This Day in History April 14

- 1543 – Bartolome Ferrelo returns to Spain after discovering a large bay in the New World (San Francisco).
- 1775 – The first abolitionist society in United States is organized in Philadelphia.
- 1828 – The first edition of Noah Webster's dictionary is published.
- 1860 – The first Pony Express rider arrives in San Francisco with mail originating in St. Joseph, Missouri.
- 1865 – President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated in Ford's Theater by John Wilkes Booth.
- 1894 – Thomas Edison's kinetoscope is shown to the public for the first time.
- 1912 – The passenger liner Titanic deemed unsinkable strikes an iceberg on her maiden voyage and begins to sink.
- 1981 – America's first space shuttle, Columbia, returns to Earth.

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SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ageless Grace Program – various dates - Ageless Grace is a fitness and wellness program consisting of 21 simple exercise tools designed for all ages and abilities. These exercises, based on everyday movements, focus on the healthy longevity of the body and mind. Classes are held bi-monthly in English and bi-monthly in Spanish via Zoom. Please contact Chris at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 or email ckowaleski@somervillema.gov with any questions or for additional information.

Senior Lunch Box Pick Up – Wednesday, April 21 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Ralph & Jenny Senior Center, 9 New Washington Street. While we aren’t able to share lunch together we hope you can stop by for this fun treat! RSVP is a must; spaces are limited. To enjoy a box lunch please call Connie at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. Masks required.

Music & Movement – Wednesday, April 14 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. Steve shows us that exercise can come in all different forms and movements. Please note that this program has changed to Wednesday. 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.

Jeopardy Game Night – Thursday, April 15 at 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 CKowales-

ki@Somervillama.gov.

Mask Pick Up – Friday, April 23 – 10:30 a.m. to Noon – At the Holland Street Center located at 167 Holland Street. The COA has masks available for Somerville residents who are 60 and over. If you are in need of a mask or may know of a friend or neighbor who may need a new mask, you can pick it up at our Drive -Thru location. If you have any questions, please call 617-625-6600 ext. 2300.

Zoom Book Club – Friday, April 16 at 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 19th from 10-11am. 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.

Caregiver Check-In – Tuesday, April 27 at 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 calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail Natasha at NNaim@Somervillema.gov.

Virtual Bingo Day – Tuesday, April 27 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Join us online or via phone to play BINGO. If you would like to participate please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov We will supply you with the bingo cards and instructions. Space is limited, RSVP a must.

ONGOING EVENTS

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=Fcl2eBS024&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=AAanfwGybTI>

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Saturdays, 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. They require all visitors to wear face masks regardless of vaccination status, and everyone needs an advance timed-entry ticket. Tickets available on Eventbrite. Time slots are 1/2 hour long. \$5 for Non-Members. Members enjoy free admission. Want to become a member? Sign up here: <http://somervillemuseum.org/join-html/>

The **Walk for Hunger** is seeking participants to join our community dedicated to doing good by helping get food to kids and families during the pandemic. A virtual fundraiser that supports **Project Bread's** work to increase food access for people of all ages in Massachusetts, registration opened on **Tuesday, February 9**. Fundraising **continues until May 2**, with fun, virtual events taking place

throughout the day. In its 53rd year, and its second year as a virtual event, thousands of caring community members will participate in the oldest pledge walk in the country, which is expected to raise over \$1 million to help get food to kids and families during this crisis. Like-minded organizations that fundraise as part of The Commonwealth by forming teams can raise money to support their own work, while also furthering the statewide effort. There is no registration fee this year or fundraising minimum. To create a personal or team fundraising page for The Walk for Hunger or to make a donation, visit projectbread.org/walk or call (617) 723-5000.

The state has announced when all remaining groups will be eligible to receive the **COVID-19 vaccine. Monday,**

April 19: People age 16 or older will be eligible. For more information and to pre-register for an appointment, visit mass.gov/vaccine or call 211. The city of Somerville is also available to help those who face barriers to accessing vaccines, including people who need transportation or language assistance. If you are currently eligible to receive a vaccine and need help accessing the vaccine, please call 311.

Some **reopening restrictions** have started to ease since **April 5**. As more residents have access to the COVID-19 vaccine, including essential and service industry workers, the City of Somerville is moving forward with some additional modest business reopening steps. Somerville is still reopening at a more cautious pace than the state, remaining in a modified Phase 3, Step 1

of the state's reopening plan until further notice. Starting April 5, restaurants have been allowed to stay open beyond 9:30 p.m. until their regularly permitted closing hours, but must remain at 25% indoor capacity. The city will work with recreation facilities to expand their operations in ways that are safe for each business. The **Somerville Museum** has been allowed to open, but must adhere to special event capacity caps in effect citywide of 10 persons indoors and 25 persons outdoors. The City of Somerville continues to monitor COVID case, vaccination, and other related data on a daily basis. As more people are vaccinated there is hope for further reopening in the near future, but guidance from public health experts does not support further openings at this time given the recent increase in case numbers across the state.



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Boston National Poetry Month Festival, 2021:

Virtual, virtuoso poets and musicians April 15-17

By Kirk Etherton, co-producer of the Boston National Poetry Month Festival.

The 20th annual B.N.P.M.F. almost happened in 2020. Instead, the 20th Festival is taking place this year, on Zoom. Certain things change—like everyone saying “Zoom.” One constant is Somervillians being a notable part of this event. I could easily fill the entire page by mentioning everything that Doug Holder (professor, publisher, interviewer, etc.) does for poetry, and the arts in general. But I’ll just say he’s a Festival board member, and one of this year’s featured poets.

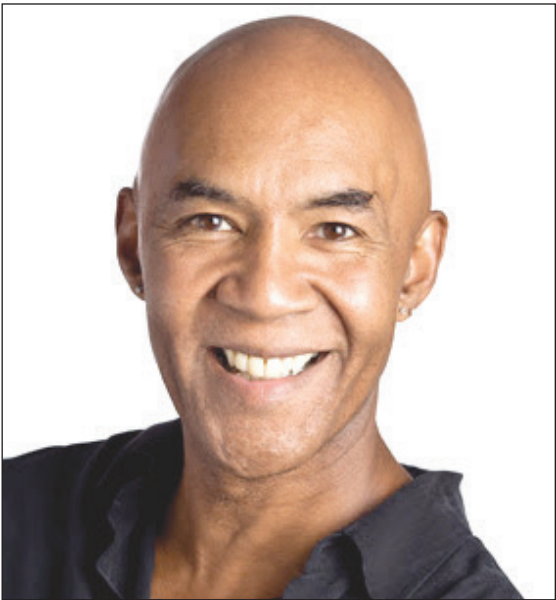
2021 is the first year that musician-plus Stan Strickland will be performing. I don’t know exactly what he’ll be doing, but it could be almost anything: besides his collaborative, multi-instrumental work with all kinds of famous folks, his one-man show Coming Up For Air won the Eliot Norton Award.

(NOTE: When I ran into Stan a few months ago in Union Square, he may have said that he was going to be moving. But it’s easy to misunderstand someone when you’re both wearing masks. Plus, I really, really don’t like the thought of our fine city losing someone of Stan’s amazing talent and generosity to some other city. So enough about that.)

OK! Let’s talk about Lucy Holstedt, who has lived in Somerville for about 20 years. Like Stan, she’s a professor at Berklee College of Music. Lucy is a Festival board member and co-producer. She also created the website, which includes bios of all the poets and musicians. Check out bostonnationalpoetry.org

You’ll find singer-songwriter Thea Hopkins’ bio under the “Saturday” tab. Yet another Somerville resident, her work has been recorded by Peter, Paul & Mary, and the Prague Symphony Orchestra. Thea’s voice is perhaps one of the most beautiful things in the world.

I, too live in this unique city. Among other things, I’m one-third of a bi-coastal group, Cedar Gate



Somervillian, singer, saxophonist, flutist, actor, Stan Strickland has performed with or opened for everyone from Miles Davis and Aretha Franklin, to three-time U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky.

Writers (Lucy Holstedt is another third). We’re also performing on Saturday.

Here are just five of the exceptionally fine, “outside Somerville” poets: Richard Hoffman, Rhina P. Espaillet, Fred Marchant, Charles Coe, and Martha Collins. (If you don’t know them, go take a look on our website.)

The Festival is proud to be partnering with our new ally and fiscal agent, Writers Without Margins--a tremendous organization that takes literature beyond traditional spaces. They’re led by writer / attorney / film producer Cheryl Buchanan. Learn more by clicking the site’s “Thursday” tab.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Martín Espada as our special guest. As a poet, translator, editor, and essayist, Espada has published more than 20 books and won many major awards. He has been compared to Walt Whitman for his ability to make readers feel “an undeniable social consciousness and connectedness.” For me, Martín’s timely, timeless work has a uniquely potent blend of power, passion, and precision. His readings take it to another level. You can experience this for yourself on April 17th.

Lyrical

SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Joshua Corwin, a Los Angeles native, is a neurodiverse, 2 Pushcart Prize, 1 Best of the Net nominated poet and Winner of the 2021 Spillwords Press Award for Poetic Publication of the Year. His collection *Becoming Vulnerable* (2020) details his experience with autism, addiction, sobriety and spirituality. A UCLA lecturer, published with Lawrence Ferlinghetti, he hosts poetry podcast “Assiduous Dust,” writes for *Oddball Magazine* and teaches poetry at The Miracle Project, an autism nonprofit. www.joshuacorwin.com



Aubade, Au Revoir

Dawn, why do you come & go,
Naked, full of God,
Black & blue in the mirror?
Watered by years of tears
Whispering the breeze which
Blows back my hair
Untying matted knots of thought
With forgiveness?
Vanilla orchids, perfume clouds—
Poetry, what am I to You?
My jagged ridges cannot dull
Your heavenly ocean, sky, stars,
Confined as I am hungry
For sweaty masses.

— Joshua Corwin

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

When She Calls 911 (A conversation concerning safety in Somerville for women/womyn)

Women/Womyn & Safety Virtual Community Meeting, May 5, 6:30 p.m.:

Join the meeting to learn about our ongoing work to establish civilian oversight in Somerville, and how you can get involved. Featuring City Councilors At Large Mary Jo Rossetti and Kristen Strezo and Ward 7 Councilor Katjana Ballantyne. Please join the meeting and share your experience or hear from other women/womyn in Somerville as we aim to create and sustain an equitable and safer Somerville. The virtual meeting will be held on the Zoom teleconferencing platform on Wednesday, May 5, at 6:30 p.m. You can join the meeting by phone, online via Zoom, or watch it without signing in on the City’s GovTV channel and YouTube. For details on how to join or watch the meeting, please visit somervillema.gov/CivilianOversight.

Civilian Oversight of Police Survey:

Please also take our quick online survey about Civilian Oversight: <https://s.surveyplanet.com/K-nIiPjiO>. Your input is important to this community process and the survey only takes a few minutes. Find the online survey at somervillema.gov/CivilianOversight or contact us (see contact info below) to request a paper copy.

To learn more, please visit somervillema.gov/CivilianOversight. Questions or paper survey needed? Please contact CivilianOversight@SomervilleMA.gov or call 311 at 617-666-3311.

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