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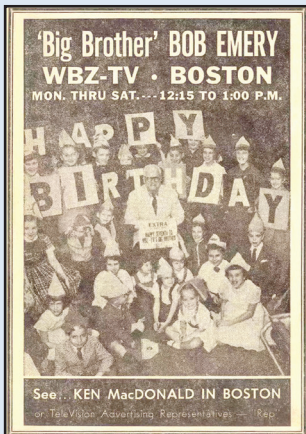


VOL. 9 NO. 11

SOMERVILLE, MASS. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021

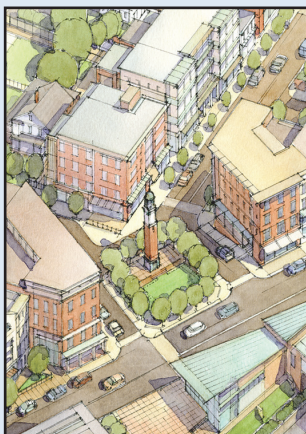
TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Inside:



We watched Big Brother

page 3



Going over Gilman Square

page 5



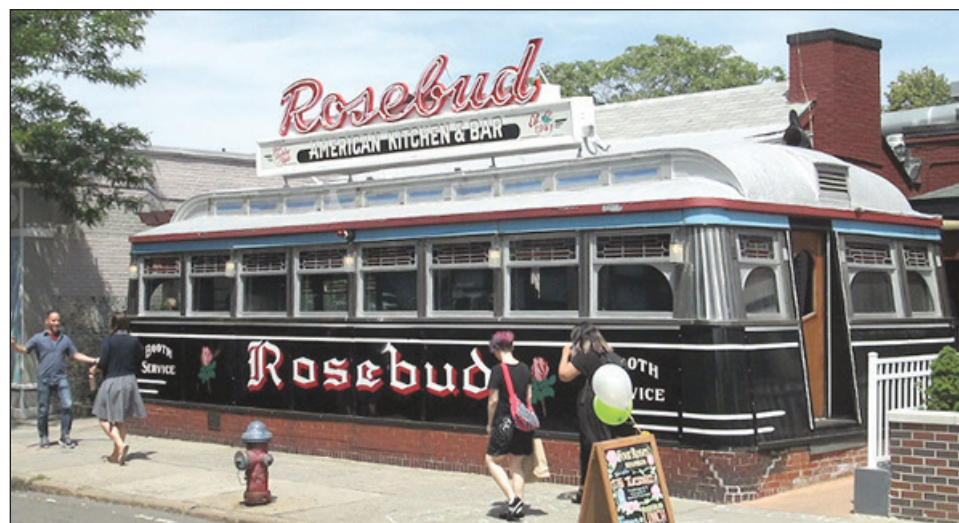
Protest over CCP at Tufts University

page 9

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

From the Publisher and Staff of The Somerville Times

Tensions heat up between mayor and Somerville restaurant owners



Joe Cassinelli owns restaurants in Davis Square, including Rosebud. He says, "We're losing staff and patrons. We're at an incredible disadvantage while the rest of the state is reopening."

By Denise Keniston

On Monday March 15, Somerville Mayor Curtatone officially extended the 25% capacity restriction on Somerville businesses to March 30, while the rest of the state moves towards reopening.

The mayor's policy decision flies in the face of Governor Charlie Baker's March 1 announcement that he was dropping capacity limits on restaurants, but still requiring masks and social distancing of six feet for patrons. The Massachusetts Restaurant Association, with a membership of 1800 restaurants, has fired back at Curtatone with an open letter posted on Instagram.

Continued on page 4

Tips to raise Earth-conscious kids

Children are never too young to learn the importance of sustainability or begin adopting eco-friendly habits. Earth Day, celebrated April 22, is a great time to get started, and experts say it all starts with playtime.

"Kids are built to absorb information at a tremendous pace," says Anna Yudina, senior director, Marketing Initiatives, The Toy Association. "During playtime especially, they form deep emotional connections to the values they're learning. This means that you can help your child embrace an earth-conscious mindset simply by making it fun."

Check out these Earth Day tips and insights from The Genius of Play – a national movement to educate parents and caregivers about play's vital role in child development:

• Eco-Friendly Crafting: Crafting that uses household objects can demonstrate creative ways to reduce, reuse and recycle. For example, you can construct bird feeders from milk jugs and then have kids decorate them. The best part? This is a sustainable DIY project that benefits wildlife, plus gives

Continued on page 11



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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.

Happy **St. Patrick's Day** to all of our readers. No matter what one's ancestral heritage, we can all be a bit Irish on this day. And as they say on the Emerald Isle, may the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

The **City of Somerville** is remaining in reopening **Phase 3, Step 1** until at least **March 30** and capacity limits in Somerville businesses **will remain at 25%** or the limit set in the business's city-approved health and safety plan until further notice. Until such time, Somerville continues to hold the limit on attendance at gatherings to no more than 10 persons until further notice. The limit applies to both indoor and outdoor gatherings of any kind unless otherwise specifically permitted by City activity-specific guidelines or city-approved health and safety plans. 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).

Townie Tours is back. They are doing private tours and small group tours offering a fun, outdoor activity that supports social distancing and is safe for everyone. Visit townietoursboston.com for more information.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to Ward 7 Councilor and mayoral candidate **Katjana Ballantyne**. We hope she had a great birthday for herself with her family. Happy birthday to former alderman and great guy, **Jack Connolly** of **Wedgwood-Crane & Connolly Insurance** in Davis Sq. We hope he has a great birthday. We wish a happy birthday to all of our Facebook friends such as *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

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

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday March 17	Partly Cloudy	51°/37°	12%	10%	SW 10 mph
Thursday March 18	Cloudy	55°/33°	25%	17%	WSW 9 mph
Friday March 19	Snow	37°/25°	64%	26%	NNE 20 mph
Saturday March 20	Sunny	46°/30°	5%	4%	NNW 10 mph
Sunday March 21	Sunny	53°/32°	4%	2%	NW 8 mph
Monday March 22	Sunny	59°/36°	6%	3%	WNW 11 mph
Tuesday March 23	Partly Cloudy	62°/42°	7%	4%	WNW 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: *The Davis Square Tower*

Nicky Stiles says:

Jimmy you do find good topics to talk about and bring back old memories. That tower was used for many years by the Somerville police officer assigned to Davis square as a vantage point because from aloft you could see most not all of the square. It was Used most often when the Baah's were getting out. You could see if someone had too many ice cubes. Across the street at the corner of highland and college where the bank is was the police box. That was the location where officers relieved each other for the next shift. Ah the memories of Davis sq. A bucket of blood on every corner.

Matt Lavallee says:

So what is it and where was it? Don't leave me hanging

Valarie Faison says:

Jimmy, not sure I knew you in school, SHS '71. I just love your stories, a trip down memory lane. My great grandmother owned the house at 61 Cameron Avenue. We walked many, many times from her home to Davis Square, across the tracks! Thanks for the memory of Davis Square.

Jimmy says:

Hey Matt... First paragraph ... They say a picture is worth a thousand words. I posted a picture of the railroad tower that used to be in Davis Square years ago.... Thanks Nicky and Valerie!

Response to: *Human Rights Commission to query immigrant restaurant owners*

Nelson Salazar2 says:

Human rights apply to all humans, before they continuing with this task I would like the HRC to be clear about, why immigrant restaurants, what is the purpose of doing this project, and what is the HRC going to do with the information? This task sounds more like the Multicultural Affairs Commission's task.

Response to: *Lyrical Somerville – March 10*

Bridget Galway says:

Thank you for bringing Billie live in her beauty, and hear her sing the pain of strange fruit in the words of this poem. You have honored the ghost of strange fruit through your life's rally and your poetry.

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

The Somerville Times

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

Everyone's Big Brother



"The grass is always greener in the other fella's yard."

When I was a kid that song was the theme song of *Big Brother Bob Emery's* live TV show

on channel 4. His previous show in the late 1940's was called *Small Fry Club* and he referred to his young guests as "small fries."

Going purely on this old memory (before I researched it), I remember him playing the ukulele. But what I remember vividly was my sister and I actually being on the show in person, on live TV with the grandfatherly *Big Brother*.

Back then we only had a few TV channels. 4, 5, 7 and channel 2, PBS (channels 38 and 56 came along shortly thereafter). My mother watched shows like David Susskind on channel 2 and we had to wait until it was over to hear dad say, "Stop flipping the channels!" The locally produced shows were favorites among the kids of the era.

A few of the shows that local children could be on were Rex Trailer's *Boomtown*, with his original side kick Pablo, and then *Sgt. Billy*, *Cactus Pete*, *Major Mudd*, and *Bozo* (and *Butch* for a day). We also watched *Miss Jean* on *Romper Room*. "Romper, Stomper, Bomper Boo, tell me, tell me, tell me true ... magic mirror tell me today, did all my friends



have fun at play?"

I did a story about *Boomtown* a while back and discovered that a lot of Somerville's Baby Boomers were on the live western themed show. Some were on *Major Mudd* and a few made it onto *Bozo's* show featuring the late great Frank Avruch as the lovable red-haired clown. I made my TV debut on *Big Brother's* show with my big sister Christine.

When we were on *Big Brother*, I remember we said the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Then

we drank our chocolate milk with a portrait of President Dwight D Eisenhower behind us. He was President from 1953 to 1960 so we were both real "small fries." *Hail to the Chief* was played during the salute to the president.

I remember being very nervous and staying as close as possible to my big sister. Reciting the pledge, saluting the president and drinking milk was part of every *Big Brother* show. Bosco sponsored a lot of kids shows and

Continued on page 11

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

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Be safe and stay healthy – The Mount Vernon Restaurant

THE WEEK IN CRIME

By Jim Clark

Crime Tip Hotline: 617-776-7210

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

Thank you for your assistance.

Help Keep Somerville Safe!

SOMERVILLE POLICE CRIME LOG

Arrests:

<p>Cameron St. Laurent, March 8, 4:53 p.m., arrested at Assembly Row on a warrant charge of</p>	<p>larceny under \$1200. Rachid Belhadj, March 10, 12:57 p.m., arrested at Artisan Way on warrant charges of</p>	<p>larceny over \$1200, furnishing a false ID, resisting arrest, receiving stolen property under \$1200, shoplifting by conceal-</p>	<p>ing merchandise, and open and gross lewdness. Ricardo Montejo, March 14, 6:57 p.m., arrested at Broad-</p>	<p>way on warrant charges of assault, resisting arrest, disturbing the peace, and disorderly conduct.</p>
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Tensions heat up between mayor and Somerville restaurant owners

CONT. FROM PG 1

MRA president Bob Luz says, "There are 351 towns and cities in Massachusetts and all of their mayors followed the Governor's rules – the lone holdout is Somerville's Mayor Curtatone. One city out of 351 in the state of Massachusetts does not have access to differential data, nor does one mayor have any more knowledge in regards to the fact-based strategy for safely re-opening businesses than the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." He continues, "With this said, this unfortunate distinction led by Mayor Joe Curtatone seems to be solely based on political vanity and is at the expense of the business community and its hard-working citizens.

The Massachusetts Restaurant Association publicly and formally demands that Mayor Joe Curtatone immediately lifts all capacity limits on businesses in compliance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Joe Cassinelli, who owns Alpine Restaurant Group, which includes popular Somerville restaurants like The Painted Burro, Posto and Rosebud, all located in Davis Square, says, "The capacity limits set by Mayor Curtatone are incredibly frustrating! As a constituent and taxpayer, I've tried everything to appeal to Mayor Curtatone but, my calls are going unanswered by his administration." Cassinelli continues, "What this means

for Somerville restaurants is that we're losing staff who are ready to get back to work at other restaurants in other towns and patrons who are seeking out restaurants that can accommodate them in other towns and cities. It's killing us!"

MRA President Luz weighs in on what he's seeing across the state, "I have spoken to guests and employees alike who state they feel safe and comfortable and appreciate the concerted, science-based approach by the state to re-open restaurants safely for residents and put employees back to work." He continues, "In stark contrast, I have ventured into Somerville restaurants and have found employees in sparsely seated dining rooms lamenting that their normal guests are venturing to surrounding cities while they lose needed income to simply survive."

Leandra Meneves and her husband Aditya Gidh are avid restaurant foodies and faithful patrons of many Somerville restaurants. Over the past year they've avoided indoor dining, leaning more towards outdoor dining and takeout. However, recently they ventured out to The Daily Catch on Boston's waterfront where a reservation took two weeks. "We're still very cautious about indoor dining anywhere in Massachusetts, but I can see where Somerville

"On behalf of all restaurants in Somerville, MA, the Massachusetts Restaurant Association calls for Mayor Joe Curtatone to immediately reverse his damaging stance on reduced capacities in restaurants and furthermore all businesses within the city of Somerville, Massachusetts..."

Bob Luz
President & CEO
Massachusetts Restaurant Association

The MRA
Massachusetts Restaurant Association
Access • Influence • Protection

MRA open letter posted on Instagram on March 15, 2021, via MRA @ma_restaurants calling for Mayor Curtatone to change his lone policy on reduced restaurant capacities.

restaurants feel they are at a competitive disadvantage with all other restaurants," says Meneves. "Those of us who love restaurants are looking for the safest restaurant with the best accommodations and I can see where 25% capacity feels limiting to Somerville restaurants." They are "being cautious" but "can see" where Somerville restaurants feel they are at a disadvantage.

Mayor Curtatone says he is trying to avoid rushing into reopening and creating a fresh wave of new COVID cases. He relies, in part, on advice from Somerville's Health and Human Services

Director Doug Kress who says he is hopeful, but cautious about potential COVID flareups.

According to Kress, "Embracing hope does not warrant abandoning caution. Just as we are eagerly looking forward to reopening, we are just as committed to holding on until more of our most vulnerable are vaccinated and scientists better understand what impacts the variants may bring."

Mayor Curtatone's 25% capacity limit will continue until at least March 30. MRA President Lutz says, "There will be very little left of the restaurant industry in Somerville by then."



Leandra Meneves and her husband Aditya Gidh earlier this year in Somerville.

New developments in long awaited Gilman Square renovation plan

By Joe Creason

On Thursday March 10, City Councilors and members of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, held a meeting to discuss the implementation of renovations for the Gilman Square area. Consultants from the Boston architecture firm NBBJ, were present to give a concurrent review of their plan and existing conditions at the Gilman Square site.

Plans for the Gilman Square Station area have been in progress since February of 2014, however, shifting circumstances have halted the plan's execution.

"For those who are familiar with the Gilman Square Area plan, you know a lot on the ground has changed," said Director of Planning and Zoning Sarah Lewis.

According to Lewis, many physical design aspects of the Gilman Square area have changed since the plan was adapted. The GLX station has been redesigned and its location

changed, as well as plans for a new community path, a new city streetscape project, construction of the new high school and zoning changes comprised the proposed development projects which now effect the Gilman Square area.

"We're still focused on achieving the goals of this project and needs from the neighborhood, like bringing the concept of pedestrian square back to Gilman Square," Lewis said.

The Gilman Square Neighborhood Association, a group formed by residents and Gilman square business owners in 2018, have been working with Somerville officials to discuss development proposals and other aspects of the project's future.

Director Lewis presented a community designed scheme from the group during the meeting, the blueprint for which put heavy emphasis on natural light for civic spaces and improved accessibility throughout the neighborhood.



City officials and outside consultants recently met to discuss the latest plans for renovation of the Gilman Square area.

Though there have been many structural changes proposed to the area around Gilman Square, the consultants from NBBJ believe that many principles from original Gilman Square project will still hold up.

Alan Mountjoy, an urban designer and architect at NBBJ, says that the firm will address

the needs of the city and the community with project plan including, functional open space to schools and MBTA station as well as developer attraction and density to support amenities.

City Councilors raised the question about uses for new

commercial and civic space in the renovated Gilman Square area. The Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development will conduct a massing study to survey the community about the feasibility and desirability of various land use options, before the next community meeting.

Conway Field safety and construction public meeting

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott, and City staff invite you to a virtual public meeting to discuss remediation at Conway Field. Representatives from the EPA and DEP will detail the site cleanup plans, safety precautions, and construction and address any questions or concerns. The overall cleanup process will include preparing the site for remediation, removing soils, preparing the site for final field construction, and restoring the site for public use. Cleanup activities are expected to begin later this spring and continue through 2021. After the site is cleaned, an athletic field will be installed. The meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m. For more information on the project and to register to attend, please visit somervillema.gov/conwayfield.



Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



Colcannon

This is my go-to dish for St. Patrick's Day. It's very easy to make, and goes perfectly with corned beef. The cabbage adds a nice sweetness and texture to the mashed potatoes. I have tried both, the cabbage and the kale, and personally prefer the cabbage. Give it a try.

- 3 cups small diced cabbage or kale
- 4 scallions, thinly sliced
- 4 tablespoons butter, divided
- 1 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, divided
- 2 lbs. potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 1/2 cup half and half
- 3 tablespoons, chopped parsley

Melt 2 Tablespoons of the butter in

a sauté pan over medium heat. Add the diced cabbage, scallion, and half of the salt and pepper. Stir, and sauté for about 10 minutes. In the meantime, boil the potatoes until soft. **See note.*

Drain and add back to the pot. Mash the potatoes, add the remaining butter, salt, pepper and half and half. Stir until fully combined, then add the cabbage mixture to the potatoes and incorporate. Stir in the parsley.

**Tip, use an instant pot, cook for 8 minutes on high pressure, then natural release. Follow the above directions for the mashed potatoes and cabbage mixture, so it can be kept warm until serving time. As always, taste and adjust seasoning as needed.*

Serves 6.

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



Beacon Hill Roll Call



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Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records the votes of local representatives and senators from the week of March 8-12.

HELP BUSINESSES AND WORKERS (H 89)

House 155-0, approved and sent to the Senate a bill that excludes Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans from being taxed by the state in 2020; creates a tax credit for unemployed workers whose income was 200 percent below the federal poverty level and ensures anyone making under \$25,000 as an individual or \$34,000 for a household of two is eligible for a tax credit.

Other provisions waive penalties on unemployment insurance taxes; freeze unemployment insurance rates paid by employers; and create a mechanism ensuring all employees will be able to access 40 hours of paid sick time for any COVID-related issues, including testing positive, needing to quarantine or caring for a loved one. Employers with less than 500 employees will be able to take advantage of federal tax credits to cover these costs.

Businesses would also face a new surcharge, in the form of an excise tax on employee wages, through December 2022 to help repay interest due in September on the federal loans.

House Ways and Means Chair Rep. Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston) said the bill will stabilize the state's unemployment system and bring far-reaching, much needed relief to businesses and workers.

"When a lot of the businesses were requesting PPP loans, they were in the midst of surviving," said Michlewitz. "They weren't thinking about next year. They were thinking about how they'd stay open in the midst of an economic shutdown. In order to protect these small businesses and allow them to get back to where they were, short-term and long-term, the loan forgiveness here and tax forgiveness here is an appropriate step to be taking."

"We're trying to help small businesses get back on their feet and the more money we can keep under the control of the small business owners, the better off we're all going to be," said House Speaker Ron Mariano (D-Quincy). "It allows them to hire more people with the freeze in the rate and the forgiveness on the PPP stuff allows them to retain capital."

"Without legislative intervention, employers will see a 60 percent increase in their unemployment insurance costs and many independent contractors, restaurants and small businesses will collectively be facing another \$150 million in state taxes on their PPP loans," said GOP House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading). "It is imperative that the Senate follow the House's lead and act quickly to get this legislation on Gov. Charlie Baker's desk so we can deliver essential tax relief to the state's small businesses and help protect jobs."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Rep. Christine Barber Yes
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

BAN DOUBLE DIPPING BEYOND \$100,000 (H 89)

House 4-152, rejected an amendment to the section of the bill that excludes Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans from being taxed by the state in 2020. Some opponents of this tax break say it will cost the state \$600 million in lost tax revenue.

Another section of the bill allows these businesses whose loans are not being taxed, to get more tax relief by allowing them to deduct from their other non-PPP business income any business expenses paid for with the very PPP dollars that were not taxed. The amendment, a compromise proposed by Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven (D-Somerville), would cap these additional deductions at \$100,000.

Uytterhoeven said the bill provides an unfair "double dip" to some businesses beyond the first dip which does not tax the loan as income. "I am sure we are all eager to help struggling businesses through this crisis, but allowing businesses to deduct from their other non-PPP business income any business expenses paid for with PPP dollars benefits only business owners that are earning a profit during the pandemic," said Uytterhoeven.

"It was clear to me from working closely with tax policy experts and drawing from my experience prior to taking this role that this is bad policy that will cost the commonwealth over \$600 million," continued Uytterhoeven. "Instead, we could have provided direct relief to struggling local businesses, direct relief to working people, and invested in an equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The vote result is a manifestation of false information propagated by well-funded corporate lobbyists. I believe we can do better here in the commonwealth but sadly the Legislature isn't quite there yet."

Amendment opponents said the amendment would impose a huge tax burden on small businesses that are still trying to survive the blow delivered by the pandemic.

"Rep. Uytterhoeven's amendment would have diminished the benefit of the tax relief provided on the PPP," said Rep. Jones. "This would have a disastrous impact on the state's small businesses and would threaten their continued survival."

(A "Yes" vote is for the amendment. A "No" vote is against it.)

Rep. Christine Barber No
Rep. Mike Connolly Yes
Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven Yes

EXTEND VOTE BY MAIL UNTIL JUNE 30 (H 73)

Senate 40-0, House on a voice vote without a roll call, approved and sent to Gov. Baker a bill that extends until June 30 the changes the Legislature approved, and the governor signed into law in July 2020, to make it easier to vote by mail and to expand early voting opportunities in the 2020 elections. The changes are set to expire on March 31. The bill extends the law for 90 days until June 30 and is designed to help cities and towns with any local elections they are holding prior to June 30.

"Voting reforms like #votebyemail & expanded early in-person voting have been critical to ensuring that all voters can safely & conveniently exercise voting rights during the pandemic," tweeted the Senate's lead sponsor Sen. Jason Lewis (D-Winchester). "That's why I am a lead sponsor of this important legislation."

"This legislation will help ensure that residents can continue to vote safely and easily during the ongoing pandemic," said Sen. Barry Finegold (D-Andover), Senate Chair of the Committee on Election Laws. "Last year, the Legislature passed a common-sense, bipartisan bill to expand early voting and implement a secure vote-by-mail system for elections in 2020. These reforms protected public health, empowered voters, and helped generate record-breaking turnout."

"Over this past year, the COVID pandemic has caused us to take a closer look at, and improve upon, many of our society's systems. Voting is one of those," said Rep. Dan Ryan (D-Boston) House Chair of the Committee on Election Laws. "I'm looking forward to a robust discussion on how to best move election legislation forward."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of March 8-12, the House met for a total of seven hours and 17 minutes while the Senate met for a total of five hours and 58 minutes.

Mon. March 8 House 11:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.
Senate 11:09 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

Tues. March 9 No House session
No Senate session

Wed. March 10 House 11:01 a.m. to 11:04 a.m.
No Senate session

Thurs. March 11 House 11:00 a.m. to 5:19 p.m.
Senate 11:23 a.m. to 5:20 p.m.

Fri. March 12 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

COMMENTARY

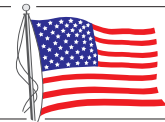
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville does the wearing of the green.

Our View Of The Times



Whether one is of Irish lineage or not, St. Patrick's Day stands for a recognition of Irish and Irish American culture, and in many ways its cultural appropriation throughout our society.

The religious origins of the day have, for some, been obscured and often all but forgotten in favor of the "wearing of the green," throwing parties, and holding parades. The day has been celebrated on the

North American continent since before the American Revolution, and is actually an official holiday in neighboring Suffolk County. Ask any of our Boston brethren and they would – to a single soul – be aware of this fact.

And so, in Somerville, too, there are plenty of willing celebrants of diverse heritage. While it's true that there are a lot of Irish families in the city, and its his-

tory is full with contributions by them, just about everyone likes to join in on the holiday and participate in everything that comes with it.

Of course, we will still be wearing our masks and practicing social distancing, out of caution due to the continued threat of the COVID-19 virus. Sadly, the big parade in South Boston has once again been cancelled this year out of the same

concerns, and numerous other events are following the same course.

As the old Irish proverb says, "May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you are going, and the insight to know when you have gone too far." So enjoy the corned beef and cabbage, the green beer, the fine Irish whiskey, and all the rest wherever you can. But do so carefully, please.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

Patrick Fitzgerald, Kristin Gore, Patrick Salvato, Sally Colman, Maria Parziale Pacheco, Michael Sullivan, Neil Gillis Sr., Alexander Levering Kern, Carla Hunter Gates, Shirley Benoit McMenimen, Michael Cirrone and Joe Bossi, who are all celebrating this week. To all the others we may have missed and, yes, we must admit there are a few more out there, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

Somerville residents can once again drop off select waste items at the DPW Yard at 1 Franey Road. Yard waste, electronic waste, and tires will be accepted. Note that yard waste cannot be in plastic bags. Residents may drop off eligible items' weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. or between 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill, is required and must be presented at the guard shack. Drop-off will be open to residents only, not contractors. The city reserves the right to refuse drop-off for any reason. Residents are required to wear a mask and observe all City COVID-19 protocols during drop-off. DPW office buildings remain closed to the public. For more information, please visit

somervillema.gov/recycling or call 311.

The Somerville High School PTSA is fundraising to support Senior Class of 2021 activities and celebrations. Interested community members can contribute through Venmo @SHS-PTSA-1. Visit their Facebook page for more info.

Massachusetts Military Support Foundation (MMSF) will be distributing USDA Farmers to Families Food Box to local families in Somerville and surrounding communities on Saturday afternoons on a weekly basis. 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. at the Somerville Lions Club, 9 Washington Street, Somerville. Those wishing to receive food are asked to register online by visiting the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation website www.mmsfi.org. On the day of the Food Box distribution, individuals shall arrive in a vehicle, remain in the vehicle and wear a surgical mask at all times. Volunteers will place the box in the vehicle's trunk, back seat or pick-up truck bed. Distributions will take place once a week at this location.

The East Somerville Market is back at Deano's Pasta, 15 Garfield Ave. on

Sunday, March 28, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Check-out the participating vendors at www.eastsomervillemainstreets.org/market.

There have been a couple more announcements for the upcoming November election. Judy Pineda Neufeld, a small business owner, former executive director of Emerge Massachusetts, and advocate for equity and justice, has entered the race for Somerville City Council in Ward 7. Visit www.judyforsomerville.com. Also, Justin Klekota has announced that he is running for Somerville Councilor At-Large. He is looking forward to serving Somerville to create a future free of the pandemic and the climate crisis. To learn more, visit electjustin.org.

Congratulations to Argenziano student Piper for winning the President's Choice Award 2021 in the Youth Art Month competition. Read the district blog post about this amazing class project with Ms. Taremi: <https://somerville.k12.ma.us/blog/artistic-inspiration-somerville-neighborhoods-argenziano-students?fbclid=IwAR12zHu-3FD6i-2SYLLZmVHxkSI2qOcUVamnNG->

[lyiDvvyUZKiu_aY8BEhk4](https://www.facebook.com/lyiDvvyUZKiu_aY8BEhk4).

Now that people are home more often than usual, don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a digital edition of our paper, go directly online to our website over to the right side and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper without the need for going out for a copy of the print edition.

Hate incidents impact victims as well as the community. In an effort to make reporting hate incidents easier for the residents of Somerville, you may now report them by visiting the Somerville Police website under the Home tab and submit your Hate Incident report: www.somervillepd.com/home/.

Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) is offering free transportation to COVID-19 vaccination sites to Somerville residents age 60 and up as well as adults of any age with disabilities. Appointments must be scheduled in advance. To learn more or schedule an appointment, contact SCES at 617-628-2601 or info@eldercare.org.

Continued on page 10

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#772

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. In what state did the first official American baseball game take place? | album features a cow on the cover? |
| 2. How many phases of the moon are there? | 8. What reality show did Jane's Addiction's Dave Navarro co-host? |
| 3. How many bones do sharks have in their bodies? | 9. Who was the voice of Mr. Potato Head in <i>Toy Story</i> ? |
| 4. In what state is the Lincoln family home (Hildene) located? | 10. Who performed the song <i>Big Shot</i> on <i>Black Panther: The Album</i> ? |
| 5. In what city is the Little League World series played every August? | 11. What is the Australian alternative to the Easter Bunny? |
| 6. Who is "Charlie Hustle"? | 12. In Greek mythology, who is the Queen of the Underworld? |
| 7. Which Pink Floyd | |

Answers on page 11

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- 28% of Africa is classified as wilderness – in North America, it's 38%.
- Cats' urine glows under a black light.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

IN THE GARDEN

ACROSS

- Great divide
- World's oldest national broadcaster
- Pasturelands
- Chinese fruit
- #9 Across, sing.
- Clemency
- One in advertising
- "____ the land of the free ..."
- Characteristic of birds
- Ongoing job in the garden
- Without synthetic fertilizers
- 2nd tallest bird
- Theatrical production
- Curiosity killed it?
- Additionally
- Capital of Poland
- Passage into a mine
- Prefix in levorotary
- Mid-century modern, e.g.
- Toothy wheel
- Some are heirlooms
- Make like a cat
- Erasable programmable read only memory
- Stanislavski's rifle, e.g.
- Unwanted correspondence
- Motionless
- Catch-22
- "Are you sure?" in a text
- Freight horse cart
- Opposite of don'ts
- 6 or more hours of sunshine
- Radicchio or frisée
- On foot
- Negative vote
- 2020 NFL MVP
- Morrison's "The ____"
- Hockey great Bobby
- Respectable and quiet
- Sports award
- Affirmative response
- Infernos

DOWN

- Old bathtub foot
- Opposite of seek
- Ne plus ultra
- Opposite of #57 Across

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13					14			15						
16					17			18						
19				20			21	22						
			23				24							
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34	
35			36		37			38		39				
40					41			42		43				
44				45		46				47				
48					49		50			51		52		
				53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68				
69						70				71				
72						73				74				

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 5. Minimum, pl. | 36. Faster than a walk |
| 6. Influencer's journal | 38. Some plants and flowers emit a good one |
| 7. Stinging pollinator | 42. Type of digger |
| 8. Holiday song | 45. Centers, old-fashioned |
| 9. Bulgarian money | 49. French vineyard |
| 10. Julia Roberts' Academy Award-winning role | 51. Last of 3 numbers on a bag of fertilizer |
| 11. Popular smoothie berry | 54. Be a pest |
| 12. Update an iPod | 56. Washington, e.g. |
| 15. Inhabitant of Hungary | 57. Grow dim |
| 20. Nothing, pl. | 58. Extraterrestrials' rides |
| 22. Like sashimi | 59. Pilot's stunt |
| 24. Lack of money | 60. Type of parrot |
| 25. Tomato supports | 61. "Musical" constellation |
| 26. Highly skilled | 62. Russian mountain chain |
| 27. Miss America's headdress | 63. Type of garden hose that saves space |
| 29. Slowly leak | 64. Goes with "odds" |
| 31. Moves at the gym | 67. Am is to I as ____ is to we |
| 32. Monument to Buddha | |
| 33. Orderly arrangement | |
| 34. Wiggly plowers | |

Answers in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

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

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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.

Solution to last week's sudoku puzzle:

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

Solution to last week's crossword puzzle:

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

Human rights activists call for CCP-free Tufts University

By Joe Creason

The crowd's chants echoed down Packard Avenue in the brisk afternoon air on Saturday, March 13. Amplified sound waves shook the atmosphere on the Tufts University campus as over 100 protestors, including elected officials, organizers, students and supporters of the Free Tibet, East Turkestan, Hong Kong movements, made their grievances known.

The demonstration was held on the street in front of the Tufts University Confucius Institute, where participants called for University President Anthony Monaco to shut down the Chinese government-sponsored facility.

This was the thirteenth "Solidarity Saturday," in which activists called for the closure of the Confucius Institute and say they will not stop until Tufts terminates its contract with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Over 600 letters have already been sent to President Monaco, the mayors of Somerville and Medford, as well as to the staff of U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley, in order to raise awareness for the actions of the CCP and its vested interests in Tufts University.

"This demonstration is a struggle to kick out the Chinese Government from the Tufts University campus," said Advocacy Officer for the Tibetan Association of Boston Olo Bayul. "The Confucius Institute is funded and arranged directly by the CCP, and we will be here every Saturday to let Anthony Monaco and the Tufts leadership know it is unacceptable for a totalitarian regime to be working openly in our backyard."

According to Bayul, the Chinese Communist Party is guilty of many crimes against humanity including substantiated reports of the systematic torture, reap, cultural desecration, and genocide of three million Uyghurs in East Turkestan, with over a million currently being interned in concentration campus.

"The Chinese Communist Party is also responsible for the

deaths of over a million Tibetans since its illegal occupation of Tibet started in 1959. I am Tibetan. My parents fled Tibet by foot when they were six and eight years old, through the Himalayas, to escape persecution," Bayul said. "We are very horrified that in a freedom loving place like in Somerville, in Medford and in America, that there is an arm of that very regime that haunted my parents, in our backyard at Tufts."

Bayul says Confucius Institutes have been termed as soft power machines for the Chinese government that operate by disseminating state propaganda and suppresses academic freedom with the ultimate goal of influencing public opinion away from the image of the CCP as an oppressive regime.

"These protests are raising awareness for the human rights violations committed by the Chinese government and calling on Tufts to cut ties with the Chinese state-run Confucius Institute, just as UMass Boston and many other universities have done over the past several years," said Somerville City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen

The CCP contractually obligates universities who enter a partnership through Confucius Institutes. Not only do these contracts give unusual privileges to the Chinese government, but the CCP is responsible for the curriculum and hiring process of Confucius Institute faculty, according to Bayul.

Government sponsored Confucius Institutes have a national presence in American academia and there are examples around the country of various Confucius Institute directors being instructed to censor discussion on Tibet, the Uyghurs, Hong Kong or Taiwan as well as cancelling speakers like the 14th Dali Lama.

While 40 Confucius Institutes around the nation have been shut down due to tightening regulations from federal legislation, about 80 Confucius Institutes are left operating in the United States today.



Protestors gathered on Packard Avenue last Saturday, calling for Tufts University to close the controversial Confucius Institute.



LEGAL NOTICES

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



**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 1, 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/4982823283520481292>
Webinar ID: 318-165-403

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (562) 247-8422
Access code: 756-856-038

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

120-132 Middlesex Ave Brickyard at Assembly LLC proposes a master plan to develop a 1.3 acre site in the Assembly Square Mixed-Use (ASMD) special district. The master plan includes an 18-story laboratory principal building with underground structured parking and was previously granted a Variance from the ASMD's civic space requirement. The Applicant also requests multiple Special Permits to waive the maximum Floor Area Ratio (FAR), the maximum permitted building height, and to authorize occupancy of commercial spaces over 10,000 square feet by any permitted use.

71-72 Union Square Laxmi Pradhan, Trustee of Everest Realty Trust, proposes to construct a 3-story commercial building in the Commercial Core district which requires Site Plan Approval and to establish a Cannabis Retail Sales use which requires a Use 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.

3/17/21 The Somerville Times



**City of Somerville
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 31, 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/5735861205198209036>
Webinar ID: 947-116-763

TO CALL IN

Phone number: 1 (415) 930-5321
Access code: 379-460-276

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

0 Fremont Street Fremont Street LLC proposes to construct a duplex in the NR district on a steep slope which requires 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 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.

3/17/21 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
RFP 21-63**

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

Debt Management System

A RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress landing page <https://www.bidexpress.com/businesses/33100/home> on or after **Wednesday, March 17, 2021**. Sealed proposals will be received at the Purchasing Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **1:00 PM, Wednesday, March 31, 2021**. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Please email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

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

3/17/21 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
RFP 21-62**

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

Charter Review Consulting Services

The consultant will support the City's review of its charter and community engagement in the process of creating recommendations to update it.

A request for proposals (RFP) may be obtained online <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/purchasing> on or after **3/16/2021**. Separately sealed price and technical proposals will be received at the above office until: **3/31/2021 at 2:00 p.m. ET**. The Purchasing Director reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if, in her sole judgment, the best interest of the City of Somerville would be served by so doing.

Contact amallen@somervillema.gov for more information.

Angela Allen
Purchasing Director
617-625-6600 x. 3400

3/17/21 The Somerville Times

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**NOTICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING
NUESTRA, LLC**

Notice is hereby given that Nuestra, LLC ("Nuestra") will hold a Virtual Community Outreach Meeting on **April 1, 2021** at 6:00 PM relative to its proposal to site a Marijuana Retail Establishment at 518 Somerville Avenue in Somerville.

This Virtual Community Outreach Meeting will be held in accordance with the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission's Administrative Order Allowing Virtual Web-Based Community Outreach Meetings and the applicable requirements set forth in M.G.L. ch. 94G and 935 CMR 500.000 *et seq.*

The Virtual Community Outreach Meeting via Zoom is available at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89451745140>. Participants may also dial in by telephone using the phone number: 312-626-6799 with meeting ID 89451745140#. A copy of the meeting presentation will be made available at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at NuestraSomerville.squarespace.com.

Interested members of the community will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers from company representatives about the proposed facility and operations. Questions can be submitted in advance by emailing rebecca@vicentesederberg.com or asked during the meeting after the presentation. If you are unable to attend the meeting but wish to have a personal telephone call or video conference, please email us to schedule time to meet.

3/17/21 The Somerville Times

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

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

You can find video updates from **Gov-TV** about progress in the **vaccine rollout**, as well as recordings of vaccine informational sessions with medical professionals by clicking the **"Videos and Podcasts"** tab on somervillema.gov/vaccine. There are recordings available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and Nepali. Or watch the videos on basic cable or GovTV on YouTube.

The city has been holding **virtual vaccine information sessions and Q&As** in multiple languages throughout the vaccine rollout. To find out when a session is coming up, click the **"Events"** tab on somervillema.gov/vaccine.

If you or someone you know would prefer to get **occasional vaccine updates via**

a **phone call**, you can sign up by visiting somervillema.gov/vaccine or calling 311. If you prefer email updates, don't worry, you won't be missing any information if you don't sign up for calls. All information sent out via calls will also be included in these email updates.

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

Apply for **small business relief funds**. The **City of Somerville** has made \$5 million available to small businesses in its third round of the **Small Business COVID-19 Relief Fund**. Eligible businesses can apply for grants of up to \$25,000. Applications are now available and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Learn more about the funding, including eligibility requirements, or apply for funds online.

Somerville's **Winter Farmer's Market** takes place **Saturdays**, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., **through April 10**, at 191 Highland Ave. Offering the best locally grown and produced agricultural items and more. Online pre-order market with a small outdoor "live" shopping market.

They offer a diverse range of local and New England produce, as well as cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, pastries, chocolate, and wine. They feature rotating guest vendors each week, as well as live entertainment and activities. They accept SNAP/EBT, CREDIT and DEBIT cards. \$10 SNAP match for EBT customers. For market information visit: <http://www.somwintermarket.org>.

The **Pandemic – Electronic Transfer (P-EBT) Program** was created spring 2020 to provide eligible families funds to purchase food while schools were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended through the end of the 2020-21 school year. Visit <https://www.map-ebt.org/home/#ihdtab> for additional information.

OBITUARY

Peter D. Privitera



Peter D. Privitera, formerly of Somerville and the West End of Boston, passed away peacefully on Sunday, March 7, 2021 at Woburn Nursing Center, at age 88.

Peter was born on October 29, 1932 in Boston, a son of the late Gaetano Privitera and Josephine (Morello) Privitera. A native of the West End of Boston, Peter was raised with a strong sense of pride in his roots and maintained a lifelong connection with the neighborhood and his friendships. At the young age of 16, he began his lifelong love for the sea when he started working on the commercial fishing boats run by his family. He grew up learning the ocean, boating, and many life skills that he carried forever. When not on the water, he surrounded himself with anything that evoked the sea. From his experience with knotting fishing line, he made numerous macrame scarves for

family members. Peter had a great appreciation for all light-houses and was completely fascinated by anything related to the sea.

Peter's life centered around his family and friends. He took great joy in meeting up with his friends at the fish pier, or the produce market every week. He enjoyed a good laugh with his friends and catching up with old neighbors from the West End when getting together for a game of cards. He was a lively, sociable man who always had a story to tell, and never missed an opportunity to laugh. He will be deeply missed.

Peter was the devoted father of Carolyn Privitera of Saugus and the late Peter G. Privitera. Cherished grandfather of Michael Privitera of Saugus and Joseph Privitera and his wife Malori of Fitchburg. Proud great-grandfather of Isabella and Anthony. Dear brother of Francis D. Privitera and his late wife Jean of Arlington, Rosemarie Chiolfi and her husband Phillip of Danvers, Nancy Cannalunga and her husband Nicholas of Lexington, and the late Dominic Privitera. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Services are private. Entombment at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett. For online tribute visit RobinsonFuneralHome.com.

Somerville firefighter retires



Twelve years of an era have come to an end. I cannot count the number of homes my crew and I have saved, and the lives we've transformed over the last decade. With deep gratitude and excitement, I am honored to share with you my personal transformation.

I humbly announce my departure from the Somerville Fire Department.

I will continue serving my community in a different capacity. My focus and passion is renovating distressed properties, providing jobs, opportunity, as well as providing safe, clean homes to the community that I love.

— Josu'e Velney / Photo by Paul Caulfield

Earth-conscious kids CONT. FROM PG 1

children an opportunity to observe flying visitors to the yard.

You can also craft your own musical instruments. For example, rainsticks, so-named because they mimic the natural sounds of rain, can be made by filling paper towel rolls with uncooked rice. Or, keep the beat using homemade maracas made by filling empty plastic bottles with dried beans. Finally, with just a few rubber bands and some glue, you can transform yesterday's cereal box into a guitar. Now you have enough instruments to start your own band!

• **Learn Through Play:** Kids can benefit from toys as early as one month old with sensory play that helps stimulate senses and develops motor skills. However, they develop habits and values that will last a lifetime during ages 3-9 the most. During these years, introduce toys that reinforce the importance of sustainabil-

ity. For example, a plush sea turtle can help a younger child understand the connection between plastic pollution and the health of marine creatures. For a tween or teen, a wind turbine science kit can build STEM skills and interest, while introducing the concepts of sustainable energy and climate change.

• **Outdoor Fun:** Warmer, longer days expand opportunities to play outdoors, be active and explore the natural world. Build a nature scavenger hunt in your backyard or take an ecology walk and observe critters, rocks and leaves with magnifying glasses. Bonus: beyond boosting an appreciation for the environment, active play is critical for child development, helping hone coordination, balance and motor skills and setting the stage for a lifetime of good health.

• **Pretend Play:** Pretend play is key for developing curiosity and critical thinking, and there

are many avenues for role-playing activities that teach the importance of sustainability. Using action toys, kids can be anything they want to be, from farmers to explorers to environmental superheroes. Pretend play also presents a fun way to introduce eco-friendly habits that kids can adopt in their daily lives, like turning the water off while they brush their teeth or reducing their plastic footprint by opting for reusable products.

From building a mini greenhouse to studying animal habitats, there are tons of playful learning ideas for indoor and outdoor fun available at thegeniusofplay.org, a great online resource for parents.

Kids are absorbing new information all the time, especially when they're having fun. To raise earth-conscious kids, incorporate environmental values into playtime. (*StatePoint*)

Everyone's Big Brother CONT. FROM PG 3

drinking that chocolate milk on live TV was one of my clearest memories. There's no one left in my immediate family to get more facts regarding our one day on television.

There's also that well known story, or urban legend, connected with the show. Rumors swirled that *Big Brother* once uttered a few choice comments to the effect of, "Those little _____!" There is no evidence that this ever happened. After retiring in 1968 Bob Emery lived in Newton, MA, until his

death in 1982.

One of my dearest friends says, "Best years of my life living in Somerville."

Cub Scouts got me on Bozo, my uncle got me on Rex Trailer, and my dad got me to meet Major Mudd. "There's a good dad and a lucky kid right there!"

Here's two generations of Somerville kids on local TV: "I was on the Rex Trailer show and four of my children were on the Major Mudd show."

Here's a nice tribute to TV artist Captain Bob Cottle: "I Used

to get up early just to watch him draw animals. I credit him for me being a decent drawer my whole life since."

As we age some memories are lost but my memory of being on *Big Brother* is very clear. I'm very grateful that I have this pleasant memory of my late sister.

I wonder if my friend Ron still has the superball he won playing tic-tac-toe on Major Mudd's show? And as the good Major used to say at the end of each show, IBBY. I'll be blasting you!

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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. New Jersey, June 1846 in Hoboken | 7. Atom Heart Mother |
| 2. Eight | 8. Rock Star |
| 3. None | 9. Don Rickles |
| 4. Vermont | 10. Kendrick Lamar and Travis Scott |
| 5. South Williamsport, PA | 11. Easter Bilby |
| 6. Pete Rose | 12. Persephone |

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. Dates include: March 23, April 6 and 20, May 4 and 18 and June 8 and 22 at 1:00 pm. Join us via Zoom. Please contact Chris at 617-625-6600 ext. 2315 or email ckowaleski@somervillema.gov with any questions or for additional information. Classes are also offered in Spanish as well, please contact Irma Flores at iflores@somervillema.gov for additional information.

Music & Movement – Thursday, March 18 at 10:30. 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, may decrease pain, boost our immune systems and lower the risk for stroke and some cancers. It also helps to reduce our anxiety, depression, stress and tension. Join Steve as he shows us that exercise can come in all different forms and movements. Please RSVP to Debby Higgins, Outreach Coordinator at dhiggins@somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600 ext. 2321. You will then receive your email invitation to join the program via ZOOM.

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

Mask Pick Up – Monday, March 29 – 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, March 19 at 10:00 a.m. - Do you love books and want to discuss your love of reading with others? Consider joining book club. 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, March 23 at 11:30 a.m. - Are you a caregiver for a loved one and wants to connect with other caregivers? Would you like to discuss the joys and challenges of caregiving? The Somerville Council on Aging is hosting a monthly check-in via Zoom for caregivers. Please contact Natasha by either called 617-625-6600 ext. 2317 or e-mail Natasha at NNaim@Somervillema.gov.

Virtual Bingo Day – Tuesday, March 30, 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

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

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

at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

EXERCISE

Exercise Schedule

Mondays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 1:00 p.m. = Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. = LBT Fit-4-Life Zoom Exercise

Somerville City Cable

RCN = 13/Comcast = 22

The Fit-4-Life Exercise Show = Daily at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Fit-4-Life YouTube

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video # 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hd26HjpwBI&t=68s>

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

Fit-4-Life Exercise Video #3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fcl2eBSS024&t=158s>

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

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

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

BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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A carrot.

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On This Day in History

March 17

1766 – Britain repeals the Stamp Act.

1776 – British forces evacuate from Boston to Nova Scotia.

1884 – John Joseph Montgomery makes the first glider flight in Otay, Calif.

1910 – The Camp Fire Girls are founded in Lake Sebago, Maine.

1930 – Mob boss Al Capone is released from jail.

1959 – The 14th Dalai Lama flees Tibet and goes to India.

1966 – A U.S. submarine locates a missing H-bomb in the Mediterranean.

1970 – The Army charges 14 officers with suppression of facts in the My Lai massacre case.

1972 – Nixon asks Congress to halt busing in order to achieve desegregation.

1992 – White South Africans approve constitutional reforms giving legal equality to blacks.

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OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

'How to be A Good Creature'

by Sy Montgomery

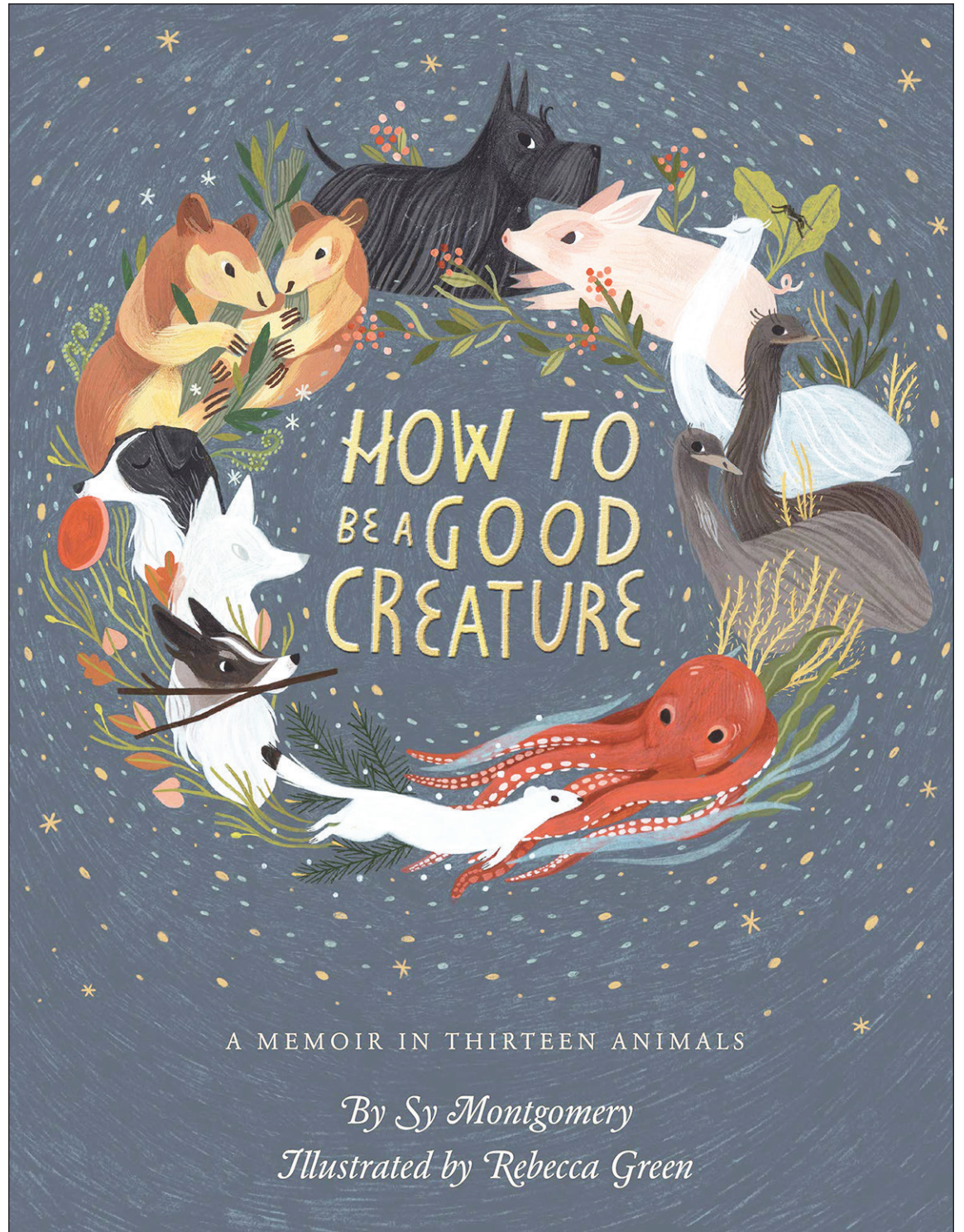
Lyrical
SOMERVILLE
edited by Doug Holder

Gary Margolis is Emeritus Executive Director of College Mental Health Services and Associate Professor of English and American Literatures (part-time) at Middlebury College. His third book, *Fire in the Orchard*, was nominated for the 2002 Pulitzer Prize. His poem *Winning the Lunar Eclipse*, about the Red Sox World Series 2006 win, was featured on Boston's ABC5. His memoir is titled *Seeing the Songs: A Poet's Journey to the Shamans in Ecuador*, and recent books include *Time Inside* and *Museum of Islands*.



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of her knave and paraded
around the neighborhood.
Some of us cross ourselves.
Some of us kneel, as if the curb's
a pew. I like running
into the street with the dollar bill
my father gives me, to pin
to Mary's breast.
My uncle slips a lottery ticket
into my hand and says
to stick it into Her Baby's
swaddling. By the end
of the afternoon Her Statue appears
to be a leafy tree the wind knows
what to do with.
When I see Our Lady smile
I know I've accomplished
what I promised.
The priest will forgive me
when I step into the house
of his shady box.
Forgive me for stealing
the extra cannoli my father
says to save for the soul
of my grandmother.
Who likes to sit by the window,
waving at all the cops,
sweeping up the bills.
The ones the wind ripped off.
Charity, for Boston's Finest,
my mother used to say.
Before God took her someplace
inside the church.



How to be A Good Creature
By Sy Montgomery
200 pages with illustrations
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
\$20.00

Review by Off the Shelf correspondent Ed Meek

Have we been looking at animals the wrong way? Sy Montgomery thinks so.

For much of our history, animals have been thought of as sources of food or game or as pests. In recent years, science has "discovered" that many animals are sentient and even intelligent. This has led to a rethinking of the value of animals based on how close they are to being human.

Coco the gorilla, for example learned to use sign language and was able to teach other gorillas to sign. But as we learn more about the complex society of bees, or the ability of octopi, a shift in per-

ception is taking place. Sy Montgomery, in *How to be a Good Creature*, expresses this new and evolving attitude toward animals.

From this perspective, animals are not valuable because they taste good or because they are almost as smart as humans, but because of their own unique characteristics.

Montgomery delves into her experiences with thirteen animals including her four dogs, three emus, a pig, an octopus and a few exotic creatures from Guyana. She finds that she is able to communicate with all of them and that if she shows that she cares about them, they respond in kind. The emus show her where they secretly sleep and allow her to camp with them. An octopus grasps her hand with seeming affection. Her dogs bring her daily joy on walks and games of frisbee. Sy Montgomery suggests we try being a good creature when we interact with animals and our efforts will pay dividends.

And left her there for me
to never see again.
Unless I count the smoke
and the incense.

The holy water.
The box with a slot
for pennies.

— Gary Margolis


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