

City of Somerville

Young Somerville Newsletter

WINTER UPDATE

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Young Somerville will be holding a logo contest this spring, more details to follow.

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Young Somerville Advisory Group (Young Somerville) Overview

A group of 21-35 year old Somerville residents working to increase the number of young residents engaged in our civic community, improve the quality of City services offered and increase communication between City government and the young adults that live here. Our goal is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City staff, initiate and organize activities targeted to our age demographic, and advocate on behalf of fellow Young Somerville residents. These newsletters are intended to inform you about local resources, City goings-on, and Young Somerville activities.

For more information on Young Somerville Advisory Group, or to make suggestions

Winter Summary

These wonderful winter months seem like a perfect time to stay inside and look for ways to get more involved in your community! So stick with those New Year's resolutions about getting "involved" and "making a difference" by checking out a few organizations that Young Somerville had the opportunity to meet with over the last few months.

December Happenings

At the December meeting, Young Somerville was happy to speak with The Union Square Main Streets (USMS) Executive Director, Mimi Graney and Davis Area Resident and Business Initiative (DARBI) president, Thalia Tringo.

Union Square Main Streets (USMS):

- USMS has a four point approach: Design, Organization, Promotion and Economic Restructuring for long term stability and prosperity.
- USMS's philosophy is to organize behind people's own ideas and give support where it is able.
- USMS focuses on pedestrian friendly initiatives, by advocating for new zoning and working with businesses when they make improvements, as well as assisting in improving business spaces.
- USMS has recently opened the Union Square Design Annex to give local designers a space to grow their businesses. This space will allow Somerville, which is home to the 2nd most designers in Massachusetts, to build, meet, and market their products locally.

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How Can Young Somerville Residents Help USMS?

and give input about future topics go to www.somervillema.gov/youngsomerville or contact us at youngsomervilleadvisorygroup@gmail.com

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USMS is looking for volunteer leaders to help with various projects. To learn more you can visit their website at: www.unionsquaremain.org

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Davis Area Resident and Business Initiative (DARBI):

DARBI is a business and resident initiative focused on the goal of improving the Davis Square area to help both groups prosper.

- DARBI works in similar ways as a chamber of commerce, promoting local businesses while also including resident needs.
- DARBI is funded through business and residential memberships. Benefits of membership include member networking events.
- DARBI works with landlords to find local businesses to fill tenancies at Davis area locations.

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How can Young Somerville Residents Help DARBI?

You can get involved by volunteering or attending a DARBI meeting or events like their networking lunch . For more information you can visit: www.yourdavissquare.com

January Happenings

At the January meeting, Young Somerville met with the Executive Director of the Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC), Marc Alston-Follansbee. Marc has worked with SHC since the fall of 2000.

Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC):

SHC started in 1985 with the mission to provide vulnerable individuals and families with personalized supportive services and tailored housing solutions.

- Last year approximately 260-275 individuals and families were counted in Somerville for the annual homeless census.
- Since Marc began working at SHC they have opened 80 permanent housing apartments. Last year, they offered housing support to 125 families in Somerville and provided 16 beds for the homeless living in Somerville.
- SHC has received stimulus money and finds that the City

of Somerville has been very supportive, however, support from federal and state grants have been decreasing in past years.

- SHC is trying to focus on prevention. However the need continues to grow, for example on a \$75,000- grant from the United Way in 2008 they were able to help 56 families for a time span of 11 months, but the following year the same grant helped the same number of families for only 4 months.

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How Can Young Somerville Residents Help SHC?

Donate Time

If Young Somervillians would like to assist SHC, please consider joining them at the Monday Night Community Meals to help make meals and talk to the individuals there.

Donate Resources

- SHC needs food donations, particularly protein sources such as peanut butter and canned tuna. The pantry is at 15 Franklin Street in the St. Benedicts Convent.
- Buy a hip Young Somerville t-shirt, all of the proceeds benefit SHC.
- Direct monetary donations are always welcome!

For more information please visit:

www.somervillehomelesscoalition.org

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Young Somerville Trivia Night at Magoun's Saloon

Young Somerville recently co-hosted its first trivia night on Tuesday, February 23 at Magoun's Saloon. We had a great time meeting a bunch of Young Somervillians, talking a bit about Young Somerville, and of course, playing trivia. We will be co-hosting more trivia nights at different venues throughout Somerville during the coming months, so look for us the next time you are out playing trivia!