

February 2011 Newsletter

First-Time Homebuyers Class

SCC's Financial Education Program is happy to announce we will be offering a First-Time Homebuyer Class in March/April 2011. The four-session, 12-hour class will feature presentations by a real estate agent, a lender, a home inspector, a real estate attorney, and an insurance agent, in addition to SCC staff, and it will teach you everything you need to know before you start the process of buying your first home. Upon completion of the course, participants receive a certificate that enables them to access products geared specifically towards first-time homebuyers, such as SoftSecond. The class will be conducted in English from 6 to 9:00 p.m. on March 28 and 30 and April 4 and 6. The registration fee is \$35 per participant. To register, please contact Thais DeMarco at 617.776.5931 ext 233.

Speak Up Against Displacement

A chance to Speak up against displacement of tenants & local businesses in Union Square at the Planning Board hearing on Thursday, February 17, at 6 PM Place and date subject to change*



The owner of 378 - 390 Somerville Ave (3 buildings near Marketbasket) wants permission to redevelop the buildings into 30 residential condos and 4 commercial condos. At least 15 tenants, including several with disabilities, and the family-owned Wellfoods Halal market are at risk of displacement. They won't be able to afford to buy the condos to be built on what is now their homes or store. There is a hearing at the Planning Board on Thursday, Feb 17 at 6 PM to consider this proposal.

We think tenants and shop owners should be given a chance to stay, time and help to find new affordable homes in Somerville! Any new development should include affordable rentals as well as condos. Come to say what YOU think (you may speak for up to 3 minutes).

If you can't come on February 17th, please contact these Aldermen and the planning board to let them know what you think:

- Alderwoman Maryann M. Heuston (Ward 2) 617-492-5331 mheuston@hotmail.com
- Alderman Thomas F. Taylor (Ward 3) 617-776-1618 TFTAld32@aol.com
- Somerville Planning Board, 617-625-6600 ex. 2500 dpereira@somervillema.gov

* Please contact Mary at (617)776-5931 x230 or mregan@somervillecdc.org for confirmation on the 17th about place and possible postponement. The place is usually City Hall, but on Feb 17th, it probably will be at the Somerville High School, next to City Hall.

An Amazing & Festive 41st Annual Meeting



My image of a Snow-Emergency evening in Somerville leads me either to thinking about people stuck at work or on a cold highway, or safely tucked away at home, sipping hot chocolate while reading books. What I didn't imagine, until January 26th, the night of SCC's Annual Meeting, was that people would actually brave the predicted storm and head over to the Holiday Inn for an Annual Meeting. We were, to say the least, extraordinarily pleased to be joined by so many close allies and supporters of SCC on that stormy night. Over 200 people took part in this evening affair to celebrate what makes SCC tick: our members and all of the work they (you) have been doing with us in 2010. Some of our most active leaders and members shared SCC's accomplishments by linking cars of a Green Line train, each representing a highlight from the year, such as VIS's victory in working with the Mayor culminating in an event at City Hall attended by over 125 people, at which the Mayor issued a [proclamation](#)

supporting Somerville's immigrants; or another successful year of hosting a Leadership Development Institute, with 22 graduates; or success stories of people completing their Individual Savings Account requirements; and many others.

Our award recipients this year made this night memorable, adding a dynamism to the room as they graciously received the awards. Ezra Glen honored Phil Ercolini, outgoing Director of Housing for the City of Somerville with the Community Service Award; Marty Martinez presented the Norris Weston Award to Rob Hollister, Dean of Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service; and Mary Jo Connelly awarded the youth leaders of Centro Presente and The Welcome Project with the Hazel Hughes Award for their admirable leadership in successfully leading an organizing campaign to get the Board of Alderman and the School Committee to unanimously support the Dream Act.

The evening was warm and festive, with a number of highlights from the evening, including: the lovely voice of Valdiza Moura accompanied by guitar, drum and accordion; the Brazilian Forro dancers, Os Forrozeiros; the surprise visit from the Mayor, who had he not declared the snow emergency, would have been obligated elsewhere; the wonderful fruit centerpieces and 30 foot balloon caterpillar created by Cassia Crescencio; the interactive displays; and the wonderful participation of the planning committees, board of directors, and everyone in the room. It was certainly a snowy night to remember!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this an amazing and memorable night!
Meridith Levy
Director of Community Organizer and Planning at SCC

Public Hearing February 17th

Help Support Local Hiring for Somerville Residents



At a public hearing on Thursday February 17th, Jobs for Somerville will urge the Board of Alderman to support and enforce local hiring at the MaxPak Development and others. We need your support to demand local jobs for local people! Call Cecily to get involved: 617-776-5931x226