

January 2011 Newsletter

Fighting Hard For Local Jobs

Over the past few months, SCC's new Jobs for Somerville committee has been working with labor leaders to win a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) on the construction of 199 units of housing at the former MaxPak site. Although the developer, KSS, signed an agreement with a clause stating "The city encourages the Developer to use union labor for the project and to enter into a project labor agreement," they have since refused to commit to using union and local labor. The PLA proposed by the community and by unions would not only guarantee union jobs, but would also set aside 40% of those jobs for Somerville residents. To put pressure on KSS, community members have picketed the construction site, shutting it down for the day, as well as testifying at a planning board hearing, postponing the granting of a special permit to the developer. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting campaign being fought together by the community and organized labor.

Winter Financial Literacy Classes

We are excited to announce an upcoming financial education class at SCC! Over the course of six weeks, participants will gain important information and skills to help them navigate their financial lives more successfully. The class will meet on Monday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m., and a support group will be offered after graduation so participants can continue to hone the knowledge and skills acquired in the class. Graduates will receive a stipend to get them started on a successful financial path! For more information, contact Thais DeMarco at (617) 776-5931 x233.

Advanced Leadership Training A Success

On December 4th, 16 graduates of SCC's Leadership Development Institute came together for a day of deep analysis, hands-on campaign work and community building. This first ever Advanced Leadership session brought Lisette Le of Right to the City to discuss how our community's work fits into a bigger movement. Much like other communities all around the country, Somerville is fighting to demand that resources invested into the city be turned into jobs, housing and a safe community for our residents. The training served to remind Somerville leaders that they are not alone, and to provide them with the skills and relationships necessary to carry out the difficult work ahead. As one participant shared in her reflections on the day, "I remembered that building up to get results for a bigger picture project takes taking it apart first."