

BOXING | Continued from page 29



Some members are already benefiting from the club, even without the new programs in place. East Somerville resident Willy Samayoa, 16, credits his improved anger-management to his training. "I control it now," he says. "I had to. You can't stay like that." Samayoa also says his grades have gotten better since he began using the club.

That's the sort of story Alderman-at-Large Bruce Desmond hoped to hear when he got involved with the project in early 2011. After the club approached Desmond, the great grandson of the owner of Lowell's first boxing gym, he worked to gain the Mayor's support and secure the Edgerly basement. "A lot of kids need discipline," he says. "Boxing provides it. They need to know it's important not to act on certain urges. We teach them that here."

This month, with its new youth development programs set to begin, the club will teach its young members even more.

Club membership is free to Somerville residents under 21-years-old, \$20 per month for youth from other cities and towns, and \$30 for participants over 21. The overwhelming majority of the members fall into the Somerville-based, under-21 group. The Golden Gloves competition will be held Jan. 13 and 17 in Lowell. ♦

CAMERAS | Continued from page 17

Other anecdotes Upton shared, however, seem telling in their ambiguity. While not able to give details, he said footage was being used in a grand jury case to prove a witness had lied. He also said the westward facing camera on top of 25 Highland Ave has proven useful for watching high school students. "We'll get word there's going to be a problem after school, and we'll be there (monitoring the cameras)," he said. "It's another set of eyes. We can see a problem before it gets out of hand."

A public conversation

Standing outside of Somerville High School (SHS, 81 Highland Ave) during a recent craft sale, 2011 graduate and current Bucknell University freshman Siobhan Murray says that while cameras inside the school were a fact of life, she never knew about the police camera nearby. "I know there are cameras in the high school, and we were OK with that," she said. "I don't really care personally, but if [the police cameras] were in my neighborhood, I probably would. I'd keep that in mind when I go out."

At least one group tuned in with police issues in Somerville was also surprised. Patricia Montes, executive director of immigrant rights group Centro Presente (17 Innerbelt Rd), had never heard of the camera network. "It makes me worry," she says. "I really would like to have a public conversation with the police to talk a little bit more about this – about why they've been using these cameras and why they want more."

Ward 6 Alderman Rebekah Gewirtz, who initiated the Board of Aldermen's public hearing on the cameras, wants aldermen involved in the process before more cameras are installed. Her concern about civil liberties violations has been "tempered," she says. Gewirtz has not yet seen data showing the decrease in crime around Davis Square, her ward, but said, "If that's the case, that could be a compelling argument."

Montes would like for the police and city government to allow the public to have input on the network, adding, "This is information that should have been made public in order to have a more democratic government, that includes us in the decision-making processes of this city."

In the meantime, the monitor station at police headquarters remains open to the public. So far, the few people passing through had only been looking for footage of traffic accidents they've been involved in – without any luck. ♦

Rockin Bob's
GUITARS

617-625-7707
31 Holland St, Davis Sq
RockinBobsGuitars.com

BUY • SELL • TRADE • ON-SITE GUITAR + AMP REPAIR
NEW, USED & VINTAGE GUITARS, AMPS, EFFECTS

Open Space
Community Acupuncture
Union Square

Effective • Affordable • Accessible

Schedule online at **OpenSpaceAcupuncture.com**
or call **617.627.9700**

66 - 70 UNION SQUARE #102 • SOMERVILLE