



City of Somerville, Massachusetts

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 10, 2010

GRAND UNION FLAG RAISING SET FOR JAN. 1ST *235th Anniversary of Flag Raising by General George Washington on Prospect Hill*

SOMERVILLE – Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and Historic Preservation Commission Director Brandon Wilson announced that the 235th annual “Grand Union” flag raising ceremony at Prospect Hill Park will be held on Saturday, January 1, 2011 at 12:00 p.m. A procession led by General George Washington on horseback will leave from the City Hall Concourse at 11:30 a.m., and members of the public are invited to participate, and to wear traditional colonial clothing. The annual ceremony commemorates the raising of the nation’s first official flag, featuring thirteen red and white horizontal stripes, atop Prospect Hill Tower by George Washington and his troops during their encampment in the Revolutionary War in 1776.

The afternoon’s program will include songs, readings, and participants from the Ancient and Honorable Company (first chartered in 1638), as well as the Charlestown militia. The American Legion Post 19 Honor Guard will lead a military salute as a commemorative flag is raised atop the Prospect Hill Tower.

Light refreshments will be served, and miniature replicas of the Grand Union Flag, tri-corner hats, and historic Somerville books to commemorate the historic event will be available for purchase.

For more information, or to receive a free, commemorative program, contact Brandon Wilson, Executive Director at the Historic Preservation Commission at 617-625-6600 ext. 2532 or Bwilson@somervillema.gov.

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