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## TransMedics to bring 900 jobs and \$75M in new revenue to Somerville



TransMedics Group, Inc. is bringing its global headquarters to Somerville. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

It's official. TransMedics Group, Inc., a global leader in organ transplant technologies, will relocate its global headquarters to Somerville's Assembly Innovation Park. The move represents a major win for the city, bringing an estimated \$75 million in new tax revenue over ten years, 900 jobs to the area, including 600 new positions by 2032, and significant community investments in education and public safety.

This milestone is the result of more than two decades of strategic planning and community collaboration that transformed Assembly Square from an industrial site into one of Greater Boston's premier mixed-use innovation districts.

"As a world-leading MedTech company, TransMedics will fit right in here in Somerville with our growing life science hub," said Mayor Jake Wilson. "This is a win for transplant" *Continued on page 4*

## The Somerville Museum presents: 'Crafting the Mind' exhibition

"Crafting the Mind" is an exhibition of contemporary fiber art that speaks to the early history of crafts as a therapeutic practice at McLean Hospital, New England's first psychiatric hospital.

McLean was opened at Somerville's Barrell Mansion in 1818, and today the Somerville Museum holds the mansion's original flying staircase. McLean patients created textiles and other crafts for therapeutic benefit as part of the hospital's "moral cure," an approach to treatment that emphasized compassionate care, access to nature, and patient activities. "Crafting the Mind" explores the evolving definitions of "care," "health," and "treatment" in different cultural contexts, as well as today's advocacy movement for mental healthcare equity.

Curated by Rachel May and Danielle Krcmar  
Artists: Betty Antoine, Amy *Continued on page 4*



The "Crafting the Mind" exhibit will be on display at the Somerville Museum from January 15 to March 28.

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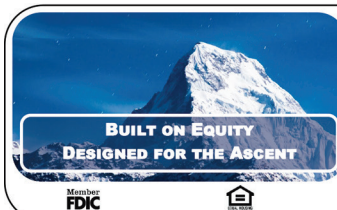
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Community members are invited to celebrate the life and legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** during the city's **annual celebration**. The event will take place on **Saturday, January 17**, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at **Somerville High School** (81 Highland Ave). The celebration will include light food and refreshments, arts and crafts for all ages, youth performances including speeches, poetry, and music, and a keynote address delivered by **Dr. James "Jimmy" McCarty**, focused on the life and legacy of Dr. King. Light food and refreshments will also be served. RSVP to attend at [bit.ly/MLK\\_2026](https://bit.ly/MLK_2026).

\*\*\*\*\*

**City buildings** will be closed in observance of **Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 19**. Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day. All Somerville Public Library locations will also be closed. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, January 20.

\*\*\*\*\*

Happy birthday this week to the following: Happy Birthday to former At-large city councilor **Willie Burnley Jr**, we wish him well. Happy birthday to **Katie Lathasha Harris**. We wish her the very best of birthdays as well. We wish all of our Facebook friends, such as **Suzanne Ryan Marks, Paul Nunziato, James Ribeiro, Leslie Figueira, Rachel Tonello, and Rosemary Ardagna**, a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

*Continued on page 7*

## Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 14 – January 20 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
<b>Wednesday</b> <i>January 14</i>	Cloudy	51°/39°	25%	12%	SSW 10 mph
<b>Thursday</b> <i>January 15</i>	Partly Cloudy	42°/16°	22%	9%	WSW 12 mph
<b>Friday</b> <i>January 16</i>	Sunny	30°/23°	9%	5%	SW 14 mph
<b>Saturday</b> <i>January 17</i>	Partly Cloudy	41°/39°	16%	8%	SW 9 mph
<b>Sunday</b> <i>January 18</i>	Partly Cloudy	35°/20°	13%	7%	W 10 mph
<b>Monday</b> <i>January 19</i>	Partly Cloudy	32°/16°	15%	9%	W 12 mph
<b>Tuesday</b> <i>January 20</i>	Partly Cloudy	24°/16°	6%	3%	SW 13 mph

*NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.*

## TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

### Response to: *Lyrical Somerville – January 7*

Taylor Paul says:  
beautiful poem!

### Response to: *Remembering Robert Elliott and David Johnston*

Kevin Connolly says:  
Really nice article about both Robert and David -thanks !

SuperLowBudge says:  
A great article. David will be missed. (I never had the pleasure of meeting Robert.)

*Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments*

## The Somerville Times

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## Highlanders battle Medford at Tufts Basketball Classic

January 18. SHS Girls Basketball plays at 12 p.m. and the Boys Basketball plays 1:30 p.m. at the annual Tufts Basketball Classic games.

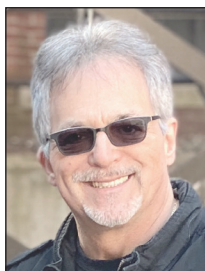
Admission and parking are free. Fans are encouraged to bring non-perishable food and personal hygiene products to support Medford's Mystic Community Market and Somerville's Project Soup.

The winner of each game will receive the coveted Tufts Classic trophy. More details on the event webpage.

Life in the **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

# Rock the bus!



I attended Somerville High School from 1969 to 1971 (Yes, I graduated!). One of my fondest and funniest memories was the bus ride home at the end of the school day.

We used to walk down School Street and get the Clarendon Hill via Broadway bus.

The driver would park until the bus was pretty much filled up and packed with a bunch of wise guys who would do anything for a laugh. It was very noisy on that bus as we let loose all the pent-up energy from the school day (school wasn't as laid back in those days). Finally, we were free of that egomaniac "tough guy" math teacher, Mr. #%#@+@&! We had escaped the taunting of the mean "building master!"

Yes, no one could bother us now because we had made it to the safety and comfort of the bus. It was a hassle-free zone. A teacherless refuge. A safe haven from bullies. A place where we could goof around!

The bus driver knew that there was the potential for a huge amount of tomfool-

ery. Being let out after a long day of high school, with all the rules, discipline, and structure, cast us into a near frenzy. He knew there was a good chance that we would yell out the windows, sing songs, and yell and scream like the crazy school kids we were.

But of all the disturbed and screwball things we did, there was one trick that drove the bus driver wild. There was one twisted thing we were capable of that would actually force the driver to pull the bus over and get out until we stopped. What was it? We would all stand up on both sides of the bus and rock back and forth in unison until it was rocking and a rolling. We would get it rocking so much that it actually felt like it could tip over! Yes, I know it seems like we were out of control punks, but hey, we had no cell phones or iPods, no Play Stations, and no laptops or iPads. We had to entertain ourselves!

When the bus finally filled up and the driver started off, we would be OK until we got out of Magoun Square. Then we would start a chant: "Let's rock the bus ... let's rock the bus..." We would get the bus



rocking gradually. Then, as soon as Ball Square came into view, the chant would change to "do it on the bridge ... do it on the bridge!" By the time the bus went over the Ball Square bridge, it was rocking like a sideways seesaw! The bus driver would pull over and get out of the bus until we stopped. We did stop ... as soon as we got over the bridge. Most of us would be off the bus by the time it got to Powder House Park. That poor bus driver!

That old bus was great! It had the thick,

cushioned seats that were really comfortable. It drove very smoothly, too. You hardly felt the potholes. We had a lot of fun on those bus rides home from high school. Occasionally, one of those cool old buses will drive in the Memorial Day parade. Seeing one of those big, old orange dinosaurs really brings back great memories; a bunch of teenage goofballs having some harmless fun. Plus, where else could you have such a great time for only 10 cents?

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## Money Tip of the Week

By Vincent Hicks, CPA

**Q: Now that it's January, is there anything I can still do to help with my 2025 taxes?**

**A:** Yes—while the calendar year has ended, there are still smart moves you can make to reduce your tax burden before filing. Here are a few worth considering:

• **Contribute to a Traditional IRA**

You have until April 15, 2026 to make IRA contributions that count for the 2025 tax year.

These contributions may reduce your taxable income significantly—depending on your income and retirement plan access.

• **Self-employed? Fund a SEP IRA instead.**

You may have until October 15, 2026 (with an extension) to make contributions

that lower your 2025 income.

• **Contribute to an HSA (Health Savings Account)**

If you had a high-deductible health plan (HDHP) in 2025, you can still contribute to an HSA until April 15.

Contributions count for 2025 and reduce your taxable income—plus withdrawals for medical expenses are tax-free.

• **Make Your Final Estimated Tax Payment for 2025**

The Q4 estimated tax deadline is January 15, 2026. Prepaying your final tax due now may help you avoid penalties for underpayment—especially if you're self-employed or had uneven income throughout the year.

**Bottom Line:**

Even after December 31, you still have meaningful options to strengthen your tax position. A few timely moves in January or February can reduce taxes, avoid penalties, and start your year on strong financial footing.

**Any questions? I'd be happy to help.**

I'm Vincent Hicks, CPA, based in Somerville with over 20 years of experience. Reach out at [vhicksconnect@gmail.com](mailto:vhicksconnect@gmail.com) or (859) 553-0788.

*Disclaimer: This column provides general financial information and should not be considered legal, investment, or tax advice. Individual situations vary. Always consult a qualified professional for personalized guidance.*



## TransMedics to bring 900 jobs and \$75M in new revenue to Somerville

CONT. FROM PG 1

patients, the Commonwealth, the company, and Somerville residents. Not only can Somerville offer room for TransMedics to grow their critical services, but the new tax revenues and an influx of good jobs will help fund City services and open doors for workers in Somerville and the region.”

TransMedics will not only be moving offices but also research and development, equipment manufacturing, a flight operations center, and more to the Somerville location.

“It's unusual to have a company with such diverse job opportunities across such a wide range of career paths from manufacturing to research and from entry level to advanced – so this offers opportunity across the board,” said Wilson. “It's also so important to us that they are fully committed to connecting our students to internships, mentoring, and career paths as well. We look forward to facilitating TransMedics' growth, expansion, and strong community partnership in Somerville.”

**How the Commonwealth and Somerville Worked to Make This Happen**

Both the state and the city provided financial incentives to ensure TransMedics

planned for growth and job creation in the Commonwealth.

The city supported TransMedics' expansion with an \$18 million Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement approved by the City Council. This creative financing package will generate an expected \$75 million (four times the value of the tax relief) in new revenue while creating hundreds of jobs and drawing in a daytime workforce expected to patronize local businesses.

Through the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC), the Commonwealth also proposed a performance-based incentive package that includes tax incentives of up to \$18 million tied to the creation of as many as 600 new jobs, workforce development, and equipment investments to help ensure TransMedics can scale its operations and talent base in Massachusetts.

**Community Benefits**

TransMedics will lease the entire nearly 500,000-square-foot building at 188 Assembly Park Drive owned by BioMed Realty — the largest lab lease in Somerville's history. This represents 25 percent of the city's vacant lab space and is the

second-largest life sciences lease in greater Boston this past year.

The agreement includes \$230,000 in annual community investments over ten years supporting:

- Somerville schools
- STEM and robotics education programs
- Police and fire departments

The company will also invest an estimated \$175-\$225 million to complete the facility buildout, with operations beginning by January 2028.

“This good news is a great example of what we can achieve when our residents, the Mayor's Office, and the City Council work together for our community. Investing in job and revenue growth through creative financing like the TIF that the Council approved for TransMedics is helping Somerville do more than buck market trends. This is proof positive that the goal we set long ago to transform Assembly Square into a thriving neighborhood and life sciences hub is a success. I look forward to working with the new Administration to keep up this trend,” said City Council President and Ward 6 Councilor Lance Davis.

**A Vision Decades in the Making**

Somerville's success in attracting TransMedics reflects the city's long-term commitment to thoughtful growth and community-driven planning. Over two decades, the City transformed Assembly Square through coordinated efforts with community advocates, property developers, and pioneering companies.

“Really, this all goes back to the vision that grew out of a group of forward-thinking advocates on the Mystic View Task Force. Instead of just going for big box stores like Ikea, they pushed the City to plan and build a thriving neighborhood in Assembly that would draw high-quality businesses, create jobs and housing, and grow tax revenues. And then the City delivered,” said Tom Galligani, Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development. “At the time, we were looking to be more independent of declining State funding. But in today's financial environment, this kind of steady local revenue is all the more important to help keep Somerville financially secure.”

## The Somerville Museum presents: 'Crafting the Mind' exhibition

CONT. FROM PG 1

Caliri, Cicely Carew, Mimi Clark, Alison Doucette, Leah Dunn, Farah Faus-tin, Samantha Fields, Ifé Franklin, Kate Holcomb Hale, Kayla Johnson, Lauren Leone, Joetta Maue, Michele Moran, Loretta Park, Carl Phillips, Darryl Richards, Carter Schocket, Josie Sosa, Matthew Treggiari.

Opening reception sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

**Events:**

- January 15: Opening Reception
- January 24: Curator Walk-Through with artists, 11 a.m.
- January 31: Story Quilt Workshop (K-8)

with Rachel May and Danielle Krcmar, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

February 7: Archivist Terry Bragg on the Founding and History of McLean, 3 p.m.

February 21: Fiber Workshop with Lauren Leone and Sarah Broas

“Crafting Care: Stitching personal and collective definitions of care through fiber

and discus-sion”, 12 – 2 p.m.

March 14: Curator Walk-through with artists, 11 a.m.

March 28: Closing Reception, 3 – 5 p.m.

The Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville, MA

For more information, visit: <https://www.somervillemuseum.org/>

# PTAC provides feedback on MassDOT's McGrath Boulevard project

By Harry Kane

Enthusiasm is building among motorists who look forward to MassDOT's McGrath Boulevard project, which aims to transform Route 28 from an elevated highway to a ground-level boulevard, but feedback from Somerville's Pedestrian & Transit Advisory Committee surrounding specific details in the design of the project has City Councilors expressing a desire to create a consensus among stakeholders to reduce confusion when communicating with state officials at the transportation department.

Lawmakers on January 8 expressed support during the Somerville City Council meeting for the project slated to start in 2028, basing their comments on Somerville's mobility staff recommendations from a comment letter.

"There are some areas where there is a trade-off between the convenience of drivers from outside Somerville and the safety of Somerville residents," said At-Large City Councilor Ben Wheeler, citing specific

crossings and places where children play.

With the construction of the new boulevard project, the McCarthy Overpass will be demolished, and the new street-level multimodal boulevard will reconnect neighborhoods, including Union Square, East Somerville, Prospect Hill, Winter Hill, and Brickbottom, from Broadway to Third Street in Cambridge.

Councilor Wheeler said he would like to begin a conversation with City Councilors to focus on areas of refinement for the project.

MassDOT held an Open House meeting on December 4 and a 25 percent design level hearing on December 9. PTAC held its meeting on December 18 and drafted the recommendation letter that City Councilors were discussing.

"There are a lot of people who have really important feedback," said Ward 3 City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen. "What we really need to do is speak with one voice."

When speaking with a state agency like MassDOT, he says having a unified response is better than having multiple opin-



Somerville's Pedestrian & Transit Advisory Committee recently weighed in with its suggestions on the McGrath Boulevard project. — Photo by Bobbie Toner

ions coming from various parties.

"I'm looking forward to having this conversation in traffic and parking with the mobility department, who have a lot of expertise working with state agencies," said Councilor Ewen-Campen.

PTAC submitted the comment letter on

January 5 to the McGrath Boulevard project team, expressing "unequivocal support for this once-in-a-generation project" and calling the current McGrath Highway "one of the deadliest corridors in Somerville."

At the top of the list of recommendations, PTAC would like *Continued on page 6*

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# Councilor McLaughlin says Kensington Connector is 'dangerous and disgusting'

By The Times Staff

For years, Ward 1 City Councilor Matthew McLaughlin has been advocating for improvements at the Kensington Connector in East Somerville that he calls “dangerous and disgusting.”

An order from Councilor McLaughlin asked the Director of Mobility to provide an update on the Kensington Connector conundrum at the City Council meeting on January 8, and the item was later approved and sent to the Housing, Community Development and Equity Committee.

The Kensington Connector is a walking corridor below a major highway that connects East Somerville and Assembly Square under I-93. “We have a little underpass there that is dangerous and disgusting,” explained Councilor McLaughlin.

Somerville residents who walk or ride their bikes continue to be concerned for

their safety, and accidents and fatalities have occurred in the corridor, leading to complaints about the danger zone.

“This is about beautification,” McLaughlin added. “Making this a place where people actually want to walk.”

Councilor McLaughlin said that MassDOT has already approved the work that needs to be done to beautify the underpass, and the City of Somerville now needs to push the project forward.

“This has been approved by MassDOT for some time, and that’s what I mean by passing the buck,” said Councilor McLaughlin. “I keep hearing that, ‘oh we’re waiting on the state, we’re waiting on the state,’ and the state is saying, ‘that they’re ready to work,’ so I’m hoping the city is hoping to work as well.”

Councilor McLaughlin mentioned that the underpass needs lighting, artwork, and security to make it “not unpleasant.”

According to Councilor McLaughlin, people have died at the Kensington Con-



Concern over safety issues at the Kensington Connector has been a topic of discussion for many years.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner

connector. “People have been killed down there,” he said. “One unhoused person died under that bridge, and then someone else was hit by a car as well.”

“The Kensington underpass is smelly

and gross and scary at times,” said At-Large City Councilor Kristen E. Strezo. She added that the underpass needs better lighting and that the issue needs to be addressed this year.

## Councilor Wheeler advocates for more community meetings

By The Times Staff

City Councilor Ben Wheeler said he wants to explore the idea of more community meetings that will help unite the community.

A resolution was approved at the City Council meeting on January 8 that asks the Wilson administration to consider convening issues-specific community meetings for residents to share their perspectives and experiences on long-term issues such as mobility and transportation, school integration, inclusion, choice, and

specialization.

“When people get together and have the chance to work together towards articulating a common vision, that experience can be transformational and really powerful, and can really help reweave a community together,” said Councilor Wheeler.

Like many cities across the country, there’s a certain amount of division in Somerville. Bridging the divide involves a combination of individual actions focused on fostering empathy, respectful dialogue, and shared community goals, which start with practicing active listening.

Councilor Wheeler relayed a recent experience from a Davis Square Neighborhood Council community meeting at Tufts University that brought constituents together to talk about the potential future developments in Davis Square. People split into small groups and offered their input about their vision for Davis Square, he explained.

“It was a powerful experience, and I think we could do more of these, whether it’s city-organized or organized through nonprofit partners,” said Councilor Wheeler.



City Councilor At Large Ben Wheeler is advocating for more community meetings in the future.

## PTAC provides feedback on MassDOT’s McGrath Boulevard project

CONT. FROM PG 5

MassDOT officials to reinstate the full signalization at the Otis Street intersection.

“We are exceptionally grateful for the work you have done to propose a raised crossing at Otis Street, but are concerned not to have the added layer of signal-based protection at such a vulnerable intersection,” as stated in the letter.

The full signalization has now been changed to either the Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) or HAWK

beacons under the current 25 percent design.

“I do not like HAWK lights at all,” said Ward 4 City Councilor Jesse Clingan. “Especially not for there.”

At-Large City Councilor Jon Link and Ward 2 City Councilor J.T. Scott both agreed that the proposed HAWK signal at the Otis Street interstation should be reverted back to full signalization, like in an earlier iteration of the plan.

Councilor Scott kidded that HAWK signals are one of his favorite topics of discussion, and added, “I was told it was too late to make a change, but I’m going to keep holding on to Councilor Niedergang’s advice: ‘It’s never too late to correct a mistake.’”

“If reinstating full signalization at Otis Street is impossible, we encourage the project team to consider narrowing the corridor to a single lane approaching

Otis Street in both directions,” the letter explained.

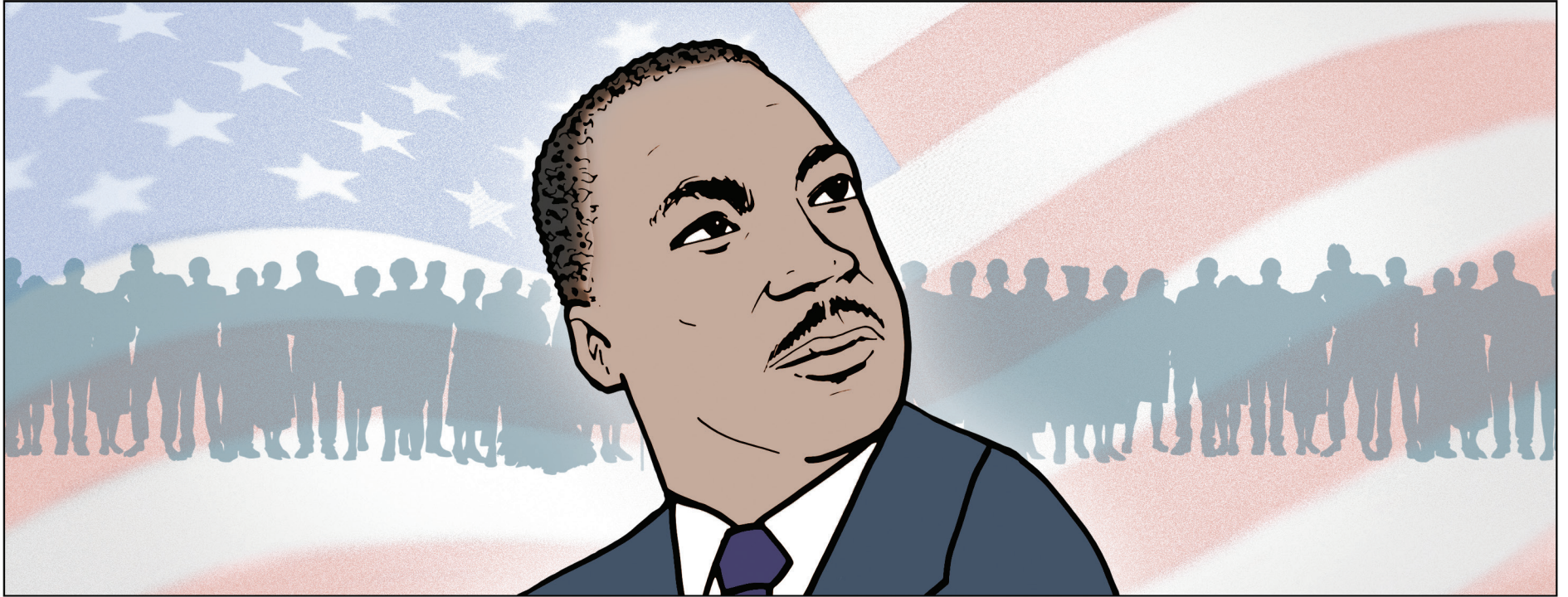
Additionally, the PTAC team asks for a 25-mph speed limit instead of the selected 30-mph speed limit. They would like to continue working to shorten the distance between crossing segments at Cross Street, consider further reductions in the median width to support wider sidewalks, and ensure the design is flexible enough to support future north-south bus service.

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# COMMENTARY

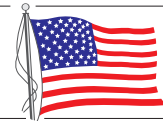
## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville honors the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Our View Of The Times



The annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day reminds us of the importance of tolerance and embracing diversity in this modern age, just as it was in the days when Dr. King walked among us.

The civil rights movement of the 60s may seem like a distant and detached part of American history for some, perhaps as remote as the Civil War itself in the minds of the young who did not live in that time.

And yet, there was never a time in our history when the principles involved in that struggle were more relevant and meaningful than today, and even more so as we step forward into the future.

The great melting pot that is at the heart of the American dream is constantly tasked with the challenge of people of mixed racial, ethnic, and national identity blending and working together as equal

partners with a common goal: to live freely and prosper in a land that still stands as the best possible hope for so many.

As we all strive to surmount the wearisome onus of turning back the economic downturn that has kept many down over the past few years, and at the same time celebrate all that is good and count our blessings each day, the great equalizer remains in effect. We recognize and embrace

the common humanity in all of us.

The tireless efforts of those like Dr. King helped to teach us the importance of knowing these things. As we acknowledge and celebrate the legacy of the man this week, let us take time to consider what has taken place in this country since he was taken from us. We are a better society now, and that should never be taken for granted.

### Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

**Veterans Lunch and Learn on January 15.** Local veterans, their families, and community members are invited to come together to connect, share stories, and access helpful resources. **West Branch Library** (40 College Ave.) from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit <https://somervillepubliclibrary.org/>.

On **Saturday, January 17**, at 7:00 p.m. in the **Performance Hall, Arts at the Armory**, 191 Highland Ave. **Dreamworldgirl Zine** and **LoveCashionista** are excited to officially announce the first-ever **DreamLove Fashion Show** in Boston. More info and tickets available here:

<https://posh.vip/e/the-dreamlove-show>. Tickets are \$20. All Ages are Welcome.

A reminder that **Christmas tree pickup** is underway in Somerville through **Friday, February 13**. Trees can be placed curbside on your regular trash day after removing all decorations. Do not put trees in a plastic bag. Constituents should contact 311 (617-666-3311) if their tree has been out for over two weeks.

The **Somerville Arts Council** is celebrating its **2025 Artists of the Month**. Meet the artists, learn about their work, and celebrate creativity in Somerville. Join

in on **January 21**, 6:30 p.m. at **Connexion** (149 Broadway). Light refreshments served. <https://somervilleartscouncil.org/aotm/>.

The **Somerville Fair Housing Commission** is seeking **one new member**, and all Somerville residents are invited to apply. The Fair Housing Commission works to ensure that all current and prospective Somerville residents have equal access to housing, free from discrimination and prejudice. Learn more and apply by **January 30**. Visit [www.somervillema.gov/BeSomerville](http://www.somervillema.gov/BeSomerville) to stay up to date on opportunities with all of our boards and

commissions.

Registration for **Somerville Open Studios 2026** is open through **February 15**. If you want to apply for financial aid, the deadline is **Sunday, January 18**. The event is **Saturday and Sunday, May 2 – 3**. Visit their website for registration details <https://www.somervilleopenstudios.org/web/join>.

The **Cities of Cambridge and Somerville** and the **Massachusetts Water Resources Authority** are working together to create plans for future sewer improvements that will reduce *Continued on page 15*

# FUN & GAMES

## Ms. Cam's Olio #1005

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

- In what year did the Golden Globes add television awards?
- Who holds the record for the most Golden Globe wins?
- In what year did the The Rat Pack host the Golden Globe Awards?
- What actor refused to accept his Best Actor award for *The Godfather*, in protest of Hollywood's portrayal of Native Americans in film?
- How many teams are there in the NFL?
- What NFL team has a logo on only one side of its helmet?
- What NFL team has no logo on its helmet?
- What NFL player has won the most MVP Awards?
- Who was born on January 15, 1929?
- What method did Dr. King promote for achieving civil rights?
- Who wrote the song *We Shall Overcome*?
- How many times has Italy hosted the Winter Olympics before 2026?

Answers on page 11

### The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

- Al Capone's business card said he was a used furniture dealer.
- Taco Bell was named after its owner, Glen Bell.

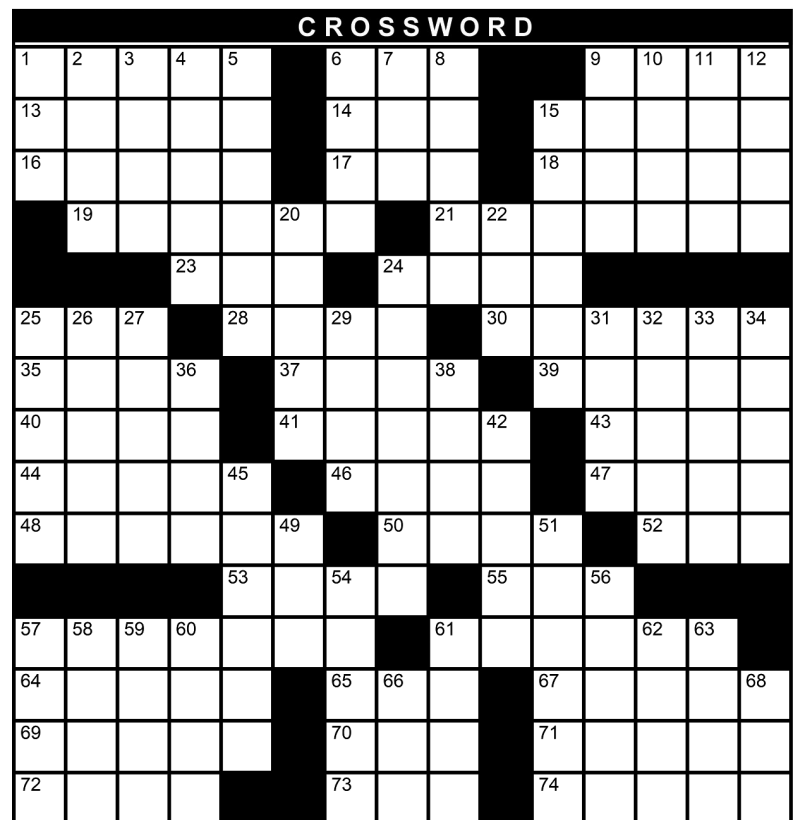
#### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD WINTER OLYMPICS

##### ACROSS

- Pinch to save
- Brownie
- Lady, in Madrid
- Proprietor
- Romanian money
- Iraqi money
- Coffee shop order
- Before 1998 only they played Olympic hockey
- "Spring to mind" or "Spring into action," e.g.
- Most decorated country in Winter Olympics
- \_\_\_\_ of Hamill Camel fame
- How Olympic Athletes from Russia were designated in 2018, acr.
- Assistant
- \_\_\_\_ of war
- Sushi wrapped in nori
- Oblong cream puff
- Singles
- Manure, e.g.
- Soil for cultivation
- Bon Jovi hit "Have a \_\_\_\_ day"
- "Encore!"
- Don't go
- Bumpkin
- Poet Pound's first name
- Rodeo Drive tree
- Similar
- Toast option
- Misha, 1980 Russian Olympics Mascot was one
- Samuel Butler: "Spare the \_\_\_\_ and spoil the child"
- \_\_\_\_ Shiffrin, most decorated U.S. alpine skier
- Overall Olympic curling medal leader
- Bikini \_\_\_\_ in the Marshall Islands
- Zodiac sign
- Pasture
- Boundary lines
- Government Printing Office
- Rocky ridge
- Singer Tori
- Farm layer
- 1964 and 1976 mountainous Olympic location

##### DOWN

- Honda CR-X del \_\_\_\_
- Michelle \_\_\_\_, most decorated U.S. figure



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#### Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:



- skater
- Enthusiastic about
- Part of MGM
- From the 1930s, e.g.
- Abounding with certain trees
- Bruce \_\_\_\_ of karate fame
- Fundus, pl.
- Aeneas' lover
- "Don't bet \_\_\_\_!"
- Lye formula
- A in "M\*A\*S\*H"
- Do like Tarantino
- Pleasant smell
- Schiller's "\_\_\_\_ to Joy"
- Real \_\_\_\_ of Seville
- Margot Robbie's "olympic" role (2017)
- "For better or worse"?
- GEICO's mascot
- Olympic toboggan
- Speech defect
- Place for worship
- 2026 Winter Olympics location
- Mother Goose creation
- Give an impression
- Michael Douglas' dad
- Nigerian money
- Slanderous statements
- Snake-like fish
- Dairy choice
- Frustration, in a comic book
- Grocery store section
- Cass Elliot, a.k.a. \_\_\_\_ Cass
- Big-ticket \_\_\_\_
- Japanese zither
- Saloon selections
- Colloquial "Follow me!"
- Widely hunted ruminant
- Kind of sax
- King Kong or Donkey Kong, e.g.
- Penn.'s neighbor

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

OBITUARY

Sabina Miller



Sabina Miller of Somerville, formerly of Newport, R.I., died peacefully at her daughter's home in Greenville, South Carolina, surrounded by her family.

Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she was raised and educated in Somerville. Sabina was predeceased by her parents, Mary and Alexander McWatters. Sabina was the beloved wife of the late Earl L. Miller and the late Robert Cronin. Sabina was the loving mother of Mary Cronin and her husband, Marc, and the late Robert Cronin. Cherished grandmother of Brian Cronin and his wife Jen, Patrick Cronin and his wife Liz, and loving great-grandmom of Shaelyn & Collin Cronin.

Sister of the late Robert McWatters and his wife, Florence (who was her best friend).

Also, leaving behind many nieces, nephews & cousins.

Sabina was a resident of the Little Sisters of the Poor apartments for 15 years. She made many friends, both staff and residents, who became her second family. She graced the lives of many with her gentle spirit, faith, and generous heart.

Sabina's love of all animals was a source of joy throughout her life. She was faithfully generous to many animal rescue organizations during her entire life. Sabina always had a pet beside her until she passed.

May the memories of her beautiful spirit continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know her.

Calling Hours will be held in the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) on Saturday, January 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A prayer service will be held in the funeral home at 11:30 a.m.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

A private burial will take place at Woodlawn Cemetery, Everett.

In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Sabina's name to the Alzheimer's Association.

## Rep. Christine Barber announces candidacy for State Senate

State Representative Christine Barber, who currently represents Medford and Somerville in the legislature, today announced her candidacy for State Senate in the Second Middlesex District, pledging to build on the historic legacy of Senator Pat Jehlen by delivering progressive results for working families across Somerville, Medford, Cambridge, and Winchester.

Barber, a progressive leader and longtime advocate for housing affordability, health care access, and women's rights, enters the race with a proven record of passing major legislation and securing millions of dollars in local investments.

"Pat Jehlen is the model of effective principled leadership. I'm lucky to have worked closely with her," said Barber. "I am running for State Senate to build on that legacy. I'm proud of the accomplishments I've achieved in the legislature, because progressive leadership must be about delivering progressive results. Families are struggling with the cost of living, housing, and health care. We need leaders that know how to win tough fights and turn values into action."

During her time in the House, Barber has authored and passed laws eliminating copays for insulin and inhalers, allowing driver's licenses regardless of immigration status, and advancing pay equity and reproductive rights. She has secured millions of dollars in funding for critical local projects, including the Green Line Extension, Alewife Brook Parkway safety improvements in Somerville, and the Main and South Street revitalization in Medford. She has also led efforts to increase pay for home-care workers, electrify public transit, and expand housing options by enabling Accessory Dwelling Units.

"Our communities deserve a Senator who is ready on day one and laser focused on delivering for Somerville, Medford, Cambridge, and Winchester," Barber said. "I will bring collaborative leadership and community voices to Beacon Hill."

Barber currently represents Somerville and Medford in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

For more information, visit [www.ChristineBarber.org](http://www.ChristineBarber.org) or follow on Facebook at [facebook.com/christinebarberstaterep](https://facebook.com/christinebarberstaterep) or Instagram at [instagram.com/rep.christine.barber](https://instagram.com/rep.christine.barber).

— Committee to Elect Christine Barber

## Dorothy's Corner

BY DOROTHY DIMARZO



### Crispy Oven Roasted Potatoes

One thing I really look forward to when I roast vegetables is caramelization and crispness of that vegetable. In my opinion, roasted potatoes are the best example. I found that if you start with a hot oven and a cool sheet pan it takes much longer to get the potatoes crispy and by the time you get it to where you want, the potatoes are usually over cooked. So, to eliminate that problem, see below.

- 1 lb. small potatoes, your choice, cut in half
- 3-4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1-1/2 teaspoons kosher salt, or truffle salt
- 3/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 425°. The secret here is to put the sheet pan in the oven while you're preheating it. That's it! Now, add all the potatoes along with the rest of the ingredients to a large bowl, and coat thoroughly.

Once the oven comes up to temperature, add the potato mixture to the hot sheet pan all in one layer. Roast for 20-25 minutes, turning the potatoes once at the half way point. This is a total game changer and works especially well with root vegetables.

To reheat any leftovers, just put them into a dry nonstick skillet and heat through. I've been known to use leftovers to make home fries. Whatever you decide to do, just enjoy them!

Serves 4-5 people.

Visit Dorothy's website at <http://ddimarzo2002.wix.com/thymethief>.



LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)

**SUMMONS (Family Law) CITACION (Derecho familiar) NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name): AVISO AL DEMANDADO (Nombre): ILYA ANTONYUK**

Petitioner's name is: (Nombre del demandante): GLORIA LAM

You have 30 calendar days after this *Summons* and *Petition* are served on you to file a *Response* (form FL-120) at the court and have a COPY served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearance will not protect you.

If you do not file your *Response* on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs.

For legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp)), at the California Legal Services website ([www.lawhelpca.org](http://www.lawhelpca.org)), or by contacting your local county bar association.

Tiene 30 días de calendario después de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citación y Petición para presentar una Respuesta (formulario FL-120) ante la corte y efectuar la entrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefónica o una audiencia de la corte no basta para protegerlo.

Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar órdenes que afecten su matrimonio o pareja de hecho, sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. La corte también le puede ordenar que pague manutención, y honorarios y costos legales. Para asesoramiento legal, póngase en contacto de inmediato con un abogado. Puede obtener información para encontrar un abogado en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en el sitio web de los Servicios Legales de California ([www.lawhelpca.org](http://www.lawhelpca.org)) o poniéndose en contacto con el colegio de abogados de su condado.

**NOTICE—RESTRAINING ORDERS ARE ON PAGE 2:**

These restraining orders are effective against both spouses or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.

**A VISO—LAS ORDENES DE RESTRICCIÓN SE ENCUENTRAN EN LA PAGINA 2:** Las órdenes de restricción están en vigencia en cuanto a ambos cónyuges o miembros de la pareja de hecho hasta que se despida la petición. Se emita un fallo o la corte de otras órdenes. Cualquier agenda del orden público que haya recibido o visto una copia de estas órdenes puede hacerlas acatar en cualquier lugar de California.

**FEE WAIVER:** If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or (the other party).

**EXENCION DE CUOTAS:** Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario un formulario de exención de cuotas. La corte puede ordenar que usted pague, ya sea en parte o por completo, las cuotas y costos de la corte previamente exentos a petición de usted o de la otra parte.

The name and address of the court are (El nombre y dirección de la corte son): **LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT 42011 4th STREET WEST, LANCASTER, CA 93534** The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney, are: (El nombre, dirección y número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante si no tiene abogado, son): **JOHN C. BIGLER, CFLS, 1037 WEST AVENUE N, SUITE 201, PALMDALE, CA 93551 (661) 947-8499**  
Date (fecha): 07/28/2025 Clerk, by (Secretaria, por): David W. Slayton Sofia Martinez, Deputy (Asistente)

**STANDARD FAMILY LAW RESTRAINING ORDERS**

Starting immediately, you and your spouse or domestic partner are restrained from:

1. removing the minor children of the parties from the state or applying for a new or replacement passport for those minor children without the prior written consent of the other party or an order of the court;
2. cashing, borrowing against, canceling, transferring, disposing of, or changing the beneficiaries of any insurance or other coverage, including life, health, automobile, and disability, held for the benefit of the parties and their minor children;
3. transferring, encumbering, hypothecating, concealing, or in any way disposing of any property, real or personal, whether community, quasi-community, or separate, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life; and
4. creating a nonprobate transfer or modifying a nonprobate transfer in a manner that affects the disposition of property subject to the transfer, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court. Before revocation of a nonprobate transfer can take effect or a right of survivorship to property can be eliminated, notice of the change must be filed and served on the other party.

You must notify each other of any proposed extraordinary expenditures at least five business days prior to incurring these extraordinary expenditures and account to the court for all extraordinary expenditures made after these restraining orders are effective. However, you may use community property, quasi-community property, or your own separate property to pay an attorney to help you or to pay court costs.

**NOTICE-ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH**

**INSURANCE:** Do you or someone in your household need affordable health insurance? If so, you should apply for Covered California. Covered California can help reduce the cost you pay towards high quality affordable health care. For more information, visit [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com). Or call Covered California at 1-800-300-1506.

**WARNING—IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

California law provides that, for purposes of division of property upon dissolution of a marriage or domestic partnership or upon legal separation, property acquired by the parties during marriage or domestic partnership in joint form is presumed to be community property. If either party to this action should die before the jointly held community property is divided, the language in the deed that characterizes how title is held (i.e., joint tenancy, tenants in common, or community property) will be controlling, and not the community property presumption. You should consult your attorney if you want the community property presumption to be written into the recorded title to the property.

**ORDENES DE RESTRICCIÓN ESTÁNDAR DE DERECHO FAMILIAR**

**En forma inmediata, listed y su cónyuge o pareja de hecho tienen prohibido:**

1. llevarse del estado de California a los hijos menores de las partes, o solicitar un pasaporte nuevo o de repuesto para los hijos menores, sin el consentimiento por escrito de la otra parte o sin una orden de la corte;
2. cobrar, pedir prestado, cancelar, transferir, deshacerse o cambiar el nombre de los beneficiarios de cualquier seguro u otro tipo de cobertura, como de vida, salud, vehículo y discapacidad, que tenga como beneficiario(s) a las partes y su(s) hijo(s) menor(es);
3. transferir, gravar, hipotecar, ocultar o deshacerse de cualquier manera de cualquier propiedad, inmueble o personal, ya sea comunitaria, cuasicomunitaria o separada, sin el consentimiento escrito de la otra parte o una orden de la corte, excepto en el curso habitual de actividades personales y comerciales o para satisfacer las necesidades de la vida; y
4. crear o modificar una transferencia no testamentaria de manera que afecte la asignación de una propiedad sujeta a transferencia, sin el consentimiento por escrito de la otra parte o una orden de la corte. Antes de que se pueda eliminar la revocación de una transferencia no testamentaria, se debe presentar ante la corte un aviso del cambio y hacer una entrega legal de dicho aviso a la otra parte.

Cada parte tiene que notificar a la otra sobre cualquier gasto extraordinario propuesto por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de realizarlo, y rendir cuenta a la corte de todos los gastos extraordinarios realizados después de que estas órdenes de restricción hayan entrado en vigencia. No obstante, puede usar propiedad comunitaria, cuasicomunitaria o suya separada para pagar a un abogado que lo ayude o para pagar los costos de la corte.

**AVISO—ACCESO A SEGURO DE SALUD MAS ECONOMICO:**

¿Necesita seguro de salud a un costo asequible, ya sea para usted o alguien en su hogar? Si es así, puede presentar una solicitud con Covered California. Covered California lo puede ayudar a reducir el costo que paga por seguro de salud asequible y de alta calidad. Para obtener más información, visite [www.coveredca.com](http://www.coveredca.com). O llame a Covered California al 1-800-300-0213.

**ADVERTENCIA—INFORMACION IMPORTANTE**

De acuerdo a la ley de California, las propiedades adquiridas por las partes durante su matrimonio o pareja de hecho en forma conjunta se consideran propiedad comunitaria para fines de la división de bienes que ocurre cuando se produce una disolución o separación legal del matrimonio o pareja de hecho. Si cualquiera de las partes de este caso llega a fallecer antes de que se divida la propiedad comunitaria de tenencia conjunta, el destino de la misma quedará determinado por las cláusulas de la escritura correspondiente que describen su tenencia (por ej., tenencia conjunta, tenencia en común o propiedad comunitaria) y no por la presunción de propiedad comunitaria. Si quiere que la presunción comunitaria quede registrada en la escritura de la propiedad, debería consultar con un abogado.

# LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at [www.thesomervilletimes.com](http://www.thesomervilletimes.com)



Section 00 11 13  
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID  
MGL c.149 Over \$150K

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Concrete Stair and Handrail Replacement at State Aided Development: Corbett Apartments (667-2) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **GCG ASSOCIATES, INC.**

The Project consists of but not limited to: Removal and replacement of existing concrete stairs, handrails, driveway, sidewalks and curbing at 125 Jaques Street.

The work is estimated to cost **\$375,000.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by **01/23/2026 at 12:00PM EST** for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

**THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at [biddocs.com](http://biddocs.com) and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **General Building Construction**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **30 January 2026 at 11:00AM EST** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at [biddocs.com](http://biddocs.com) (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. **Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLC ([Chad.Howard@mass.gov](mailto:Chad.Howard@mass.gov)) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.**

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at 6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a **statutory** requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: None

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc.  
433 Main Street  
Hudson, MA 01749  
978-568-1167

1/7/26, 1/14/26 The Somerville Times



## SOMERVILLE CITY COUNCIL LICENSES AND PERMITS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing before the City Council's **Committee on Licenses and Permits** on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM**, on a petition for a New Used Car Dealer License.

New Used Car Dealer Class 2 License, Union Square Auto Sales, 39 Webster Avenue, 20 vehicles outside, Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm, Sat: 8am-2pm, Sun: closed.

This meeting will be held by remote participation, using the Zoom Webinar platform.

You have two ways to be heard at this meeting:

- To attend and be heard, enter the link exactly as it appears below into your internet browser. You will then be asked to register for the meeting.  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sxs18LHgSySta9CsiNg3Dw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sxs18LHgSySta9CsiNg3Dw)
- If you are unable to attend but wish to be heard, you may email your comments to [publiccomments@somervillema.gov](mailto:publiccomments@somervillema.gov), or send them by US mail to the City Clerk, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA, 02143. Your comments must arrive no later than 12 Noon on the day of the Hearing, in order to be sure they are conveyed to the Council.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE HEARD.

KIMBERLY M. WELLS  
CITY CLERK

1/14/26 The Somerville Times



## ADVERTISEMENT REQUEST FOR DESIGN SERVICES (RFS)

The **Somerville Housing Authority**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed proposals from registered Engineering/Architecture firms to provide professional design and construction administration services to replace the existing storm doors (123 total) at our Brady Towers and Highland Garden developments located in Somerville, MA 02143.

A briefing and site inspection is scheduled for **10:00 AM on Friday, January 23rd, 2026**, at the Brady Towers elderly facility located at 252 Medford Street, Somerville, MA 02143.

Response to this RFS must be submitted no later than **11:00 Friday, January 30th, 2026**.

The RFS may be obtained after **8:00AM on Wednesday, January 14th, 2026**, by contacting [ryanc@sha-web.org](mailto:ryanc@sha-web.org) or by phone at 617-625-1152 Ext.331.

Questions must be sent in writing to [ryanc@sha-web.org](mailto:ryanc@sha-web.org) no later than Tuesday, January 27th, 2026.

1/14/26 The Somerville Times



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF WINTER HILL BANK, FSB

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Members of the Winter Hill Bank, FSB will be held at its office located at 337 Broadway, Somerville, Massachusetts, on the 21st, day of January, 2026 at the hour of 2:00 P.M. of said day. The business to be taken up at said Annual Meeting shall be;

- Considering and voting upon approval of the minutes of the last members' meeting;
- Considering and voting upon reports of Officers and Committees of the Bank;
- Considering and acting upon ratifications of the acts of the Directors and Officers of the Bank;
- Election of Directors to fill the offices of the terms of which are then expiring; and
- New business.

Dated this 6th, day of January at Somerville, Massachusetts.

*Per Order of the Board of Directors*  
Anthony Ciccariello  
Acting Corporate Secretary

1/7/26, 1/14/26 The Somerville Times

Legal Notices can be downloaded from our website: [www.TheSomervilleTimes.com](http://www.TheSomervilleTimes.com)

## Ms. Cam's *Olivo* Answers

From on page 8

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 1956                | 8. Peyton Manning (5)      |
| 2. Meryl Streep        | 9. Martin Luther King Jr.  |
| 3. 1958                | 10. Nonviolent protest     |
| 4. Marlon Brando       | 11. Charles Albert Tindley |
| 5. 32                  | 12. 2                      |
| 6. Pittsburgh Steelers |                            |
| 7. Cleveland Browns    |                            |

# Somerville 2026 Excise Tax Bills Arriving in January

Residents should please note that motor vehicle excise tax bills for 2026 are being sent one month earlier this year. Bills will issue on January 26, 2026, and are due February 25, 2026.

Somerville residents who own a vehicle with a valid Massachusetts license plate are responsible for paying their excise tax bill each year. Payments can be made:

- + Online via the link on the city's website at [somervillema.gov/payonline](http://somervillema.gov/payonline)
- + In-person at the Collector's office at City Hall (93 Highland Ave.). Valid ID required if you do not bring the bill with you when making payment in person.
- + Via mail using the provided envelope.
- + Or by check, which can be dropped off in the stainless-steel payments box outside the front entrance of City Hall.

Regularly check your mailbox to avoid missing payment deadlines. Payment is required even if a physical bill is not received. To request a duplicate copy, please contact the treasury department to have a duplicate bill mailed, or "self-authenticate" online and pay via the city's website at [somervillema.gov/payonline](http://somervillema.gov/payonline).

For more information, contact the Tax Collector's office at [Treasury@somervillema.gov](mailto:Treasury@somervillema.gov) or call (617) 625-6600 x-3500. For general information on how to make a payment, contact 311 at 617-666-3311 or via chat/app/email/etc. at [somervillema.gov/311](http://somervillema.gov/311).



**Somerville Fair Housing Commission**  
*Question of the week*



**Q:** I think I've been discriminated against! Can I file a Fair Housing complaint online?

**A:** Yes, and please do! Go to <https://form.jotform.com/73455087087162>. File your complaint, and staff will get back to you soon!

*The Somerville Fair Housing Commission generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. online. Call 617-625-6600 ext. 2578 for the login information.*

A **GoFundMe** has been launched by our own Doug Holder to help keep The Somerville Times free and thriving. Every dollar helps us stay independent and serve our community.

To donate visit:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>

Share with your friends and neighbors!  
Let's keep local news alive, together.

And to advertise in The Times, call **857-488-5138**

**Want to write local  
Somerville stories?  
Call 857-488-5138**

**and speak to the Assignment Editor**

**BOBBY'S DAD JOKES CORNER**

By Bobbygeorge Potaris



Why should you borrow money from pessimists?  
They never expect to get it back.

The "Original"  
**All Types Vent Cleaning**  
Restaurant Hood Cleaning  
Dryer Vent/ HVAC Cleaning  
Power Washing  
Licensed and Insured  
in Massachusetts  
We travel all over  
Massachusetts  
Call today to find out  
our weekly specials!  
**Call Jimmy 857-366-3761**

To advertise in  
**The  
Somerville  
Times**  
call  
**Bobbie Toner**  
**857-488-5138**

# Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Winter roses... — Photo by Denise Provost

## On This Day in History

### January 14

- 1236 – Henry III marries Eleanor of Provence.
- 1797 – Napoleon Bonaparte defeats the Austrians at Rivoli in northern Italy.
- 1915 – The French abandon five miles of trenches to the Germans near Soissons.
- 1916 – British authorities seize German attaché Franz von Papen's financial records confirming espionage activities in the U.S.
- 1917 – A Provisional Parliament is established in Poland.
- 1942 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders all aliens in the U.S. to register with the government.
- 1943 – Italian occupation authorities refuse to deport Jews living in their territories in France.
- 1969 – A blast on the U.S. carrier Enterprise in the Pacific results in 24 dead and 85 injured.
- 2005 – Huygens probe lands on Saturn's moon Titan.
- 2010 – Yemen declares war on al-Qaeda terrorist group.

# COA's New Year's party

Somerville's Council on Aging hosted its very first New Year's Party, Thursday, January 8, 2026. The luncheon held at Dilboy Post was complete with dancing, laughter, and a sparkling grape juice toast!

— Photos by Claudia Ferro





## OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

## 'The Ones I Could Tell Anything/Mists of Self'

*The Ones I Could Tell Anything**Mists of Self*

By Nina Rubinstein Alonso

Ibbetson Street Press

Somerville MA

ISBN: 978-1-257-74906-5

44 Pages

Review by Off the Shelf Correspondent Dennis Daly

Poetry usually works best when the poet objectifies the personal on a mindful scale between self-evaluation and mythic individuality. Nina Rubinstein Alonzo does exactly that in her latest collection *The Ones I Could Tell Anything*, subtitled *Mists of Self*.

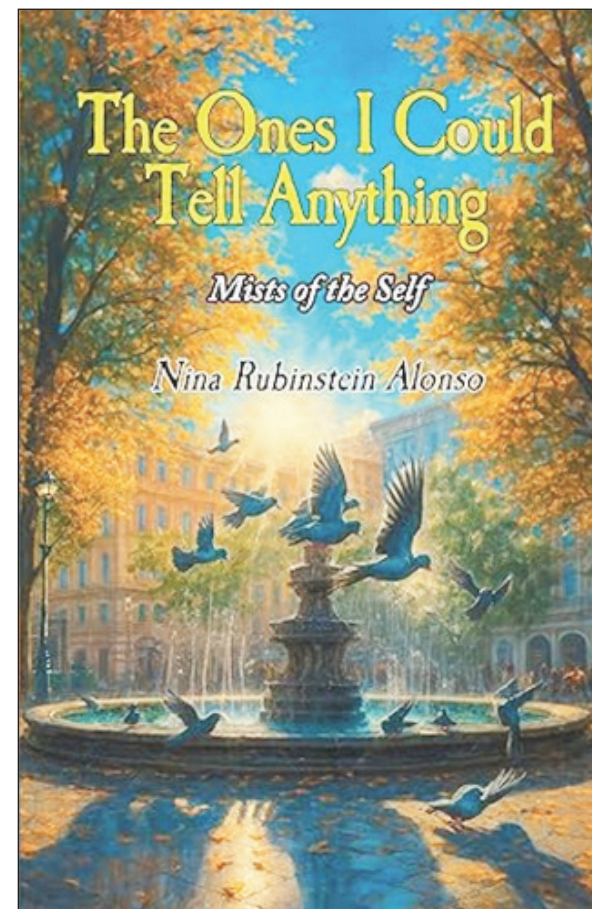
Styled mostly in crisp, neatly packed pods sans punctuation, Alonzo's confessional pieces in Part 1 intimate external human connections beyond pedestrian attention and in Part 2, using inspired depictions, her very different, surreal pieces often wax mythical with internal and latent symbolism. These same images rub up against each other wonderfully, fusing dry narratives with her seemingly subconscious visions.

The opening poem, *The Ones I Could Tell Anything*, doubling as Alonzo's title poem of both book and the first of two sections, details the pain of absence and her concomitant loss of self-knowledge and identity. She sums up her precarious state, introducing her subsequent pods this way,

... things matter less  
than they used to  
but I miss  
the ones  
I could tell  
anything despite  
death and distance  
canceling  
our meetings.

Companionship spans the divide between life and death in Alonzo's piece entitled *Flying Solo*. Her husband was a giver (think few), not a taker (think many). This poem is a paean to his ever-present spirit in her life. The poet cites an example of that spirit here,

Fernando jumps  
out of bed  
without complaint  
rushes to the rescue  
gives without being asked  
no explanation required  
no receipt  
no need for apology when I think



of the men  
I've known  
no one comes close  
I miss him  
speak to his spirit  
feel him near  
tell him  
I'm doing  
what I can

In her poem, *Heather*, college age Alonzo seeks, as many students do, an alternate self. At that age the game is mimesis. They seek the talented, the artful, the sophisticated, and mirror them until they find their singular worth. Alonzo's persona joins the poetic fray,

Tall exotic artsy with  
silken ribbon hair  
nothing like my curly mop  
her elegant way  
of enunciating phrases  
can't afford the dorm  
so beg mom to let me  
move into Heather's  
spare room  
mom squints at the  
Cambridge flat  
wonders why I want  
such a place  
but it's time

# Lyrical

## SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Jason Youngclaus was born in Boston and graduated from College of the Holy Cross. His debut collection *Little Planet Raisins* was released by Spartan Press in 2020. His work has been nominated for the pushcart prize in poetry.

### The Neptunes Send Me a Christmas Card

Every year. It's never in doubt.  
This year I'm tempted  
to throw it in the trash bin.

My whimsy isn't reared  
because I suspect ulterior motives,  
or that the contents might read:

"Dear J, this is the 11th year in a row but sadly—  
We're downsizing operations  
And it's a little grating that you never send us a card.

So this will be the last time.  
Merry Christmas, though,  
And good luck."

My vexed impulses  
cannot simply be ascribed  
to the fact that I'll never see them  
in the flesh again, save by some god-shot  
encounter on the metro.  
That's all the more reason to open it,  
and tuck it neat as a bow  
behind the state of Maine  
magnet on my fridge.

Maybe it's my inner Calvinist,  
plastic and efficient, concerned  
where God keeps receipts.

Five genuinely nice, smiling humans, the Xmas tree...  
They don't even need to fake it—it's legit.  
This envelope is a warm fireplace  
crackling. If it were from a lawyer  
or a debt collector  
then I'd *definitely* open it.

Instead I stand here in the doorway,  
ice melting off my  
house-mounted mailbox;

opening it—  
wouldn't make it any purer  
than it already is.

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:

Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. [dougholder@post.harvard.edu](mailto:dougholder@post.harvard.edu)

Continued on page 15

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

pollution in our rivers. Join virtually for a public meeting on **Thursday, January 15**, at 6:00 p.m. to learn more about the alternatives being considered, cost implications on rate payers, and share your feedback. Register online for this Zoom meeting: [tinyurl.com/CSOZoomreg](https://tinyurl.com/CSOZoomreg).

**Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson** is collecting information for his **transition office**. This survey is a way for you to tell the incoming mayor what is important to you. There are 18 topics - everything from arts to schools - to choose from. Take a few minutes to share your thoughts and then share the survey with your Somerville friends and neighbors. Take the survey: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccTinnrTVBzR6yCWP-6ZZ4JtBvJ5Z6476u3i-jF5HGIIIFceA/viewform>.

**Lego Derby, January 24**. Bring your creativity to build and race LEGO vehicles. Prizes will be awarded. This program is intended for children ages 6 and up. **Central Library** (79 Highland Ave.) from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

**Somerville Fire Local 76 Bfit Skate with Blades** will be held on **January 18**, from 5 to 7 p.m., **LoConte Rink**, 97 Locust St, Medford. Admission is \$20.

Includes skate rental while supplies last. Enjoy a night of skating, raffles, and pizza all in one spot.

**Low-income households** may be eligible to receive help with **winter heating costs** through the **Home Energy Assistance Program**. This program serves residents of Somerville and Cambridge. Participants receive assistance with their heating costs **between November 1 and April 30**. Learn more about the program, check if you qualify, and apply for assistance today at [somerville-ma.gov/heatingassistance](https://www.somerville-ma.gov/heatingassistance).

Take steps to **protect yourself and loved ones against COVID-19**, the flu, and other illnesses this winter. Somerville's **Health and Human Services Department** is hosting **free vaccine clinics** at locations across the city. Upcoming clinics include: **Thursday, January 15, Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs** (42 Cross St.), 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., **Thursday, January 22, West Branch Library** (40 College Ave.), 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Find all vaccine clinics on the city website and register online at [www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations](https://www.somervillema.gov/vaccinations).

Attend the inaugural **SomerWrites** event on **Tuesday, January 27**, at 7:00 p.m. at **Portico Brewing**, featuring an open mic

and guest talk with **Somerville Poet Laureate Lloyd Schwartz**, and moderated by **Somerville Arts Council Board member Sarah Beckmann**. These events are free and open to all, no matter your genre or background. Whether you have academic experience in a writing field or are simply curious to learn more about different types of writing, this space is an opportunity for you to share your work and/or network with local artists. Contact **Sarah** ([beckmann.sarah12@gmail.com](mailto:beckmann.sarah12@gmail.com)) to add your name to the open mic list or to become a featured guest during one of these events.

School meals are **free for all students**. Nutritious breakfast and lunch are free for all students in **Somerville Public Schools**. Breakfast starts at 8:15 a.m. for prekindergarten students, at 7:30 a.m. for students in grades K-8, and at 7:15 a.m. at **Somerville High School** and **Next Wave/Full Circle**. Check out the menu: <https://linqconnect.com/public/menu/FE53U3>.

**Snow emergency parking** is on the **odd side of the street all winter**, unless posted signage says differently. Sign up for alerts or update your information at [somerville-ma.gov/alerts](https://www.somerville-ma.gov/alerts). You can call 311 (617-666-3311) if you need assistance. Flashing blue lights at major in-

tersections indicate a snow emergency. Snow emergencies are announced on the city's website, social media feeds, City TV, and via information shared with local media. Property owners are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks within six daylight hours of the end of snowfall. For more information on the city's snow policies, visit [somervillema.gov/snow](https://www.somervillema.gov/snow).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our **Arts Editor, Doug Holder**, for setting up a **GoFundMe campaign** for **The Somerville Times**. With the cost of printing going up and a lack of businesses having the resources to advertise, free papers feel the effect. We sincerely thank all who have already contributed and thank any future contributors. If you are interested in helping, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-somerville-times>. Or if anyone is interested in advertising, please contact [Bobbietoner@aol.com](mailto:Bobbietoner@aol.com). We offer great discounts to help our advertisers be able to advertise. Thank you all so much for your support!

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Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 14

*Heart's Light*, Alonzo's final poem in Part 1, shines with its fundamental beat of humanity's mystery. She sees her former confidant in a watery vision, not unlike King Arthur's Lady of the Lake. Consider this lovely piece in its totality,

I find and lose myself  
in these dear ones  
glance in the pool  
and see them  
lifting water-lilies  
loke candles to show me  
undersea flowers  
no matter some are living  
some are dead all  
radiate heart light.

A life of anticipation, a threatening end from somewhere out at sea, arrives in the poet's harbor with dramatic stagecraft in Alonzo's poem entitled *Banner* in Part 11. No quarter is offered by this strange ship as it approaches out human dream-time. A pirate's black spot in the center of its battle flag seals the deal. The poet's mnemonic intentions cry out in these emblematic lines,

the flag she saw as a child  
through memory shifts and revises  
every ominous gesture  
tower of silver on a red field

and in the center a black spot  
In *Scissors*, one of Alonzo's funereal and mythical poems, she portrays the Fate (or Sister of the Night) Atropos as cutting the threads of life. The narrative concludes with an old Everyman (gulp) checking out,

... one snip  
cuts the thread of time  
and at his polished table  
the old man suddenly  
clutches and falls hard  
spilling his cup of black wine

Alonzo's poem *Mourners* details in a surreal way the rituals of death. There are no surprises here. Everything was foreseen. Life ends routinely with the finery and celebratory color added afterwards. In this way the young are introduced to the most common of all contexts. Consider these moments of cultish preparation,

They unroll soft rugs  
everything gray and black  
as are planned  
the menu ashen pale  
eggs roasted in the fire  
wine like delicate urine  
the ranks of mourners  
lighting torches and lamps

at the corners of the stairs  
Set as the penultimate piece in her book, Alonzo's poem *Sword* mitigates, in part, the surreal darkness and death pervading the collection's Part II. Piercing the metaphysical mist, the poet constructs a battlefield weapon worthy of humanity's conclusion. Both implement of execution and mercifully keen opiate, its sharp-edged steel promises a speedy transition out of this brutish world. Alonzo puts it this way,  
fire-forged hand-beaten  
bathed in the well of minerals  
let down for a minute only  
star-sheath sword girded  
with rings of shining metal  
the maker calls it prostitute  
and says it will bleed so many  
yet death will be light  
and swift sparkling  
like a snow river.

Part 1 of this collection with its neo-confessional pieces and Part 11 with its mythical and surreal poems are very different. But Alonzo's combination does make sense and brings with it an unusual logic. Part 1 portrays the relationships whereby she finds her voice. Then Part 2 shows cases that objectifying voice. This strikes me as original. And that is quite an achievement.

The Somerville Times  
**Best of Somerville 2025**  
 Cast your vote!

You have until January 23, 2026 to vote for your favorites in each category. To cast your vote, email us at thebestofsomerville@yahoo.com. The winners will be announced on January 28, 2026. If you don't see your favorite category here, simply add it in your email.

**Foods & Restaurants**

- Best Breakfast
- Best Combination Breakfast & Lunch
- Best Italian Food
- Best Chinese Food
- Best Mexican Food
- Best Portuguese Food
- Best Local Deli
- Best Variety and all around Restaurant
- Best Seafood
- Best Irish Pub
- Best Local Bar
- Best Thai Food
- Best Hamburger
- Best Mac & Cheese
- Best Hot-Dog
- Best Roast Beef Sandwich
- Best Pizza
- Best Bakery

- Best Sub Shop
- Best Coffee Shop Franchise
- Best Coffee Shop local
- Best Bar Food

**Best of Somerville Services**

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- Best Plumber
- Best Attorney
- Best Teacher
- Best City Worker
- Best Receptionist
- Best Real Estate Agent/Realtor
- Best Real Estate Rental Agent
- Best Compost Company
- Best Bank Teller
- Best Bank Employee
- Best Waitstaff
- Best Bartender

- Best Cook
- Best Caterer
- Best Barber
- Best Hair Salon
- Best Doctor
- Best Nurse
- Best Coach
- Best Police Officer
- Best Fire Fighter
- Best Photographer
- Best Somerville Historian
- Best Eye Doctor
- Best Orthodontist
- Best Mortgage Officer
- Best Somerville Artist
- Best Somerville Poet
- Best Somerville Writer
- Best Somerville Celebrity
- Best City Elected Politician

**Best of Somerville Businesses**

- Best Somerville Bank
- Best Real Estate Company
- Best Insurance Agency
- Best Creative Business in 2025
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- Best Laundromat
- Best Liquor Store
- Best Gas Station
- Best Auto Body Shop
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