



WILD THINGS

An introduction to ring-billed gulls means learning more than you ever thought you would about bird droppings and the organs known as cloacas.

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THE WEEK

AUG. 22-29, 2024

FREE | by CAMBRIDGE DAY



Matthew Sage

Protesters against the company Elbit take their message July 3 to Harvard Square from Central Square in Cambridge.

Protested company stops work in Central

By SUE REINERT and MARC LEVY

The Cambridge office of KMC Systems, a subsidiary of Israeli defense contractor Elbit Systems, is virtually empty because “99.9 percent” of employees work from home, police say, and there are other signs that the company is leaving the city.

The building at 130 Bishop Allen Drive near Central Square that houses KMC has been targeted by pro-Palestinian demonstrations for months. Despite workers going remote, protesters show up every Wednesday, Cambridge Police superintendent of operations Pauline Wells said Aug. 13.

They are scheduling further weekly actions at the site. “We will continue organizing until Elbit Systems leaves Cambridge. Should Elbit leave their current offices at 130 Bishop Allen Drive, we advise other local real estate companies that Elbit is a difficult tenant. Where Elbit goes, disruptive community protests follow, as Intercontinental Real Estate Corp. has learned over the past year,” said BDS Boston on Friday.

See WEEKLY, Page 5

For bookstore, a 1,000-foot move means bigger future

By MARC LEVY

Porter Square Books is celebrating its 20th birthday with a move – but one that will take it only to Lesley University’s University Hall, around 1,000 feet away from its current Cambridge shopping plaza space.

After a 20th anniversary party Sept. 28 in its current location with its formal White Street address, the opening at 1815 Massachusetts Ave. is expected in October, said co-owner David Sandberg and the team of senior employees who in 2018 became owners of half the store.

The news was released Tuesday, another sign of the vigor of independent bookstores once declared dead by the arrival of giant chains and again by the arrival of Amazon. At 6,182 square feet, the next Porter Square Books will be 40 percent bigger.

“This move is a terrific opportunity to provide for the long-term growth of Porter Square Books,” Sandberg said, pointing to a “bigger, nicer space in an iconic building right on Mass Ave” that is closer to the Porter Square T stop and offers more café seating, two customer bathrooms and an opportunity to enhance the gathering area for its frequent author talks and other events.

See BOOKSTORE, Page 5

Primary concerns

Dem committee in Somerville gives challenger its endorsement

By MARC LEVY

Heading into a Sept. 3 primary set to decide who represents Somerville’s 27th Middlesex District in the state Legislature, challenger Kathleen Hornby has won the endorsement of the Somerville Democratic City Committee over incumbent state Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven, who called the results “out of step” with her constituency.

Voting by the committee’s 220 elected members followed an Aug. 8 debate among the candidates at which they made efforts to distinguish themselves despite holding similar progressive stances on many issues. Voting closed late Aug. 15.

The final result was 92 votes for Hornby, 51 for Uytterhoeven and 10 members voting “present,” according to a committee press release on Friday. Nearly two-thirds of committee members cast a ballot for one of the two candidates.

In the 2020 primary in which Uytterhoeven won her seat over Catia Sharp there were 14,471 votes cast, with Uytterhoeven taking 62 percent. She took 86 percent two years ago against Jason Daniel Mackey when 8,149 votes were cast.

Also endorsed by the committee are U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley, state Sen. Pat Jehlen and state Reps. Mike Connolly and Christine Barber.

See ENDORSEMENT, Page 3



Marc Levy

State Rep. Marjorie Decker speaks in front of Cambridge City Hall on Aug. 30, 2020. State Rep. Mike Connolly is behind her, second from the right.

Work at law firm gives state rep a pay bump

By SEAN FLANNELLY

Salaries for Massachusetts legislators are already under scrutiny after a Boston Globe report this month revealed the vast majority earn bonus “leadership pay” in addition to their base salary and travel stipends.

But public records reveal that one Cambridge lawmaker has regularly supplemented their taxpayer-funded salary – which totaled \$114,447 in 2023 – with a significant additional income stream.

Rep. Marjorie Decker, chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health, reported an annual salary of more than \$100,001 – the highest income bracket the form allows to be reported – from class-action law firm Berman Tabacco from 2016 to 2023. The 2023 data was the most recent available.

Decker listed herself as an employee of the firm on an annual Statement of Financial Interest required of elected officials. Harvard graduate student Ian Hunt-Isaak requested the documents for Somerville, Cambridge and Watertown representatives. The documents were shared with Cambridge Day similarly to fundraising data in May around Decker’s primary race with challenger Evan MacKay for the 25th Middlesex district seat.

Hunt-Isaak said then that he is not officially part of MacKay’s campaign team but has volunteered for the campaign and is “in support of MacKay’s candidacy.”

See LAW FIRM, Page 3

INSIDE

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Attend: Satanic panics? Let’s play this track backward before hitting some shows and a jazzy Georges Island pop-up.

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FILM AHEAD

Run from Leatherface in “The Texas Chain Saw Massacre,” lighten up with Pee-wee or experience the kitschy “Time Chasers.”

Page 8

EVENTS AHEAD

Somergloom music fest, a Circus Extravaganza, Port Pride Day, barbecue, an open-air “Richard III” and new “Let’s Misbehave.”



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MEETINGS AUG. 22-29

CAMBRIDGE

Overdose awareness and voter registration

By MARC LEVY

Registration for primary elections

Election Commission, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Are you registered to vote for the Sept. 3 primary election? This is the last date to do it. In-person registration is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the commission's offices at 51 Inman St., Mid-Cambridge; online registration must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Early voting begins the same day at Somerville City Hall and runs through Aug. 30.

Overdose Awareness Day event

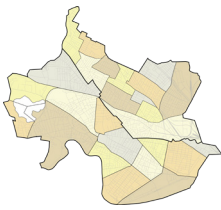
International Overdose Awareness Day, 1:30 to 4 p.m. Aug. 29. Remember loved ones lost to addiction and get materials on harm reduction and health promotion from the Cambridge Public Health Department, the Access Drug User Health Program, the Cambridge Care Team – part of the city's unarmed responders known as the Community Safety Department – and Cambridge police at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square.

Looking ahead to Labor Day

Labor Day closings and service changes, Sept 2. In observance of the Labor Day holiday, city offices, libraries and senior centers will close and payments won't be needed at parking meters and parking meter pay stations. Curbside collection of trash, recycling, compost and yard waste will be suspended on the holiday and run one day behind schedule for the rest of that week; street cleaning routes scheduled for the first Monday in September will be swept on Aug. 29 instead. The gates at Cambridge Cemetery, 76 Coolidge Ave., West Cambridge, will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Cambridge Public School talk

Community conversation, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 4. Interim Cambridge Public Schools superintendent David Murphy sits to discuss progress, challenges and concerns in the district. The event is sponsored by My Brother's Keeper Cambridge and moderated by Tony Clark in the theater of the King Open/Cambridge Street Upper School & Community Complex, 840 Cambridge St., Wellington-Harrington, Cambridge.



◀ **Cambridge's City Council** meets at 5:30 p.m. Mondays from January through June and from the second Monday in September through December at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square; televised and online.

Somerville's School Committee meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Monday of every month September through June at Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Central Hill; televised and online. ▶

◀ **Cambridge's School Committee** meets at 6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday from September through June and at 5 p.m. the first Tuesday in August at the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Mid-Cambridge; televised and online.

Somerville's City Council meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Central Hill; televised and online. ▶

SOMERVILLE

Drugs and unhoused draw council notice

By MARC LEVY

Issues of drug use, unhoused

City Council, 7 p.m. Thursday. Councillors return from summer with a focus on overlapping concerns around unhoused people and public drug use with calls for talks on services and trash and needle pickups in Davis Square, Seven Hills Park and on the Community Path, including installing secure needle disposal boxes. An update on efforts to open an overdose prevention center, "including a timeline for implementation" is asked, despite a lack of announced state protections against federal opposition. This is also when the council hears about the mayor's choice for police chief, Shumeane Benford, and has business in support of teens (seeking an update from staff on a permanent location and regular hours for a teen center) and seniors, with a request that the city hire a liaison to "amplify their voices in city decision-making." There's also a \$99,887 state grant "for digital navigation services to Somerville Housing Authority residents." The council meets at 93 Highland Ave., Winter Hill, Somerville. Watchable online.

Registration for primary elections

Somerville Elections Department, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Are you registered to vote for the Sept. 3 primary election? This is the last date to do it. In-person registration goes until 5 p.m. and online registration is available until midnight. Early voting begins the same day at Somerville City Hall and runs through Aug. 30.

Somernova zoning recommendation

Urban Design Commission, 6 p.m. A special meeting looks at a recommendation letter for proposed zoning at Somernova, a business and tech campus looking to expand with new uses. Watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

Organizing in Davis Square

Davis Square Neighborhood Council, 6 to 8 p.m. Monday. The group focuses on bylaws and a mission statement on the way to becoming a more formal organization but may continue discussions from the previous monthly meeting: community path wayfinding, unhoused people, business development and empty storefronts and zoning for housing. The group meets at Somerville Public Library West Branch, 40 College Ave., near Davis Square.

THE WEEK

by CAMBRIDGE DAY

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Cambridge is mainly politically progressive; embracing of science and reason; and welcoming – and protective – of the diversity of humanity, and Cambridge Day tends to reflect the mores of its community. Its reporting is fact-based, with a separate section for expression of opinions, and all voices are welcome in its pages.

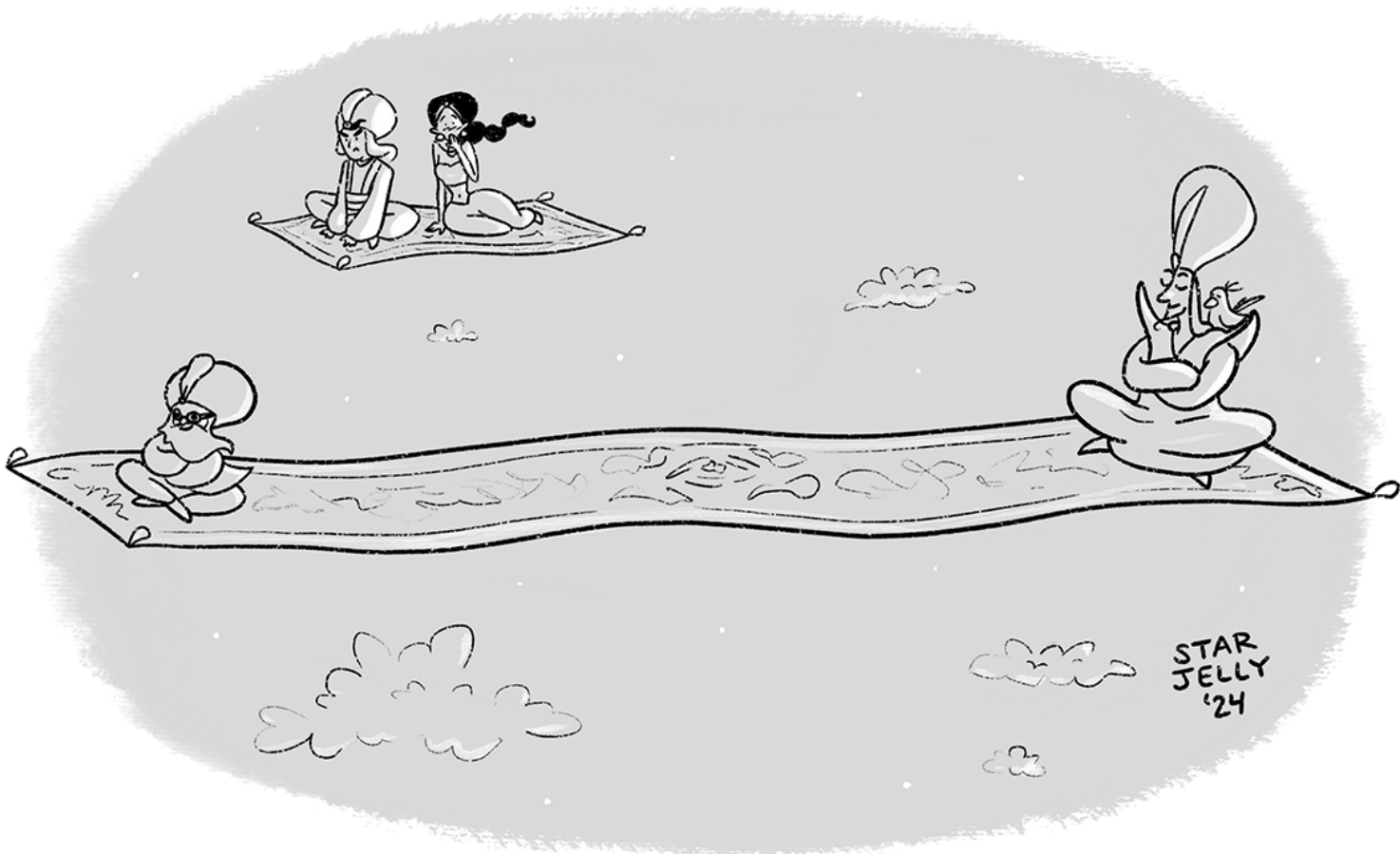
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Star Jelly Comics

See more at [instagram.com/starjellycomics/](https://www.instagram.com/starjellycomics/)



Father and child are rescued from Charles River by a duck boat

By JULIA WEEKS

A father and child were rescued Monday on the Cambridge side of the Charles River by a duck boat.

The call of “a father and a baby in the water” at 40 Edwin H. Land Blvd., East Cambridge, came through at 9:20 a.m., after the 18-month-old child squeezed through the railing on the Dr. Paul Dudley Bike Path and fell into the Charles. The child’s father jumped over the railing and held the baby above water while holding onto a rock ledge, according to State Police.

Officers arrived on the scene within minutes, but were told that a Boston Duck Tour boat already in the water would help in the rescue with a life ring. By 9:25 a.m., the father and baby were safely on the duck boat with the help of its crew.



A Boston Duck Tours boat in the Charles River in a company publicity still via social media.

The duck boat docked at the Charlesgate Yacht Club, where ambulances would be available to provide medical attention.

Cambridge firefighters treated the father and child – guests at the nearby Royal Sonesta hotel – at the scene alongside Pro EMS before taking them to a medical facility, according to Cambridge firefighters.

The medical transport was precautionary, State Police said, and what led to the water rescue “remains under investigation by State Police Boston Barracks personnel.”

The duck boat, christened “Olga Ironsides” in 2004, was in the area performing person-overboard training at the time of the water rescue. The boat departs from the Museum of Science, which is less than five minutes away from where the rescue took place.

Law firm work boosts Decker to delegation’s highest earner

From Page 1

It’s unclear what position Decker serves at Berman Tobacco, and the legislator’s office did not respond to multiple requests for comment, though a staff member said the request was “elevated” to the representative. Decker does not list the position on her public LinkedIn page, nor on her campaign website.

An emailed request for information was made late Sunday to Berman Tobacco, but there was no reply by the end of the business day Monday or since. A voicemail was left early in the week to confirm that was the firm’s intent.

Decker also reported income from Northeast Strategy & Communications, which she listed as self-employment, in 2015 and 2018 in ranges of \$40,000 to \$60,000 and \$10,000 to \$20,000, respectively.

Two of Decker’s local colleagues on Beacon Hill have also reported extra

State House, as a consultant for the nonprofit Reimagining Democracy Fund. Uytterhoeven earned more than \$93,000 in the State House last year, with no leadership pay.

To some critics of Decker, the lack of transparency around extra income is suspicious. Cambridge resident Pete Septoff, who hosts a recurring interview show on Cambridge Community Television, said Decker’s lack of candor about her second job is part of “a pattern of not being open about her work in the public sphere.”

“There might be nothing to it, but this is the first I’ve seen of it,” Septoff said. “The fact that it’s not public knowledge is not great.”

In particular, Septoff criticized Decker’s lack of support for the 2022 referendum to make legislative committee votes public, as well as inconsistencies about her support of Riverbend Park Saturdays, as seen in publicly revealed emails in 2023.

Labor activist MacKay said it’s concerning that there’s no way for residents to know what Decker’s job entails and how much time she’s spending there.

“My hunch is, if this were great work that she was doing there and work that was aligned with Cambridge’s values, then I think she would be talking about it,” MacKay said. “Why is she not talking about this?”

MacKay is in a doctoral program at Harvard, which they said they would leave behind if elected.

“The challenges of the Legislature are enormous,” MacKay said. “It’s going to take a lot of time.”

Hunt-Isaak said he requested the documents on a whim after discovering that it was possible. He found it curious that Decker has not discussed the Berman Tobacco job in her campaigns: “A lot of state reps have jobs they talk about as part of their story,” Hunt-Isaak said. “Why is there this air of secrecy around this thing you get a tremendous amount of money from?”

Ultimately, the documents left Hunt-Isaak with more questions than answers – such as why the state allows representatives to list salaries only up to \$100,001 or more, serving to obscure higher outside pay, or how much time the job requires of Decker’s busy schedule.

One hundred thousand dollars or more is “a full-time salary,” Hunt-Isaak said. “How does that relate to us being one of the least effective State Houses in the country?”



Marc Levy

Candidate for Somerville state representative Kathleen Hornby after a forum Aug. 8 with one of the moderators, Rand Wilson.

Endorsement goes to challenger, incumbent calls ‘insider politics’

From Page 1

Uytterhoeven has held her seat since 2021. Hornby announced her candidacy in February after serving nearly a decade as a staffer at the State House, most recently for Cambridge state Rep. Marjorie Decker.

“Somerville Democrats want someone on Beacon Hill who can get things done for our city. Kathleen Hornby clearly made the case to Somerville Democrats that her commitment to public service and our community is what Democrats want in our nominee. She earned this endorsement because party committee members know we can trust her to represent the whole of the Democratic Party as a member of our delegation,” committee chair Jack Perenick said in the press release. “We don’t take this step to endorse the challenger to an incumbent lightly.”

It was an honor to get the vote of confidence from Somerville Dem-

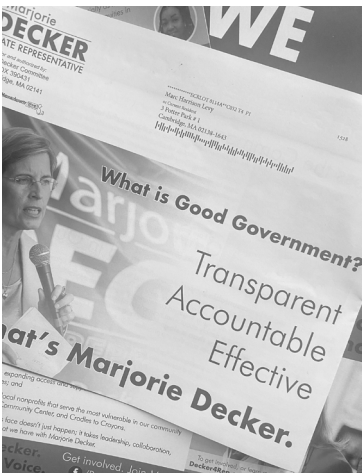
ocrats, Hornby said, and “I’m running to give the community I love the representation that it deserves.” She noted her work on reproductive rights, access to shelter and reliable public transportation.

“I’m proud of my track record and accomplishments and the bold progressive policy platform that I’m running on and ran on in 2020,” Uytterhoeven said, calling her work a reason she has the support of Pressley, reproductive justice advocates and Planned Parenthood, climate advocates, progressive groups and organized labor. “The Somerville Dems endorsement is an anomaly in this race. Some members of their board are out of step with the clear progressive values of this district. This outcome to me has more to do with insider politics.”

The results from the committee members were “contradictory to what we’ve seen in terms of prior election history and how this campaign is going so far.”



Uytterhoeven



Marc Levy

Campaign materials for the Marjorie Decker campaign.

income, but their work has been less consecutive and far less lucrative.

Rep. Christine Barber of Somerville reported \$1,000 to \$5,000 from 2017 to 2019 as an employee of Boston University’s School of Public Health. Barber earned the same legislative salary as Decker in 2023.

Rep. Michael Connolly of Cambridge and Somerville reported his position as a “director” of the Cambridge Residents Alliance, with no income attached, but explained that this indicates just that he is on the board with many other volunteers. Connolly earned more than \$93,000 in the State House last year, with no leadership pay.

Rep. Erika Uytterhoeven in Somerville reported \$20,000 to \$40,000 in 2019, before she was elected to the

Somerville ends search, hires a chief

By MARC LEVY

A police chief has been chosen for Somerville after a four-year search: Shumeane Benford, chief of the Boston Housing Authority Police Department and Boston’s chief of emergency management, the Office of Mayor Katjana Ballantyne announced Friday.

A three-year contact begins Sept. 16 for Benford to lead the Somerville Police Department at a salary of \$225,000 annually, according to a contract coming before the City Council on Thursday. The contract includes two additional one-year options for the city to extend beyond the initial period ending Sept. 16, 2027.

Benford has had a 30-year career in law enforcement, starting as a police officer for the Boston Housing Authority in 1994. While rising through the ranks in stints with the Boston Police, City of Boston and Boston Housing Authority, he has also taught as an adjunct professor at Roxbury Community College. Benford is a lifelong Boston resident, according to Ballantyne’s office – save for the time he lived briefly in Somerville.

“Not only will our incoming chief bring a rare mix of law enforcement, emergency management and teaching experience to the role, Benford is a change agent. He has been driving fiscal, operational and community-driven reforms in Boston, along with advancing efforts to support staff morale and investment, transparency and social equity especially for marginalized and disenfranchised communities,” Ballantyne said. “We look forward to his deep experience, vision and love of community undergirding our daily work to keep Somerville safe as well as advancing our efforts to move our Public Safety for All goals forward.”

Benford holds a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Curry College and master’s degree in political science from Suffolk University.

The department he will oversee has 127 officers and 32 civilian personnel working at three police stations. Department operations are covered by a \$19.7 million budget, including crime analysis, detective bureau, patrol, special operations, professional standards and traffic enforcement, according to city information.



Oldtime Baseball Game via social media
Players at the 2022 Oldtime Baseball Game at St. Peter's Field in Cambridge.

Oldtime Baseball Game fields Merloni, Papelbon Thursday and honors five

By NICOLE BELCASTRO

The Oldtime Baseball Game returns to Cambridge on Thursday with former Red Sox players Lou Merloni and Jonathan Papelbon taking to the field to play. The game has become a tradition in the community as teams play dressed in flannel uniforms inspired by older baseball eras. It raises funds for a charity and, as organized by Steve Buckley, longtime sports columnist for the Boston Herald and The Athletic, always has its share of celebrities. Merloni was the Sox chief utility infielder from 1998 to 2002; Papelbon pitched from 2005 to 2011. For this 30th annual game, who isn't on the field is just as important. Since its start in 1994, the Oldtime Baseball Game has taken place at St. Peter's Field because Paul Ryder, Cambridge's director of recreation, offered to host the game there. Ryder would attend the games yearly with his wife and children. This year, Ryder's cousin will throw the first pitch to his son to honor Paul Ryder, who died in February. Sheila Ryder recalls how her husband would ensure the park was in pristine condition for game day. "It was a source of pride and joy for him," she said. The game is set to honor four more supporters who died in the past year, too: Tim Wakefield, former Red Sox pitcher; Dave Leibovitz, owner of Royal White Laundry; Jim Caple, ESPN columnist; and Cambridge's Paul Monagle, game fundraiser. Monagle helped find local organizations in need of support, but never wanted to be in the spotlight, said his wife, Kathleen, and son Daniel. "Seeing him at that game was sort of just another one of his weird ways where he would express himself and what he clearly cared about," Daniel Monagle said. Paul Monagle helped his son and nephew participate in the game – first

as bat boys, then as players. The games have "just kind of been a fixture in our lives," Kathleen Monagle said. The OldTime Baseball Game plays this year in recognition of people with multiple sclerosis; The Boston Home, a Dorchester community of 96 wheelchair users, is the fundraising partner again after 2023, when Aidan Freeburg, a player who has multiple sclerosis, worked with Buckley to find an MS foundation to work with. The game raised \$80,000 for programs at the home. It was "magical," and a lasting connection was formed, said Victoria Stevens, director of communications for The Boston Home. Fundraising is needed since MassHealth pays for only around 75 percent of what it costs to provide a quality life for residents – including such things as an art program or a wheelchair enhancement center that some might consider unnecessary add-ons, Stevens said. The Boston Home sees them as necessities, so they fundraise to cover the costs. Some staff and residents were able to attend the game last year, but one resident had an issue getting accessible transportation home. With funds raised from the previous game, The Boston Home was able to buy a new wheelchair van, Stevens said. Boston Home residents help meet fundraising goals too, creating programs to sell at the game or unique baseball player cards featuring each resident. For its community involvement, fundraising and baseball game, the event will be "a quintessential Cambridge evening," Kathleen Monagle said. ■ **Oldtime Baseball Game at 7 p.m. at St. Peter's Field, 65 Sherman St., Neighborhood 9, Cambridge (rain date: 7 p.m. Friday). Free. Bring a beach blanket or chair. Concessions by Wahlburger.**

Somergloom storms back

The homegrown heavy music fest celebrates all shades of black

By TYLER MOORE

Somerville's own underground heavy music festival, Somergloom, returns Friday and Saturday for its fourth year (starting with a Thursday party in Medford). With a bill characterized by genres ranging from metal to noise rock and sludge, any fan of sounds dark and slow will be able to find something to gloom to. Friday is headlined by Montreal metal outfit Big|Brave, whose latest album, "A Chaos of Flowers," incorporates the works of feminist poets including Emily Dickinson and Renée Vivien, putting their words to expansive and spellbinding musical compositions. On Saturday, Atlanta's Royal Thunder takes the lead with a psychedelic take on hard rock for their first

performance in the Boston area since 2018. Other bands in the two-day lineup are local artists Final Gasp and Stephen Brodsky & Adam McGrath, members of renowned Methuen metalcore band Cave In. This is the first year the festival takes place entirely in Somerville's Center for Arts at the Armory building, making use of the venue's performance hall and cafe. Fans lucky enough to squeeze into the cafe will find the shows more intimate but no less intense than those booming on the main stage. The first two Somerglooms took place at Boynton Yards, a developing business campus pitched as "where science and culture merge," and last year was spread out across three venues, including Davis Square's The Rockwell, during a three-day run. LoVerme and co-organizer JJ Gonson said this year's model of having performances on two stages on the same days fits more bands in the lineup, while keeping it under one roof makes for a cohesive and hassle-free festival experience. LoVerme prides the festival on its inclusivity and accessibility. Two-day general admission tickets go for under \$60, and VIP passes, which bring perks including a private party Thursday, are less than \$100. ■ **Somergloom, 6 p.m. past midnight Friday and Saturday, Center for Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Spring Hill, Somerville.**



Noise Floor Photography
Royal Thunder comes to town for the first time since 2018 for this year's Somergloom festival.

Somerville and Boston traded photographer exhibits this week

By CLAIRE OGDEN

Two photography happenings are open as of this week – one in Somerville, and another with the work of an artist with deep ties to the Somerville community. Boston photographer George Annan has work at &C Studio in Joy Street Studios, Joy St., Inner Belt. A Sunday reception sold out, but the exhibition is up for the week by appointment. Annan has kept his cards closed to his chest and hasn't shared preview images. Still, with his record (Annan has made work for Puma and The Wall Street Journal), the show is sure to be worth a visit. To book a time, potential visitors can email hello@andcruz.com. Iaritz Menjivar, a photographer who works as the Somerville Arts Council's events manager, has artwork in the Boston City Hall exhibition "Displacement," which opened Aug. 15. It explores the resilience, solidarity and cultural preservation efforts of the six artists on view, all artist-activists with unique immigration experiences. Menjivar's photographs are striking. In "dusk Guatemala," Menjivar captures a shot of a robin's egg blue



house at twilight. A girl sits opposite a boy, both looking tired and contemplative. A lush set of palm trees loom in the background. In "Domingo," Menjivar portrays a bird's eye view of a bright red family dining table strewn with limes, soup dishes, cups, spices and a bottle of Coca-Cola. The image bursts with all the joy and chaos of a routine family meal. This is just one more laurel for Menjivar. In 2022, WBUR selected her as one of its "Makers: 15 Artists of Color Leaving an Imprint on Massachusetts." She's had work on view at the Griffin Museum of Photography, the Somerville Museum and the Fort Point Arts Community. Menjivar also won the St. Botolph Emerging Artist award in 2016.

Iaritz Menjivar's "Domingo" is in the Boston City Hall exhibition "Displacement."

■ Do you know of a business opening or closing in Cambridge or Somerville? Send news to business@cambridgeday.com.

Weekly protests go on at offices while Elbit staff works remotely

From Page 1

BDS is short for “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions,” a movement to exert political and economic pressure to end Israeli actions against Palestinians in the Middle East.

About 25 to 30 demonstrators showed up Aug. 14 chanting slogans such as “Elbit is not welcome here” and “Palestine will be free.” The protests have taken on a predictable choreography, with demonstrators on the sidewalk across Bishop Allen Drive from the building and standing in the Bishop Allen Drive roadway for most of the event, then walking onto busy Prospect Street.

Police have often stopped traffic at neighboring intersections and they accompanied demonstrators as they walked along Prospect. Police have said their policy is to stop traffic and otherwise protect people engaging in peaceful protest.

Other building occupants – tenants include Reed Hilderbrand landscape architects, HMFH Architects and a coworking space called Workbar – have reportedly told protesters that the Cambridge Elbit space is no longer being used, and that the company is looking for another location.

As a result, how much longer police must put resources into safety during the weekly rallies is unclear. The lease ends in 2025, according to Compstak, a crowdsourced commercial real estate database that has been quoted occasionally in media such as The New York Times and Washington Post.

Current job openings listed on KMC’s website for the region are for Merrimack, New Hampshire. While there are plenty of Elbit jobs listed on the LinkedIn job site, similarly none are for positions in Cambridge.

Tenants don’t know

KMC and the building management company, Intercontinental Real Estate, did not respond to voicemail messages. A guard in the building lobby tried to have police remove a reporter who was asking employees entering the building whether KMC was still there, saying the reporter was harassing employees. All workers who were questioned said they didn’t know whether KMC was still there; one said the floor where it has an office is physically separated from other floors in the building, so people would ordinarily have no contact with Elbit employees.

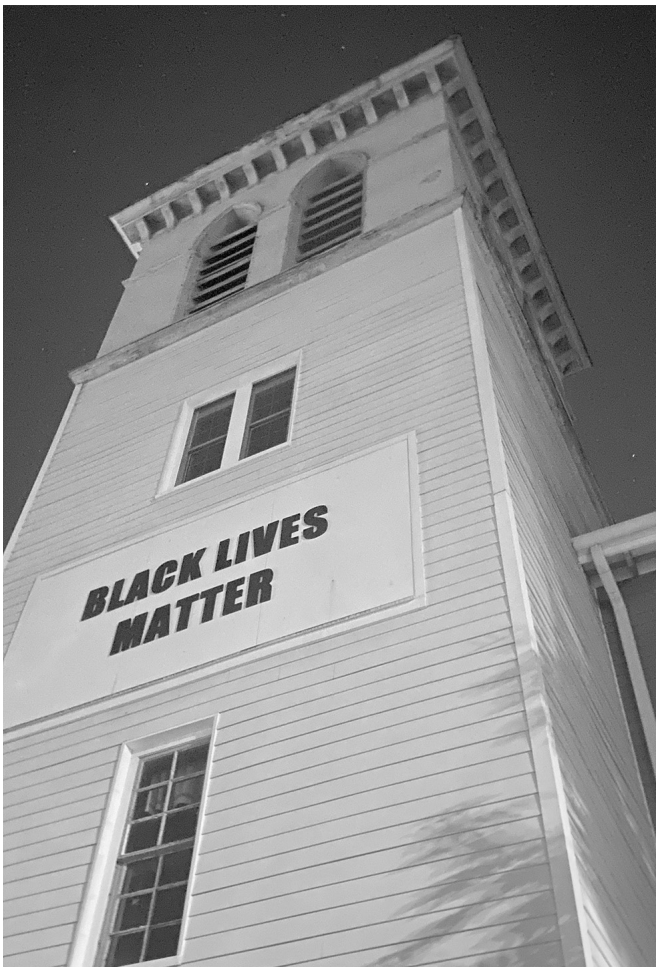
KMC makes and designs equipment used in biomedical research and production. After Elbit acquired the company, it opened its Cambridge office in December 2021, with then-Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui welcoming the firm. A KMC official has suggested that there are “synergies” between KMC’s medical technology work and parent Elbit Systems’ work.

Arrested protesters

Meanwhile, seven of the nine demonstrators arrested at the Cambridge building Oct. 30 after a protest turned violent reached agreements with prosecutors to have charges dismissed if they stay away from Elbit Systems offices and don’t commit another crime for six months. Police, who were outnumbered and surprised at the protest, said demonstrators struck them with eggs and paint, deployed smoke bombs, and tried to prevent officers from making arrests. Protesters said police started the violence.

The demonstrators who obtained deals with prosecutors faced a range of charges, including disorderly conduct, assaulting a police officer and vandalism.

The two defendants whose cases remain are Calla Walsh, 19, of Cambridge, facing two vandalism charges stemming from the Oct. 30 protest and an earlier incident; and Sophie Ross, 23, of Housatonic, who was charged with disorderly conduct and vandalism.



Marc Levy

The First Church of Somerville plans to host a homeless shelter that is relocating from a neighboring church.

Homeless shelter move survives zoning appeal

By MARC LEVY

A homeless shelter will be able to move up the block from one church to another and grow to 26 beds from 16, the Somerville Zoning Board of Appeals decided unanimously Aug. 14.

That meant rejecting an appeal by six neighbors that the move was being allowed only through misapplication of the so-called “Dover Amendment,” which can exempt educational and religious organizations such as the church from zoning laws.

Leasing space to the Somerville Homeless Coalition for a shelter was not a primary or dominant purpose of the First Church of Somerville, argued Anne Vigorito of Richard D. Girolamo Attorneys, and allowing the use opened the door for possible abuses if a conservative church came to Somerville.

That reasoning was rejected by Shawn McCormack, of the law firm of Davis Malm, representing the proponents of the shelter, as well as by the board’s counsel and ultimately by the board itself after an hour-and-a-half

hearing. Supporting people of different economic means is mentioned explicitly on the First Church website, board member Zac Zaremba noted.

The argument by neighbors appealing against a June decision to allow the shelter was also rejected by several people who called in to support the shelter – a few of whom referred to the opposition to it as “disgusting.”

That drew a rebuke from Zaremba.

“I’ve heard a lot of people tonight speak in judgment against the appellants for having concerns about the shelter opening. I do want to say that I empathize with them as well, and I understand their concerns. I don’t find it disgusting that they’re coming to us and asking for our input,” Zaremba said. “I think anybody would be concerned to have a homeless shelter open in their neighbor.”

The shelter is moving from the Holy Bible Baptist Church, less than 500 feet away at 64 College Ave. The shelter has been there for 40 years between Davis and Powder House squares but is in a state of disrepair and cannot be expanded, the coalition said.

Bookstore will activate two long-closed storefronts in Lesley building

From Page 1

The cafe that will serve in the new store is not Cafe Zing, which has decided to stay in the Porter Square Shopping Center and is looking for a new business to partner with. “It’s not a good fit for us,” Cafe Zing owner Mark Ostow said in a phone interview. “I like Porter Square too much. I like the community there.”

Zing opened in the bookstore around a year following its launch in 2004 after Ostow, a photographer, did an event there for a calendar he’d shot and liked the idea (“It kind of stunned my wife,” he recalled). It’s likely to stay much the same, putting up a temporary wall after the PSB move, Ostow said, and he might try to add a juice bar and a little more seating. “Each year we get busier and busier,” he said.

The bookstore will instead get a new coffee shop and food service by familiar owners: The Page & Leaf Cafe, which will be run by Jennifer Park and Tucker Lewis, founders of Somerville’s Diesel Cafe, Bloc Cafe and Forge Baking Co. & Ice Cream, with their chief executive and new partner in the venture, Courtney Verhaalen. “Page & Leaf Cafe is so grateful to be a part of its new home,” Park said.

If Page & Leaf agrees, the plan is to for the store to be open until 8 p.m. weekdays – adding another hour to the bookstore’s current weekday schedule – and still closing at 7 p.m. on weekends, said Josh Cook, a co-owner of PSB and its marketing director.

Size and doors that open onto the avenue aren’t the only perk the store is touting from the relocation. Owners also like the covered bike parking they will soon be able to offer and the ability to keep welcoming drivers. The university building gives free parking on nights and weekends and for the first 45 minutes on weekdays.

The bookstore, which employs 36 people and has a Boston seaport “edition” as well, will maintain its independent status despite being within the university building, Cook said. Finding a home so close by where it can add shelf space and other amenities is lucky, though: “Buying a building in the Porter Square neighborhood was never going to be a possibility for us,” he said.

The move fills two long-empty storefronts along Massachusetts Avenue, merging the former Bourbon Coffee and Webster Bank, both of which closed in 2021. The coffee shop lasted a decade; the bank branch, five years.

Next to the new Porter Square Books and also expected to open in the fall will be a new restaurant space opening onto the avenue, a corner entrance to the popular Japanese restaurants Yume



Marc Levy

Porter Square Books expects to relocate nearby in Cambridge as of October.

Ga Arukara and Ittoku, which are relocating from a food court inside to fill square footage that was a Shaking Crab seafood eatery from 2017 until mid-Covid pandemic.

“I’m delighted Porter Square Books is joining other locally owned businesses in University Hall,” said Janet Steinmayer, president of Lesley University. “We can’t think of a better home.”

A bookstore is a good match for a university building, Steinmayer said, especially one that long ago lost its Barnes & Noble-run student store.

It’s good for the community too, said Ruth Ryals, president of the Porter Square Neighbors Association.

Porter Square Books “will enliven the whole place,” opening up University Hall “and making it more friendly,” Ryals said.

In for the long haul at plaza

What happens at the Porter Square Shopping Center is less clear. Requests for comment went unanswered from TA Realty and Wilder, the partners who bought the plaza and eight other properties in 2022 for \$390 million. The 175,687-square-foot shopping center – with its Star Market and CVS, Tags hardware and chain eateries such as a Panera Bread and Halal Bros. – has been making a series of improvements to its parking lot. A Cambridge Savings Bank branch

was renovated five years ago, and the Star Market has been getting a monthslong refurbishment that got a Thursday grand opening with executives from its parent company, Albertsons.

Similarly, the owners of the health and wellness store Cambridge Naturals, the bookstore’s current neighbor, is in for the long haul. “While we are saddened at the loss of our symbiotic neighbors and friends Porter Square Books from the plaza, we are excited for their expansion, and very heartened that Cafe Zing is here to stay,” said Emily Kanter, the store’s second generation of owner. She said she was “very optimistic for the future of a robust Cambridge Naturals in the Porter Square Shopping Center. We look forward to engaging this vibrant local community for years to come.”

Neither Albertsons nor Cambridge Savings Bank were willing to reveal how much they spent on renovations. But every signal from plaza tenants and ownership is for long-term occupation of a superb block of mainly one-story structures in a city that is under immense pressure to add housing by building towers with retail at their base.

If that’s the case, Ryals said, “I hope the community can help influence what goes in there. The plaza needs an anchor like Porter Square Books.”

The bookstore’s 20th anniversary party is set for 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 28 at its current location: 25 White St., Porter Square, Cambridge.

EVENTS AHEAD AUG. 22–29

7 p.m. Aug. 29

Porter Square Books, 25 White St.,
Porter Square, Cambridge

Friends of Porter Square Books Author Reading: Kids/YA Edition

Free, but register. This reading by local children's book authors to celebrate the book shop's 20 year anniversary features Kylie Lee Baker, Kristin Cashore, Malinda Lo, Rebecca Mahoney, Raul the Third, Susan Tan and Sara St. Antoine.

5 p.m. Aug. 24 (and continuing Aug. 25
and two more dates through Sept. 1)
Raymond Park, 106 Raymond St.,
Neighborhood 9, Cambridge

Shakespeare's "Richard III"

Free. The outdoors Shakespeare troupe Dream Role Players performs the Bard's tragic history play during this glorious summer.

7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 24
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy,
113 Brattle St., West Cambridge

Fourth Annual Ifeanyi Menkiti Memorial Reading

\$10, but registration is required. This reading honors the late owner of the Grolier Poetry Book Shop, Wellesley philosophy professor and Nigerian-born poet Ifeanyi Menkiti. Also via Zoom.

12:30 p.m. Aug. 26
(and every Monday through Oct. 28)
Longfellow House and the Washington's Headquarters
National Historic Site, 105 Brattle St., West Cambridge

Deep Dive Tour: Washington Reexamined

Free. This weekly tour explores George Washington's legacy and the lives of enslaved and free people at his headquarters.

8 p.m. Aug. 28
The Sinclair, 52 Church St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

Cloud Cult performs

\$25. Known for multimedia artistry and ecological practices (they co-developed the first 100-percent postconsumer recycled CD packaging and plant trees to offset the greenhouse gases they create on tour), the independent rock band just released a 12th album, "Alchemy Creek."

Club Passim, 47 Palmer St.,
Harvard Square, Cambridge

7 p.m. Aug. 26

A Night of Story in Three Parts

\$15 to \$20. Dan Dahari, the Natick-raised adopted Mexican/ Navajo son of an Israeli falafel entrepreneur and an American Jewish "overbearing mother," presents an evening as Little Indian Productions with guest storytellers, music and a story slam open mic.

8 p.m. Aug. 29

Sophie Mae Wellington

\$18 to \$20. This old-time fiddler, jazz singer and percussive dancer originally from the Shenandoah Valley sings jazz melodies and harmonies as well as flatfoots Southern Appalachian rhythms and drives tunes with her high-energy bowing.

7 p.m. Aug. 22
The Burren, 247 Elm St.,
Davis Square, Somerville

Grant Peeples

\$17 to \$20 and all ages. The self-described "tree-hugger that watches Nascar" performs ax-sharp sociopolitical tunes with raucous humor, compassion and a critical eye on American culture and identity.

8 p.m. Aug. 23
Somerville Theatre's Crystal
Ballroom, 55 Davis Square

F*ck the DJ with the Femmes

\$20 to \$25. A queer song-along dance party with live music by The Femmes Band, go-go dancers and burlesque performances from FemMenThem.

The Rockwell, 255 Elm St.,
Davis Square, Somerville

7 p.m. Aug. 22

Comedian Vanessa Gonzalez

\$20 to \$25 and 18-plus. The Texas native who's been on Comedy Central, HBO and Netflix shares stories about growing up in a border town, issues with parents and more.

5 to 9 p.m. Aug. 29
Harvard Art Museums,
32 Quincy St., near Harvard
Square, Cambridge

Harvard Art Museums at Night

Free. Wander exhibits, catch spotlight tours, browse the shop, enjoy sounds from DJ C-Zone and buy snacks from local vendors.

Noon to 2 p.m. Aug. 25
Cambridge Community Center,
5 Callender St., Riverside

Free Store

Free. Cambridge's Recycling Advisory Committee invites you to drop off usable clothing, household goods and other items you no longer need (no furniture or junk, please) and "shop" for items you do need.

6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 28
Nature Center at Magazine Beach,
668 Memorial Drive, Cambridgeport

Evening Family Kayaking

Free and families with children ages zero and up, but register. This guided ecotour by kayak welcomes paddlers of all abilities. Gear is provided, and the program begins with beginner paddler instruction.

6 to 7 p.m. Aug. 22
Riverside Press Park, 2 Blackstone St., Riverside, Cambridge

Dancing Outdoors: Beginner Bollywood

Free. Learn choreography to a high-energy Bollywood song with instructor Swati Tiwari of Boston Bollywood as part of a series of summer park events sponsored by The Dance Complex and the City of Cambridge.

Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge

7 p.m. Aug. 22

Jesselyn Cook reads from "The Quiet Damage: QAnon and the Destruction of the American Family"

Free. Through the stories of five families, the investigative reporter and 2025 Nieman Fellow at Harvard looks into the psychology of how and why ordinary people become vulnerable to outrageous falsehoods promising order, purpose and control. She's joined by Gina Smith, the investigations editor for McClatchy's South Carolina newspapers and also a Nieman Fellow.

7 p.m. Aug. 29

The first-ever Very Harvard Book Store Presentation Night

Free. Local authors present on any topic, as serious or silly as they want, for 10 minutes each. Up first are Stephanie Burt, author of "We Are Mermaids," and Sacha Lamb, author of "When the Angels Left the Old Country."

■ List your cultural happenings at events@cambridgeday.com.



Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Somerville

7 p.m. Aug. 22

Burnout Syndromes performs

\$26.50. This three-piece Japanese band have produced two albums and were part of the original soundtrack of the anime “Haikyu!!” in its second season.

6 p.m. Aug. 23-24

Somergloom

\$35 daily or \$58 for a two-day pass, and 21-plus. A festival by Once Somerville and Treebeard Media showcases the heavy music scene, from haunting dark folk to harrowing doom metal. Tonight’s lineup features Big|Brave, Spiritual Poison and more, as well as vendors with art, clothes and records. Tomorrow’s got Royal Thunder, Black Pyramid and more.

7:30 p.m. Aug. 27

The Moth story slam

\$15. This monthly storytelling competition is open to anyone who can share a five-minute tale on the night’s theme – this time, “Comebacks,” about “rising from the ashes, a return to form or a totally new you. Emerging victorious after trailing behind.”

Gilman Park, 350 Medford St., Gilman Square, Somerville

8 to 10 p.m. Aug. 22

Outdoor Movie Night

Free and ages 10-plus. The final film in the series screening cult sci-fi on 16 millimeter is 1994’s “Time Chasers.”

10 to 11 a.m. Aug. 24

Joan Lorentz Park at 449 Broadway, Mid-Cambridge (in front of the Cambridge Main Library)

Dancing Outdoors: Folk Dance with Andy Taylor

Free. Dances from all over the world that everyone can join – circle dances, solo dances and more, no experience required. Part of a series of summer park events sponsored by The Dance Complex and Cambridge Public Library.

Noon to late night Aug. 24

Bow Market, 1 Bow Market Way, Union Square, Somerville

Circus Extravaganza

Free to \$40. Watch performances on the Cyr Wheel and Lyra Aerial Hoop plus antics by clowns, balloon artists and jugglers as you snarf animal crackers, hot dogs, popcorn and cotton candy. Upstairs at 6:30 p.m. a ticketed 21-plus event features circus acts, burlesque, comedy, poetry, music and more.

7:30 to 10 p.m. Aug. 23

Lilypad, 1353 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge

Brassterisk and Markologic: An Evening of Music and Merriment

\$10. A six-piece Nola-second-line style band that plays funky hip-hop crossovers and “pop music detritus of the last few decades,” plus a musical artist who seems heavily inspired by absurd (and even obscene) stand-up comedy.

7 p.m. Aug. 27

Museum of Science, 1 Science Park, Boston, on the Cambridge border

Daniel J. Levitin reads from “I Heard There Was a Secret Chord: Music as Medicine”

\$30 with book and 18-plus. The award-winning musician, McGill University neuroscientist and bestselling author researches fundamental questions in auditory memory, musical structure and the neuroanatomy and neurochemistry of musical experience.

Noon to 6 p.m. Aug. 25

Greene-Rose Heritage Park, 155 Harvard St., The Port, Cambridge

Everybody Gotta Eat barbecue cookout

Free entry. A community cookout and vendor fair organized by Everybody Gotta Eat showcases various food and retail businesses. Part of the City of Cambridge’s National Black Business Month.

6:30 p.m. Aug. 23-25

The Foundry, 101 Rogers St., East Cambridge

“Let’s Misbehave”: A New Queer Play

\$25 to \$65. Written by Lawrence Gullo, this new jazz-age romantic comedy set in 1930s London centers queer and trans partygoers and includes a countess, an anarchist, an aristocrat, a flapper fashionista and a trombone-playing vicar among its cast of characters.

5 to 5:30 p.m. Aug. 28

List Visual Arts Center, 20 Ames St., Kendall Square, Cambridge

Student Lending Art Program exhibition tour

Free. Check out the mvore than 700 original works of art in the collection (on view through Sept. 16) and envy the enrolled MIT students who since 1977 have had the opportunity to borrow (via a lottery), appreciate and live with them for the academic year, for free.

6:30 p.m. Aug. 27

Pandemonium Books & Games, 4 Pleasant St., Central Square, Cambridge

“Have You Read This?” Classics Book Club

\$10 with the book and registration required. This time, discuss “The Martian Chronicles” by Ray Bradbury, about a strange and breathtaking world where humans do not belong.

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Aug. 24 (rain date: Sept. 7)

Clement Morgan Park, 60 Columbia St., The Port, Cambridge

Port Community Pride Day

Free. This annual celebration hosted by the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House begins with a basketball tournament and peace walk and continues with food, outdoor activities, entertainment, live music, city resources and more.

8 to 9:30 p.m. Aug. 24

Popp Boutique, 301 Massachusetts Ave., The Port, Cambridge

The Popp Boutique Comedy Show

\$15. Laugh among “beautiful artwork, handcrafted scented goods, crystals, body oils and more” at this Black-owned business that once a month becomes a comedy venue. Tonight’s local lineup: Jen Howell, Carolina Montesquieu, B. William Brooks, Caroline Moore, Dimetrius “Big D” Hullum and Cameron Morton. Hosted by Chef Phil.

FILM AHEAD AUG. 22-29

LOCAL FOCUS



Leatherface in the 1974 horror classic “Texas Chain Saw Massacre.”

‘Chain Saw Massacre’ continues to slay them; make room for Pee-wee

By OSCAR GOFF

This year marks the 50th anniversary of what is, in my estimation, quite possibly the greatest horror movie ever made: Tobe Hooper’s “The Texas Chain Saw Massacre” (1974). Made on a shoestring in the sweltering southern heat by the first-time filmmaker and a cast of unknowns, “TCM” is a true miracle of independent filmmaking.

Its grimy, deceptively intricate production design and sun-dappled 16 mm photography give the film the look of a documentary (or perhaps a snuff film), and its extended, nightmarish climax, in which final girl Marilyn Burns tries desperately to outrun the hulking serial killer Leatherface (played by Maine native Gunnar Hansen) achieves a level of terror unmatched in the annals of horror.

In accordance with the film’s magnitude of fame, “The Texas Chain Saw Massacre” screens this week in a new 4k restoration at **The Brattle Theatre** (where it runs Thursday through Sunday as part of the theater’s “Cruel Summer” series) and the **Somerville Theatre** (where it will screen in regular showings Friday through Aug. 29).

If that’s not enough mayhem for you, the Somerville also screens Hooper’s follow-up, “The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2” (1986) at midnight on Saturday. The sequel is a very different beast from the original – a big-budget, deliberately outrageous horror comedy made for the MTV generation – but it is your only chance to see Leatherface battle Dennis Hopper in a chainsaw duel, and for that I will always love it.

Thursday sees another free screening in Somerville’s Gilman Park, courtesy of the voluminous 16 mm collection of Hi-Energy Vintage. This month’s is a true rarity: the 1994 Vermont-shot sci-fi thriller “Time Chasers.” Like “Texas Chain Saw,” “Time Chasers” is a work of regional filmmaking, shot over the course of several years by a crew of scrappy but dedicated New Englanders. “Time Chasers” may well have faded into obscurity had it not been showcased (and, admittedly, mocked) in a fan-favorite 1997 episode of TV’s “Mystery Science Theater 3000.”

Despite its cult status, this is a film that almost never screens in public, let alone on actual film, let alone for free in a lovely park where you can enjoy a picnic while watching its time-travel-

ing antics – yet another reminder that we live in a truly special place for moviegoing.

IFFBoston’s “Hot Summer Nights” series continues through the “Erotic ’90s” at the Somerville, with more steamy, occasionally shocking films introduced by local film critics and other notables. On Monday, you can catch “Bound” (1996), the lesbian thriller that introduced the world to future “Matrix” directors Lana and Lily Wachowski, with an introduction by filmmaker Amy Geller. Tuesday sees David Cronenberg’s wildly controversial “Crash” (1996), easily one of the most transgressive films of the series; if I sound particularly excited about this screening, it’s because it will be hosted by none other than yours truly! Stick around after “Crash” for Jennifer Lynch’s “Boxing Helena” (1993), with an introduction by Arts Fuse critic Nicole Veneto, then come back Wednesday for a 4k screening of “Lost Highway” (1997), directed by Jennifer’s dad, David Lynch, and introduced by critic Peter Keough (also of Arts Fuse, as well as the late, lamented Boston Phoenix).

Tuesday would have been the 72nd birthday of Paul Reubens, the comic genius better known to the world as Pee-wee Herman. To celebrate, The Brattle hosts a 35 mm screening of Mr. Herman’s finest hour, 1985’s “Pee-wee’s Big Adventure.” You likely know the story: Pee-wee’s beloved bicycle is stolen, sending the beloved man-child on a cross-country odyssey filled with biker gangs, phantom truckers and disappointing revelations about the architecture of the Alamo. “Big Adventure” is as madcap and cartoonish as live-action studio comedies are allowed to be, jumping from one giddy set piece to another with the sort of loopy freneticism Pee-wee would become famous for (Reubens co-wrote the screenplay with the late, great Phil Hartman, who would later appear as Captain Carl on “Pee-wee’s Playhouse”). It’s also exceptionally well-made, the feature debut of director Tim Burton and composer Danny Elfman.

Oscar Goff is a writer and film critic based in Somerville. He is film editor and senior critic for the Boston Hassle, and a member of the Boston Society of Film Critics, Boston Online Film Critics Association and the Online Film Critics Society.

Cambridge-Somerville is a film mecca, with a half-dozen sites with a total 36 screens open daily:

The Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Harvard Square, Cambridge. Founded in 1953 and a nonprofit since 2001. One 250-seat theater with 7.1 surround sound and 35 mm capabilities with a specialty in themed repertory programs and classic, cutting-edge, foreign and art-house films as well as some first-runs and new releases of classics. **(617) 876-6837 and brattlefilm.org**

Harvard Film Archive at The Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., Harvard Square, Cambridge. Founded in 1979 at Harvard University. One 188-seat theater with DCP, 35mm, 16mm and Super 8 capabilities and a repertory archive of more than 40,000 pieces of cinema history from around the world. **(617) 495-7578 and harvardfilmarchive.org**

Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square. Founded in 1914. Three screens with 1,566 seats, including one with Dolby Digital Sound and 24 surround speakers and 70mm capabilities for a mix of first-run and repertory fare and classics. **(617) 625-5700 and somervilletheatre.com**

Landmark Kendall Square Cinema, 355 Binney St., Cambridge. Opened in 1995. Nine screens with 682 seats with DLP digital projection and sound showcasing independent film, foreign-language cinema, restored classics and documentaries with some first-run and even blockbuster films mixed in. **(617) 621-1202**

Apple Cinemas Cambridge, 168 Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge Highlands near Alewife and Fresh Pond. First opened in 1965, reopened in 1990 with 10 screens. A specialty in screening South Asian cinema along with first-run films. **(617) 229-6555**

AMC Assembly Row 12, 395 Artisan Way, Assembly Square, Somerville. Opened in 2014 with a dozen screens for first-run films with IMAX capabilities and Dolby sound. **(617) 440-4192**

FILM CLIPS



Xenomorphs return in an “Alien” series “interquel.”

‘Alien: Romulus’ scarily familiar in how it chases a series’ thrills

By TOM MEEK

If you can’t get Ripley, go for Rain, or so that’s how this “interquel” between “Alien” (1979) and “Aliens” (1986) rolls. In theory, Ripley is in a cryogenic sleep in a space pod elsewhere as this bombastic stand-alone episode unfolds on a grungy remote mining planet where Rain (Cailee Spaeny, “Priscilla,” “Civil War”) is indentured to labor 12,000 hours before she and her android “brother” Andy (David Jonsson) can leave. We catch up with Rain just after she has notched her hour quota, but when she goes to pick up her off-world pass, she’s informed that the corporation running the show (Weyland, so prevalent in “Prometheus” and perhaps an intergalactic rival to Atlas in “Borderlands,” reviewed below) has doubled the ante; she’s got another five years to go. She and her posse of hipster hackers discover a dormant space station drifting by the planet and hatch the idea to fire it up, slip into cryogenic pods and jet off to somewhere with clean air and fresh water. What begins as a pipe dream quickly becomes a nightmare when the adrift Romulus turns out to be a hive of the jaws-within-jaws xenomorphs that so voraciously ate their fill of other all-too-curious humans in other “Alien” deep-space chillers. “Alien” director Ridley Scott must have green-lit the full-on cut-and-paste pastiche on display here, as he serves as a producer on the film directed by Fede Alvarez (“The Girl in the Spider’s Web”). Much of the action is muddled and, as far as character development goes, Rain’s synth sibling probably has the deepest backstory of all ... and it’s on a programmed chip slipped in and out of a slot behind his ear.

At Kendall Square, Fresh Pond and Assembly Row.

★★★☆☆



Cate Blanchett leads the cast of “Borderlands.”

‘Borderlands’ is a losing game

By TOM MEEK

This lackluster sci-fi adventure based on the hit video game gets an extra half-star just for its fine cinematic framing of Cate Blanchett’s alluring cheekbones. You could see “Borderlands” as a project with possibility, helmed by Eli Roth as a maestro of mostly lo-fi shock fare (“Cabin Fever,” “Hostel” and “The Green Inferno”) and featuring poker-hot thespians Blanchett and Jamie Lee Curtis. Unfortunately, the script is a pileup of tired lines such as “I’m too old for this shit” and nothing clicks. Blanchett is Lilith, an intergalactic bounty hunter impossible to miss with her cool, punky pink shock of hair and tasked with reluctantly retrieving the wayward daughter (Ariana Greenblatt) of a universe-spanning CEO from a rust-bucket planet named Pandora. The youth is key to opening something known as “the Vault” on another far-flung planet, a concept that likely makes more sense in online play; here, it’s a dull, uninspired MacGuffin. Comedian Kevin Hart is uncharacteristically mute here; it’s Jack Black voicing beat-up ’bot Claptrap that notches the film’s few genuine laughs in a film sitting in a studio vault before Blanchett delivered her knockout performance in “Tár” in 2022. Its resurrection and theatrical run is further evidence of the downstream ills of the writers’ strike.

At Kendall Square, Fresh Pond and Assembly Row.

★★★☆☆

MUSIC

ATTEND

Satanic panic track to play backward

By MICHAEL GUTIERREZ

Let’s visit Corrections Corner. As regular reader Harmonicat underlined in response to last week’s suggestion that Salem’s Satanic Temple practiced animal sacrifice, their rituals neither involve “the promotion of suffering” nor “animals.” You can read it for yourself at the Temple’s FAQ.

We’ll take them at their word. And why shouldn’t we? Animal sacrifice is a huge drag, whether it’s a fertility ritual at the Altar of Baal or your standard exsanguination procedure in an industrial slaughterhouse.

In truth, I fell prey to a 21st century version of “Satanic panic.” You know, the cultural phenomenon sparked by the fearmongering book “Michelle Remembers” that convinced parents in the 1980s there was a demonic cult lurking around every corner. Not just a boogeyman – a team of boogeymen! With bizarre rituals! Unfurling their dark intentions like a black sail over suburban America, getting incredible kicks (to paraphrase Hunter S. Thompson) from things the PTA will never know.

Tipper Gore’s Parents Music Resource Center came down particularly hard on heavy metal. If you were a rock ’n’ roller during the ’80s, you might have bought a Judas Priest record just to play it backward and find out if all the rumors about subliminal Satanic messaging were true. If they were, the devilish prank was only half as disturbing as some of the stuff you heard on the Beatles’ White Album ...

So let’s dial down the “Satanic panic.” The folks at The Satanic Temple don’t practice animal sacrifice, don’t worship Satan, don’t promote evil and don’t subscribe to belief in the supernatural. They’re just regular types, like you and me, who put on their branded “Hail Satan” sweatshirt, manufactured from Gildan 18500 heavy blend cotton (60 percent polyester, 40 percent U.S. cotton) one arm at a time. Currently available at the website in small and medium for \$60, plus shipping and handling.

Hit this

Friday *Gollylagging, Paper Lady, Alexander (The Rockwell, Somerville)*

It’s a record release celebration at the black box theater beneath Davis Square. Post-hardcore noisemakers Gollylagging usher their EP “Dry Rot” into the world. What kind of world awaits? A world full of microplastics, podcasts, hooligans running for office and state-sponsored terrorism. The album’s gnarly progressions, thunderous percussion and soporific mewling triangulate the chaos to find a space safe enough to strum a guitar. Emotionally intelligent underground rockers Paper Lady and Alexander join in support.

Friday and Saturday *Somergloom (Arts at the Armory, Somerville)*

A weekend of heavy music. “Heavy music” is a new phrase that artists FKA metalheads are using to put some distance between themselves and aged-out notions of what headbanging should look and feel like. Local festivals such as Somergloom and RPM Fest out in Western Mass are using the phrase to find audiences that may not have otherwise known

they like to buy and wear black band T-shirts. Artists such as Somergloom headliner Big|Brave, for example, will rock your socks off with growling guitar, haunting textures and eviscerating vocals. But they can also go soft and sound like they prefer cafes to biker bars. Plus, there’s a goddamn bouquet of flowers on the cover of their new album “A Chaos of Flowers.”

Aug. 30 *Coral Moons, Talk Chalk, Lady Pills (The Sinclair, Cambridge)*

Indie rockers Coral Moons got their start locally and have moved to Upstate New York where lead singer-songwriter Carly Kraft spends time “caring for her chickens.” Any relation to Robert Kraft? And does Carly know that Cambridge amended the zoning ordinance to allow henkeeping in the city last November? That’s right. Jump through a few hoops, which include obtaining the signed consent of property owners (good luck renters, you beautiful and blighted second-class citizens!), and you too can be an urban chicken farmer. Somebody tell Kraft at The Sinclair show. Tell hot dog detectives Talk Chalk and Lady Pills too. No roosters allowed.

Live jazz on Georges Island

If you keep walking east from anywhere in Camberville, you’ll hit the ocean.

If you keep walking east on the ocean floor (like the zombies in George Romero’s “Land of the Dead”), you’ll hit an island called The Graves. How fucking spooky is that?

But we’re talking here about a different island in Boston Harbor, south of The Graves, called Georges Island, that hosted a free pop-up jazz concert this past Sunday. A jazz quartet, plus a few lone wolf honkers, scattered themselves amid the ruins of Civil War-era Fort Warren to enchant a ferry’s worth of adventurous souls looking for a musical romp.

The afternoon was masterminded by the New England Jazz Collaborative, an organization dedicated to Promoting, Increasing, Creating, Forging, Embodying and Other Strong Verbing related to local jazz. Is this a nonprofit? If it is, it really soft-pedals the 501(c)(3) status, and it’s not popping up in the usual databases. In any event, it does good work, has a board of directors and will happily accept your tax-exempt donations.

The next time you get the chance to visit the islands in Boston Harbor, take it. The old fort at Georges Island is an overgrown rabbit warren of discovery. The jazz quartet set up shop in the main plaza. But the music fans who wandered away were greeted by the ghostly sonority of other solo saxophonists who had stashed themselves in various echo chambers throughout the sprawling stone edifice. With storm clouds looming and stray sax sounds on the breeze, you could have filmed an entire noir film trilogy in the space of a single Sunday visit.

Another perk? Whale sightings on the way to and from the island. Unusual, though not unheard of, and infinitely preferable to a swarm of locusts.

Michael Gutierrez is an author, educator, activist and editor-in-chief at Hump Day News.

■ Do you know of a restaurant opening or closing in Cambridge or Somerville, or do you have other food news tips? Send them to business@cambridgeday.com.

FOOD

WHAT WE’RE HAVING



Tom Meek

The Black Forest ham panini at Oggi Gourmet comes with arugula and brown honey mustard.

Great ham sandwiches in Harvard Square

SNACK



PRB Boulangerie croissant

Price: \$4

A few weeks ago I tried a croffle – the inventive treat from Ten One Tea House that uses croissant dough to make waffles – and it was delicious. But as much as I love creative combinations, sometimes I just want a regular croissant. PRB Boulangerie is a good spot for that: It’s about as classic as it gets, with baguettes and macarons alongside various pastries in Parisian-inspired interiors. As I guessed it would be in such a setting, the croissant was just about perfect. The outside was flaky, the inside had super thin, buttery layers and it had a satisfying chew while still feeling light. My only complaint was that it seemed ever so slightly undercooked, like it could’ve been a little crispier and more golden brown. The PRB Boulangerie croissant may not be the singular best croissant in Camberville, but I would say it’s definitely up there as a top contender.

MADELEINE AITKEN

■ **PRB Boulangerie, 118 Beacon St., Somerville, and in Kendall Square**

By TOM MEEK

“Ham on Rye” may just be my favorite Charlie Bukowski book; in it, the titular sandwich serves as a metaphor for the slim pickings in Depression-era L.A., where the semi-autobiographical narrative takes place. In Harvard Square, however, ham sandwiches reign supreme and there is nothing meager or shabby about them.

We’ve always been a fan of Oggi Gourmet’s pizza (slices for \$4 and under) and its signature jerk chicken sandwich, but owner Steve Welch also serves up a cleverly crafted, hot-pressed Black Forest ham panini enlivened with fresh arugula and a grainy brown honey mustard that gives it both a bite and a sweet tang. The light and airy sourdough it’s pressed on is an even bigger win. The grease-free, griddle-pressed panini makes for a hearty midday meal that verges on too much with its side of fairly addictive fries. I generally try to opt out of them, but temptation wins out as much as it’s thwarted.

For something equally hammy yet entirely different, head to Pronto in the Charles Hotel complex. Not sure enough folks know about it, but Pronto’s a worthwhile breakfast and lunch stop nearly out of sight behind Henrietta’s Table in the adjoining office complex. It closed during Covid and for a while, it seemed like the closing might be permanent. Thankfully, that turned out not to be so.

Pronto is a pretty small place, just a deli counter with a backroom kitchen, and its menu is tight too: breakfast (egg plates and sandwiches), pastries and cookies, cold and hot sandwiches, a hot entree of the day (brats, mac and cheese and chop suey, among the ones I spied), housemade soups of the day (which tend to be Italian) and fresh, prepackaged salads.

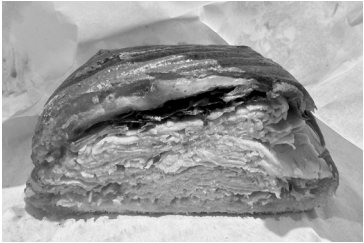
On the sandwich slate, most are named after world-renowned cities, including Casablanca (curried chicken salad on brioche), Cairo (roasted red peppers and goat cheese with a balsamic drizzle) or Rome (a chick-

■ **Oggi Gourmet, 30 Dunster St., Harvard Square, Cambridge**

■ **Pronto, 20 University Road, inside The Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, Cambridge**

en caesar salad wrap), but the blessed ham-wich I keep teasing is the the Giant Causeway, which comes in a hot pressed brioche bun with arugula, aged cheddar and bourbon barbecue sauce. It’s a big mound of lean ham nearly as densely packed as the subs from P&K Deli in Somerville and may induce the need for a siesta.

Unwrap and enjoy your Pronto feast in the communal café tables in the building’s lobby or, of course, the gorgeous Charles Hotel terrace: the garden side tables on the upper tier or tranquil beer garden space below by



Tom Meek

Diners may need a nap after a Giant Causeway at Pronto.

Noir. Similar to P&K, Pronto has limited hours that echo the work week (7 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

Oggi’s has more of a gathering space – a neat, loungey anteroom where it hosts jazz performers on certain nights. It also serves beer and wine, so you can get that ham panini or a reasonably priced slice of pie, pop the cap off a beer and get some work done as you feast.

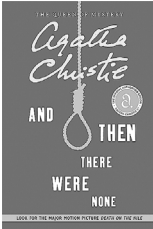
Tom Meek is a writer living in Cambridge. His reviews, essays, short stories and articles have appeared in the WBUR ARTery, The Boston Phoenix, The Boston Globe, The Rumpus, The Charleston City Paper and SLAB literary journal. Tom is also a member of the Boston Society of Film Critics and rides his bike everywhere.

ARTS

These are the all-time favorite books chosen by Cambridge librarians

By MADELEINE AITKEN

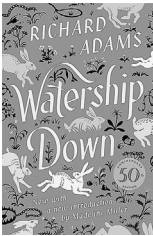
Asking a book lover their favorite book can be akin to asking a parent to choose their favorite child. We put Cambridge librarians to the test anyway, asking them: What’s your favorite book of all time? We’ve included lightly edited blurbs from the publishers to explain each title.



“And Then There Were None” by Agatha Christie
“I picked up this book when I was in middle school, and it inspired a lifelong love of mysteries in me; I read it again

last year and it definitely holds up. The shady characters, misdirects and red herrings are so effective that I found myself wondering if I had misremembered who the killer was! In my opinion, it’s the perfect mystery novel.” – Abby

Ten people, each with something to hide and something to fear, are invited to an isolated mansion on Indian Island by a host who, surprisingly, fails to appear. On the island they are cut off from everything but each other and the inescapable shadows of their own pasts. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts. And one by one, they die ... Which among them is the killer, and will any of them survive?

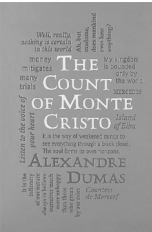


“Watership Down” by Richard Adams
“It’s a book I first read when I was about 10 years old and have revisited multiple times since, and every

time I read it I find new reasons to love it. I think some of the best books are the

ones that feel like they age alongside you, where you appreciate different things about them at different points in your life.” – Michael

Set in England’s Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of humans and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of brothers, they journey from their native Sandleford Warren, through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries and toward the dream of a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

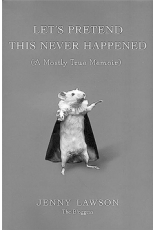


“Let’s Pretend This Never Happened: A Mostly True Memoir” by Jenny Lawson
“It’s a biography, it’s hilarious and I listened to it narrated by the author. But

it’s such a great story about growing up, recognizing and addressing your mental health and being a good human. I think of this book today and it still makes me smile.” – Kathy

When Jenny Lawson was little, all she ever wanted was to fit in. That dream was cut short by her fantastically unbalanced father and a morbidly eccentric childhood. It did, however, open up an opportunity for Lawson to find the humor in the strange shame-spiral that is her life, and we are all the better for it. In the irreverent “Let’s Pretend This Never Happened,” Lawson’s long-suffering husband and sweet daughter help her uncover the surprising discovery that the most terribly human moments – the ones we want to pretend never happened – are the same moments that make us the people we are. For every intellectual misfit who thought they were the only ones to think the things Lawson dares to say aloud, this is a poignant and hys-

terical look at the dark, disturbing yet wonderful moments of our lives.



“The Count of Monte Cristo” by Alexandre Dumas
“You need a really good translation and an unabridged edition. This book has everything: mystery, adventure,

despair, romance, hope, intrigue, revenge. Set in France in the Napoleonic era, this book will take you away on a good long journey.” – Anne

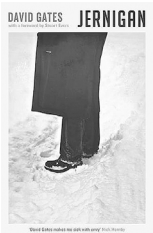
Thrown in prison for a crime he has not committed, Edmond Dantès learns of a great hoard of treasure hidden on the Isle of Monte Cristo. He becomes determined not only to escape, but to unearth the treasure and use it to plot the destruction of the three men responsible for his incarceration. Dumas’ epic tale of suffering and retribution, inspired by a real-life case of wrongful imprisonment, was hugely popular when it was first serialized in the 1840s.



“Relentless” by Dean Koontz
“It’s about a fantastical family who find themselves on the wrong end of a murderous book critic. It’s so funny, bright and charming that I still think about it even though I read it a long time ago.” – Bentley

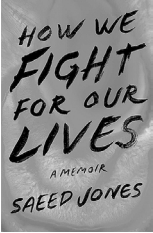
“Relentless” is a mesmerizing thriller about the battle of wills that ensues when a successful author and likable family man confronts a reclusive sociopath who wields an all-too-deadly poison pen. Respect Shearman Waxe’s opinion and you might escape with your career intact. Cross him and he’ll destroy you, your family and everything you hold dear. The title “America’s most feared critic” is one Waxe takes liter-

ally. Now Cubby Greenwich, his wife, Penny, their brilliant 6-year-old Milo and their uniquely talented noncollie, Lassie, are all about to learn the true meaning of “culture war.”



“Jernigan” by David Gates
“Of all the books on my shelf, my copy of ‘Jernigan’ is the most ragged. I can’t help but come back to Gates’ suburban tale of failure and self-destruction just to be overwhelmed by the range of emotions it inspires every single time. As one reader said, ‘I couldn’t put it down, but god I hated this guy.’” – Brynne

From Holden Caulfield to Moses Herzog, our best literature has been narrated by malcontents. To this lineage add Peter Jernigan, who views the world with ferocious intelligence, grim rapture and a chainsaw wit that he turns, with disastrous consequences, on his wife, his teenaged son, his dangerously vulnerable mistress – and, not least of all, on himself. This novel is a bravura performance: a funny, scary, mesmerizing study of a man walking off the edge with his eyes wide open, wisecracking all the way.

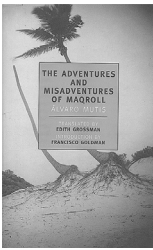


“How We Fight for Our Lives” by Saeed Jones
“It’s a memoir of a young, Black, gay man growing up in Texas. And that man is a poet, and the memoir

he writes is beautiful and lyrical and heart-wrenching and also hilarious. Jones has a knack for vibrant, descriptive writing about the most ordinary and mundane things.” – Kerri

Haunted and haunting, this memoir follows Jones as he fights to carve out

a place for himself within his family, his country and his own hopes, desires and fears. Through a series of vignettes that chart a course across the American landscape, Jones draws readers into his boyhood and adolescence – into tumultuous relationships with his mother and grandmother, into passing flings with lovers, friends and strangers. Each piece builds into a larger examination of race and queerness, power and vulnerability, love and grief: a portrait of what we all do for one another, and to one another, as we fight to become ourselves. Blending poetry and prose, Jones has developed a style that is equal parts sensual, beautiful and powerful and a voice that’s by turns a river, a blues and a nightscape set ablaze.



“The Adventures and Misadventures of Maqroll” by Álvaro Mutis
“Maqroll el Gaviero (The Lookout) has a series of hopeless adventures on land and sea during his restless travels around the world. Read if you’re into extraordinarily soulful writing, deep and fascinating characters, Don Quixote or tramp steamers.” – Billy

Maqroll the Gaviero is one of the most memorable characters in the fiction of the past 25 years. His extravagant and hopeless undertakings, his brushes with the law and scrapes with death and his enduring friendships and unlooked-for love affairs make him a Don Quixote for our day, driven from one place to another by a restless and irregular quest for the absolute. Álvaro Mutis’ seven dazzling chronicles of Maqroll have won him numerous honors and a passionately devoted readership throughout the world. All these wonderful stories appear in a single volume in Edith Grossman’s prize-winning translation – the first time in English.

Legal ads

■ Send legal ads and public notices at least six business days ahead of the intended publication date to advertising@cambridgeday.com with contact information that includes a contact name, phone number and address.

Meeting Notice Avon Hill Neighborhood Conservation District Commission

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting will be held on **Monday, August 26, at 5:30PM** to consider the following matters under M.G.L. Ch. 40C and Ch. 2.78 of the Code of the City of Cambridge and the Order establishing the District.

This meeting will be held online with remote participation. The public can participate online via the Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) from a phone, tablet, or computer. To join the meeting, register here: <https://tinyurl.com/AHAug2024>. Or call (301) 715 8592 Webinar ID: 857 0183 1501

AH-864: 89 Washington Avenue, by Fred Hamlin.
Replace windows.

Constantin von Wentzel,
Chair

Cambridge Day/The Week,
08/15/24, 08/22/24

CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT INVITATION TO BID RE-PAINT SEVEN BUILDINGS AT CORCORAN PARK

The Cambridge Housing Authority, as Owner and Managing Agent for its Affiliate Properties, invites sealed bids to Re-Paint Seven Buildings at Corcoran Park, in Cambridge, MA in accordance with the bid documents as written by the Cambridge Housing Authority.

The awarded contractor will be responsible for re-painting seven buildings at Corcoran Park, a family development

located in West Cambridge, MA. The scope of work will be to prep all painted surfaces which include sanding, scraping, washing, patching, priming, refinishing and to replace all deteriorated wood with special attention to trim, shingles and clapboards as identified in the bid specifications. The buildings will be fully occupied during construction and the term of this contract is 30 working days.

The estimated cost of this project is \$55,000.

Contract Documents will be available on www.procure.com (may be downloaded and viewed electronically) beginning **Thursday August 22, 2024, after 10:00 AM**. This project is being electronically bid, hard copies will not be accepted. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted online at www.procure.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available on the Procure website. There is no charge for the documents.

A site visit is scheduled for **Thursday August 29, 2024, at 10:00 AM**. Interested parties will meet at the Corcoran Park Management Office, 1 Corcoran Lane, Cambridge, MA 02138.

All bids should be submitted electronically online at procure.com and received no later than **Thursday September 5, 2024, by 2:00 PM** and will be publicly available online. Every bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Deposit not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount and made payable to the Cambridge Housing Authority in the form of cash, a certified check, bid bond, or treasurers or cashier’s check issued by a responsible bank or trust company. The bid security shall secure the execution of the contract and the furnishing of a Payment Bond in the amount of 50% of the contract value by the successful General Bidder as specified in the Contract Documents. All general bids are subject to provisions of MGL Chapter 30, Section 39M, and Chapter 149, Section 44A to J inclusive. All other applicable state laws, municipal ordinances, and rules and regulations of all

authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the project shall apply to the contract throughout and will be deemed to be included in the contract as if written out in full.

The time of acceptance of the bid by the Cambridge Housing Authority is 30 days from the date of the bid opening. Award of the contract is conditioned on approval by the Cambridge Housing Authority’s Board of Commissioners. The contract is subject to appropriation of adequate funds and may be cancelled in the event such funds are not available.

The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding if it is in the public interest to do so. The Cambridge Housing Authority also reserves the right to reject the bids if less than three bids are received.

The wages paid to all employees on this project shall not be less than the Prevailing Wage Rates. Refer to wage rate schedule in the Project Specification.

No interpretations of the meaning of the specifications, or

■ Send legal ads and public notices at least six business days ahead of the intended publication date to advertising@cambridgeday.com with contact information that includes a contact name, phone number and address.

other pre-bid documents shall be made to any bidder orally. Every request for such interpretation must be submitted in writing by **Monday August 26, 2024, by 2:00 PM** to Rocky Ludger, Senior Purchasing Agent at: rludger@cambridge-housing.org. In the event there are any changes or clarifications, an addendum no less than 48 hours before bids are due will be provided to all parties listed on CHA's list of plan holders for the project. It is the responsibility of bidder to confirm if there were any addenda issued prior to submission of their bid.

Cambridge Day/The Week, 08/22/24

LEGAL NOTICE

By force of the power vested in me by Special Act of the State Legislature of 1961 (Chapter 455), Special Act of the State Legislature of 2024 (Chapter 131), I hereby amend the Traffic Regulations of the City of Cambridge by adding the following regulation.
REGULATION #2024-01 Regulation Number 66-1, Section 21.2, “SCHEDULE 13” is hereby amended by striking out the following:

Sections 16.3(a), (e) and (f), 16.4(a), 16.4(c), 16.9, 16.13, and 16.14. Section 18.3(b)
The penalties for the above sections shall be \$25 except for the following sections: 14.1(a) 2-3 and 7, 14.1(b) 9-10, 14.7(a)(b), 14.9(a)(b), 16.4(b), 16.8, and 16.14 shall be \$30. Sections 14.1(a)1, 14.1(a)9, 14.1(a) 4-6, 14.1(b)2, 14.1(b) 6-8, 16.3(f) and 16.5(b) shall be \$40. Sections 14.1(a)(10), 15.2, and 16.7 shall be \$50.00.

The first late penalty shall be \$10 for all sections except 14.7(d), 15.2, 15.5(a) and 16.7. The first late penalty for Sections 15.2 and 15.5(a) shall be \$0. The first late penalty for Section 14.7(d) and 16.7 shall be \$5. The second late penalty shall be \$0 for Sections 15.5(a) and 16.7. The second late penalty shall be \$5 for Sections 14.1(a) 4-6, 14.1(b) 6-8, 15.2, 16.3(f) and 16.5(b). The second late penalty shall be \$10 for Sections 14.1(a)(1), 14.1(a)(9), 14.1(a)(10) and 14.1(b)(2). The second late penalty shall be \$15 for Sections 14.1(a) 2-3 and 7, 14.1(b)(4), 14.1(b) 9-10, 14.7(a)(b), 14.9(a)(b), 16.4(a), 16.4(b), 16.8, and 16.14. The second late penalty shall be \$20 for Sections 13, 14.1(a)(8), 14.1(b) (3), 14.1(b)(5),14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.8, 15.2(d), 15.4, 16.3(a) (d)(e), 16.9, 16.13, and 18.3. The third late penalty (non-renewal) shall be \$40.00 for all sections except for Section 15.5(a). All late penalties per the Law of the Commonwealth, G.L. c.90 §20A½.

And furthermore by adding the following:
Sections 16.3(a), (e) and (f), 16.4(a), 16.4(c), 16.9, 16.13, and 16.14. Section 18.3(b)
The penalties for the above sections shall be \$25 except for the following sections: 14.1(a) 2-3 and 7, 14.1(b)(9)-(10), 14.7(a)-(b), 14.9(a)-(b), 16.4(b), 16.8, and 16.14 shall be \$30. Sections 14.1(a)(1), 14.1(a)(9), 14.1(a)(4)-(6), 14.1(b)(2), 14.1(b)(6)-(8), 16.3(f) and 16.5(b) shall be \$40. Sections 14.1(a)(10), and 15.2 shall be \$50.00. Section 16.7 shall be \$100.
The first late penalty shall be \$10 for all sections except 14.7(d), 15.2, and 15.5(a). The first late penalty for Sections 15.2 and 15.5(a) shall be \$0. The first late penalty for Section 14.7(d) shall

be \$5. The second late penalty shall be \$0 for Sections 15.5(a). The second late penalty shall be \$5 for Sections 14.1(a)(4)-(6), 14.1(b)(6)-(8), 15.2, 16.3(f) and 16.5(b). The second late penalty shall be \$10 for Sections 14.1(a)(1), 14.1(a)(9), 14.1(a)(10), and 14.1(b) (2). The second late penalty shall be \$15 for Sections 14.1(a)(2)-(3) and (7), 14.1(b)(4), 14.1(b)(9)-(10), 14.7(a)-(b), 14.9(a)-(b), 16.4(a), 16.4(b), 16.7, 16.8, and 16.14 . The second late penalty shall be \$20 for Sections 13, 14.1(a)(8), 14.1(b) (3), 14.1(b)(5), 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.8, 15.2(d), 15.4, 16.3(a),(d) and (e), 16.9, 16.13, and 18.3. The third late penalty (non-renewal) shall be \$40.00 for all sections except for Section 15.5(a). All late penalties per the Law of the Commonwealth, G.L. c.90 §20A½.

This regulation shall take effect
September 1, 2024

PROMULGATED DATE:
August 15, 2024

Jeffrey R. Parenti
Traffic Director

Cambridge Week, 8/15/24, 8/22/24, 8/29/24

LEGAL NOTICE
CAMBRIDGE
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 6:00 PM** to consider the following matters under M.G.L. Ch. 40C and Ch. 2.78 of the Code of the City of Cambridge:

This meeting will be held online with remote participation. The public may participate via Zoom webinar (<https://zoom.us/>) from a phone, tablet, or computer. To join the meeting, register at: **<https://tinyurl.com/CHCsep5-2024> or call (301)715-8592**. Webinar ID#: 850 2530 3973. Confirm meeting details and materials at <https://tinyurl.com/CHistComm>. Submit written comment to histcomm@cambridgema.gov prior to 24 hours before the meeting.

Public Hearing: Landmark Designation Procedures
Case L-147: 43-45 Mt Auburn St. Foundation for Civic Leadership, owner. Continuation of 7/11/24 hearing regarding citizen petition for landmark study.

Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties
Case 5163: 165 Brattle St., by Sophie Higgs. Continuation of 8/8/24 hearing. Exterior renovations including new windows and siding at rear wing; construct rear addition; fences, gates, walkway and patio.
Case 5173: 173 Mt. Auburn St., by President & Fellows of Harvard College. Change exterior paint colors; replace windows.
Case 5174: 10 Garden St., by President & Fellows of Harvard College. Install temporary banners and wall sign for Harvard Radcliffe Institute anniversary.

Bruce A. Irving, Chair
Cambridge Week, 8/22/24, 8/29/24

Cases may be taken out of order and approved at the beginning of the meeting. Persons who wish to have a hearing on a case should notify the Commission in advance or be present at the beginning of the meeting when the Consent Agenda will be discussed.

Legal Notice
Mid Cambridge
Neighborhood
Conservation District
Commission

Notice is hereby given that the Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, September 9, 2024 at 6:00PM** to consider the following applications under Ch. 2.78, Article III of the City Code and the Order establishing the District.

The meeting will be held online with remote participation. The public can participate online via the Zoom platform (<https://zoom.us/>) from a phone, tablet, or computer. To join the meeting, register at <https://tinyurl.com/MCSept2024> or call (301)715-8592 Webinar ID: 824 6682 1387.

MC-7104: 123 Hancock Street, by MSW Hancock LLC. Amend Certificate of Appropriateness MC-6447 for new fence.

Tony Hsiao, Chair
Cambridge Day, The Week, 08/22/24, 08/29/24

City of Cambridge
Massachusetts
BOARD OF ZONING
APPEAL

831 Mass Avenue,
Cambridge, MA.

617) 349-6100

The Board of Zoning Appeal will hold a Virtual Public Meeting, THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 5, 2024. Members of the public can participate or view the meeting remotely using the **Zoom Webinar link: <https://cambridgema.zoom.us/j/85299551558>**
Or join by phone: Dial +1 929 436 2866 or +1 301 715 8592 - Webinar ID: 852 9955 1558

6:00 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-277199 5 JFK STREET Business B/Harvard Square Overlay
HARVARD COLLECTION, LLC – C/O JAMES J. RAFFERTY, ESQ.
Special Permit: To operate a quick service (formula business) food establishment serving smoothie bowls in a location currently operating as a quick service food use serving bubble tea. Art. 4.000, Sec. 4.35.o & Art. 11.000, Sec. 11.30 (Fast Order or Quick Service Food Establishment).
Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit).

6:15 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-273648 98-R SHERMAN STREET Residence C-2 Zone
THOMAS SEUFERT, CAROLYN FISHER – C/O SCHNEIDEE CYPRIEN

Special Permit: Adding and expanding windows within side and rear yard setbacks. Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements). Art. 8.000, Sec. 8.22.2.c (Non-Conforming Structure). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit).

6:30 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-269135 50 SACRAMENTO STREET Residence C-1 Zone 50 SACRAMENTO ST. LLC – SCOTT ZINK – C/O ANDREW COLLINS
Special Permit: To install egress window and window well thereby increasing the pre-existing nonconforming height of the house by changing the average grade. Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements). Art. 8.000, Sec. 8.22.2.d & Sec. 8.22.2.c (Non-Conforming Structure). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit).

6:45 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-269132 40 ROYAL AVENUE Residence B Zone
40 ROYAL AVE LLC – SCOTT ZINK – C/O ANDREW COLLINS
Special Permit: To install 2 new egress windows and window wells that will increase the pre-existing nonconforming height of the building by changing the average grade and addition of 2 new windows on a facade on a nonconforming yard.
Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements). Art. 8.000, Sec. 8.22.2.c (Alteration of Non-Conforming Structure) & Sec. 8.22.2.d (Enlargement of a Pre-existing Nonconformity). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit).

7:00 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-279906 38 HUBBARD AVENUE Residence C-1 Zone
JANE B. ROLLINS – C/O MAHMOOD FIROUZBAKHT
Special Permit: Extension and addition to the rear of a pre-existing non-conforming single-family home as well as windows located in the required side setbacks. Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements), Art. 8.0000, Sec. 8.22.2.d & Sec. 8.22.2.c (Non-Conforming Structure).
Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit).

7:15 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-273725 25 LANCASTER STREET Residence A-2 Zone
ELIZABETH K. STOTT – C/O ADAM GLASSMAN, ARCHITECT
Special Permit: Increase in existing Non-Conforming Building Height due to new window wells lowering average grade. New and enlarged basement window openings within existing non-conforming rear setback. Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements) 8.000, Sec. 8.22.2.d & Sec. 8.22.2.c (Non-Conforming Structure). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit).

7:30 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-282282 10 HOWLAND STREET Residence C-1 Zone
PHIALA SHANAHAN – C/O ADAM GLASSMAN, ARCHITECT
Special Permit: To propose a rear 2-story addition within existing non-conforming side setbacks. Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit). Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements). Art. 8.000, Sec. 8.22.2.d (Non-Conforming Structure).

7:45 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-

279077 12 KINNAIRD STREET Residence C-1 Zone
CHRISTOPHER AND JAMIE ROBERTSON
Variance: To convert the current stoop for the main entrance to the house, which is within the side setback to an enclosed foyer. Also, construct an addition to the back of the house which creates a non-conforming floor area ratio.
Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements). Art. 8.000, Sec. 8.22.3 (Non-Conforming Structure). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.30 (Variance).

8:00 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-273943 11 GOODMAN ROAD Residence C-1 Zone
DANA HILL HOME, LLC – C/O MATT HAYES
Special Permit: To add windows within the setback. Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements). Art. 8.000, Sec. 8.22.2.c & Sec. 8.22.2.d (Non-Conforming Structure). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit).

8:15 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-281576 723-731 CAMBRIDGE STREET Business A Zone
MANUEL BARROS
Variance: To construct a 2-story addition to an existing 3-story building with 4 floors being used as a hotel violating gross floor area and setbacks. Reduction of bike parking and loading zone. Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements). Art. 6.000, Sec. 6.80 (Required Amount of Loading Facilities). Art. 8.000, Sec. 8.22.3 (Non-Conforming Structure). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.30 (Variance).
Special Permit: To change from a residential use to hotel use. Art. 4.000, Sec. 4.31.i.2 (Table of Use Regulations). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit).

TO VIEW BZA CASE APPLICATIONS, PLANS & SUBMISSIONS, GO TO: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/inspection/zoning.aspx> at top of page, click “Calendar” > Click hearing date > Click “Board of Zoning Appeal Agenda.” Any information filed after the agenda has been posted can be viewed at the Inspectional Services Department located at 831 Mass Avenue, Cambridge by appointment only. Copies of this petition are also on file in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge, MA. Interested persons may provide comments to the Board of Zoning Appeal by participating during the hearing and/or may provide written comments for the Board’s consideration by mailing or delivering them to the attention of the Secretary, Board of Zoning Appeal,
831 Mass Avenue, 02139 or by emailing them to mpacheco@cambridgema.gov. Comments must be submitted prior to the Hearing and include the Case Number. Continued cases are not re-advertised but are posted on the office board at the City Clerk’s Office in City Hall & on the same BZA Web Page 48 hours prior to hearing.

Cambridge Day/The Week, 08/22/24, 08/29/24

WILD THINGS

■ Send your high-resolution images of urban wild things with location, date, photographer's name and other useful information for possible use online to photography@cambridgeday.com.



Jeanine Farley

An easy-to-digest primer on bathroom and mating habits of ring-billed gulls

By JEANINE FARLEY

There are more than 11,000 species of birds in the world, but only four have populations of 1 billion or more, among them the ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*). (The others: house sparrows, European starlings and barn swallows.) The numbers of gulls have increased massively in the past hundred years because of the increase in human food waste, and because gulls are protected under the U.S. Migratory Bird Act of 1918.

This is probably the gull you see stealing sandwiches on the beach or circling around french fries spilled in a McDonald's parking lot. They are opportunistic feeders who will eat whatever is available and easiest to get: fish, mollusks, insects, eggs, crabs and human garbage.

Scientists have analyzed their coughed-up pellets, which like owl pellets contain indigestible bits. They found, among other things, pork bones, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, paper towels and pieces of rubber, metal and glass. Canadian scientists analyzed the food adult gulls feed their young, learning that 70 percent was human garbage (meat, bread, fries), 9 percent worms, 8 percent insects and 7 percent small mammals. These scientists also concluded that the human food had the greatest energy content of all the foods.

Ring-billed gulls are small, about the size of a crow. They get their name from a black ring around the tip of their yellow bills. (Although a common sight, they do not breed in Massachusetts: Their spring breeding grounds are in Canada, Northern New England, Great Lakes region and Pacific Northwest.)

Although people call it a seagull, the ring-billed gull can be found inland far from the ocean. During the day, gulls



Richard George

The large population of ring-billed gulls means they are a common sight in such places as Somerville's Baxter Park, top, and flying over Huron Village in Cambridge, above.

rest and scavenge for food. At night, they roost in large groups on lakes or at sea where they feel safe from predators. In the 1990s, the Department of Conservation and Recreation realized that gulls roosting on the Wachusett and Quabbin reservoirs were causing fecal coliform bacteria numbers to skyrocket – gull feces contain greater amounts of fecal coliform bacteria than those of geese. So in 1993, officials implemented a bird harassment program to keep the birds from roosting on water used for human consumption. This program is in effect from late summer to April and has been effective in maintaining water quality.

Gull droppings are not just found in our reservoirs. Their whitish droppings can be found below areas in which they scavenge, roost or fly over. Bird urine is different from human urine. In humans, the kidneys filter waste products from the blood, which are then stored

in the bladder as watery urine. In birds, 95 percent of that water is reabsorbed. The remaining waste becomes a white suspension containing uric acid crystals. Birds do not have a bladder, and do not store their waste. To fly, birds need to be as light as possible, so they drop their waste immediately rather than storing it in a bladder.

Land animals store urine to avoid leaving behind a scent trail. They release urine only when they find a safe area away from their home. Birds, however, do not need to worry: When they fly, predators cannot reach them, and when they roost on open water, they are far from predators. Therefore, birds do not hold onto their waste.

All birds have a cloaca (from the Latin for “sewer”). It is an all-purpose opening through which birds expel waste, lay eggs and pass sperm. Their white uric acid waste moves from the kidneys to the cloaca. Feces from the

intestines also moves to the cloaca. The two mix into the white sludge we all know as bird droppings.

The white part of gull droppings is comparable to human urine. Within the white paste are green or brown masses (the stool), which are undigested remnants of food. So bird droppings are pee and poop in one blob. Uric acid does not dissolve in water easily, so gull poop can be difficult to get off your car or outdoor furniture. According to the WD-40 website, one of its 40 uses is to remove baked-on bird droppings quickly from car exteriors. (I've never tried this myself, so attempt removal at your own risk.)

Discussing gull cloacas leads to another interesting question: How do ring-billed gulls have sex? Male gulls, like most birds, do not have a penis. During breeding season, though, the cloacas of males and females swell and stick out of their bodies. The male

climbs on top of the female, both facing the same direction, and the female spreads her tail feathers to expose her cloaca. The male rubs his cloaca against the female's (known as a cloacal kiss), transferring sperm to the female. The cloacal kiss lasts for only about a second, so you may have seen this activity without even knowing what had transpired.

Ring-billed gulls have no trouble flying to new locations in search of food. They can travel from Maine to Florida in only a couple of days. Most ring-billed gulls in Massachusetts drift south in winter, ranging from Rhode Island to Florida. The ring-billed gulls you see in Massachusetts in winter are usually more northern birds that have drifted south to Massachusetts. Even these birds tend not to stay for the entire winter and continue drifting even farther south.

Eighty percent of the birds roosting at the Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs are ring-billed gulls. To learn more about them, biologists banded 880 ring-billed gulls from 2008 to 2011. Some were also fitted with radio transmitters. These tagged gulls were later spotted from Canada to Florida. One gull with a radio transmitter spent its days in parking lots in fall and winter. In spring it fed on worms in fields. It also traveled to wastewater treatment plants, landfills and parks. It roosted at night in both freshwater lakes and saltwater seas.

Many adults leave their northern breeding grounds at the end of June. Gulls like to forage in open areas where they can spot predators, so parking lots or roofs are superb locations in which to spot them.

Jeanine Farley is an educational writer who has lived in the Boston area for more than 30 years. She enjoys taking photos of our urban wild things.