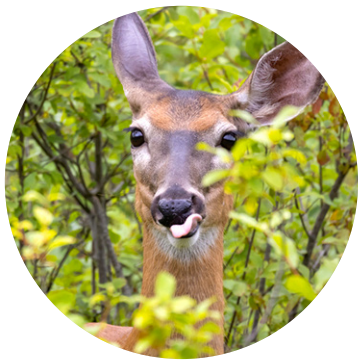




WILD THINGS

Of course white tailed deer have four stomachs: These creatures like foods that we can't digest and are always eating and running.

Page 12

THE WEEK

NOV. 14-21, 2024

FREE | by CAMBRIDGE DAY

Dismemberment case appeal fails; rap lyrics allowed

By SUE REINERT

The Supreme Judicial Court rejected an appeal Nov. 7 from a Cambridge man convicted of choking a friend to death in April 2015 and dismembering the victim's body, leaving the body parts in bags on an East Cambridge walkway and in trash areas in the assailant's apartment building.

Carlos Colina, 32 at the time of the murder, was found guilty in 2018 of killing Jonathan Camilien, 26, of Somerville, and is serving a sentence of life without parole. The two men got into a drunken argument in Colina's apartment at 157 Sixth St., prosecutors said.

See RAP LYRICS, Page 3

Questions you can expect to come back

Restaurant industry worked hard to beat server wage increase

By MADELEINE AITKEN

A question on the Nov. 5 state ballot asking voters to decide whether to raise the state minimum wage paid to tipped workers to \$15 an hour failed big: 64 percent to the 36 percent voting yes.

It will be a while before the topic of higher wages returns to the Bay State, but the organization behind the push, One Fair Wage, will continue its work in Massachusetts as well as nationwide.

"Connecticut will be running a campaign next year, and New York is in the middle of building a campaign," said Grace McGovern, a lead worker organizer who is also a tipped worker in Boston. "I am absolutely planning on continuing to fight."

The question didn't fail everywhere in Massachusetts. It passed in Cambridge, with 64 percent of votes in favor, and Somerville, where 59 percent of votes were in favor.

One Fair Wage does work in Rhode Island and Maine, as well as in Ohio, Pennsylvania, California, Washington, D.C., Colorado, Maryland, Arizona, Michigan, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. In Illinois, it successfully raised the minimum wage for tipped employees in Chicago.

McGovern hopes someday Massachusetts, the second most expensive state to live in behind Hawaii, will be able to do the same.

"We were driven by the knowledge that we all could have a better world, and by the belief that we all deserve that, and I don't think that's going anywhere, despite the result," McGovern said.



Tom Meek

See QUESTION, Page 10 A server delivers to patio tables Oct. 24 at the Cambridge Brewing Co. in Cambridge's Kendall Square.

Even people against bid for psychedelics see passage by 2034

By MADELEINE AITKEN

The Massachusetts ballot included a question that would have legalized certain psychedelics for therapeutic and personal use, including some grown in people's homes, but voters rejected it at the polls Nov. 5, with 57 percent opposed to 43 percent in favor.

The organization behind the Yes on 4 campaign, Massachusetts for Mental Health Options, said in a press release that night it would "keep fighting to find new pathways for all those who struggle with their mental health."

"There were concerns about the home grow provisions, and those concerns likely led to tonight's result," but the group said work would continue with legislators on advocating "for access, for hope and for healing."

Even opponents said they would support a form of legalized use of psychedelics – with "basic guardrails" in place – and that they expected a law to pass within the next 10 years after there's been more research on the medical use of psychedelics.

"Let us study it so we can figure out the right patients, the right doses and what the interactions are," said Anahita Dua, a vascular surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital and an associate professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School. "Wouldn't it be amazing if psychiatrists could prescribe it, if people being able to get it would be a federal law, so Medicare could cover it, if everyone who needs it could benefit?"

The ballot measure would have affected the lives of people 21 and older.

See PSYCHEDELICS, Page 4

INSIDE

News: Cambridge explores giving some City Hall employees a four-day workweek, following a model found in nearby Malden.

Page 3

Attend: Maybe we need a music awards night of our own, but Orla Gartland's message doesn't need a working PA.

Page 9

Business: The CanalSide food hall is open at CambridgeSide. Here's what's there.

Page 10



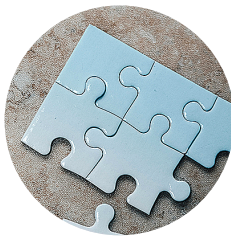
FILM AHEAD

Tune into the documentaries "Louder Than You Think" and "Teaches of Peaches" and see the indescribable, not-to-be-missed "Playland."

Page 8

EVENTS AHEAD

Bread and Puppet Theater, "Emma," an improv festival, jigsaw puzzle competition, and Indoor Night Market, the CSO and some circus.



Pages 6-7

MEETINGS AHEAD

Cambridge: Multifamily zoning, new off-street parking and a preview of an operating budget for tougher fiscal times.

Somerville: Housing at the old Winter Hill Star Market, Somernova expansion, energy information for renters and reimaginings of two streets.

Page 2

MEETINGS NOV. 14-21

CAMBRIDGE

Multifamily zoning, new off-street parking

By MARC LEVY

Multifamily zoning, Part I

Ordinance Committee, 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday. This committee run by vice mayor Marc McGovern and city councillor Paul Toner starts off a day of talk about a multifamily housing zoning proposal that could allow for construction of six-story buildings as of right in parts of the city where single-family homes are common. This meeting is for a staff presentation, councillor questions and discussion only – no public comment taken. The committee meets at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square. Televised and watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

Multifamily zoning, Part II

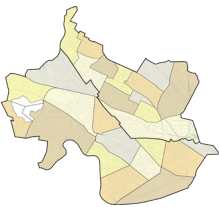
Planning Board, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. There was almost something else to talk about this week – a sunroom being added to a townhouse! – but with that hearing delayed the board has nothing on its mind except more discussion of a multifamily housing zoning proposal, the second of two board meetings on the topic in two weeks. Watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

Previewing the operating budget

Finance Committee, 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday. This committee run by city councillors Patty Nolan and Paul Toner reviews and discusses the city’s operating budget in advance of the budget season for the 2026 fiscal year, as Cambridge settles into being slightly less well off as a result of a continued slowdown in construction for offices and labs. The committee meets at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square. Televised and watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

New off-street parking laws

Ordinance Committee, 3 to 5 p.m. Nov. 21. This committee run by vice mayor Marc McGovern and city councillor Paul Toner looks at adding a definition of “flexible parking corridor” to zoning law that will allow private parking lots to be leased for secondary uses – creating off-street parking that could more than make up for metered spaces removed from streets by the creation of bike lanes. The committee meets at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square. Televised and watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.



◀ **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

Star Market update, tenant energy info

By MATTHEW SAGE

Update on Winter Hill housing

Winter Hill Urban Renewal Plan Civic Advisory Committee, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday. An update about a development at 299 Broadway, Winter Hill, a 288-unit housing complex to include almost 30,000 square feet of retail and park space. The long-awaited project aims to reuse land once used by a Star Market grocery store. Watchable via Zoom videoconferencing.

Reimagining streets

Pedestrian & Transit Advisory Committee, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday. The committee discusses a redesign of Western Pearl Street, considering three designs first presented at a community meeting in early October. The redesign could turn the street into a one-way and provide a protected bike lane and improved infrastructure for pedestrians. The committee also holds a brief review of potential designs for the reconstruction of West Broadway. The meeting will be held at the Somerville Public Library, 79 Highland Ave., Central Hill, and is watchable via videoconferencing.

Somernova expansion process

Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 1:30 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. Monday. Somerville is updating zoning with resident feedback to address the potential expansion of Somernova, a 7.4-acre campus hosting tech startups and artists. The new plan would create a “research and development district” in balance with protections for the area’s arts economy. Meetings to create a path forward for the project and a culminating presentation are upstairs at 1 Bow Market Way, Union Square, including these three on infrastructure and zoning. The next meeting is Dec. 2.

Energy information for renters

Office of Sustainability and Environment, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The city proposes requiring landlords to disclose properties’ energy consumption to tenants, posting such things as type of fuel used and energy-saving measures installed. According to a city press release, officials believe the ordinance will spur landlords to take steps toward lower costs of utilities – now easily accessible. Watchable via videoconferencing.

THE WEEK

by CAMBRIDGE DAY

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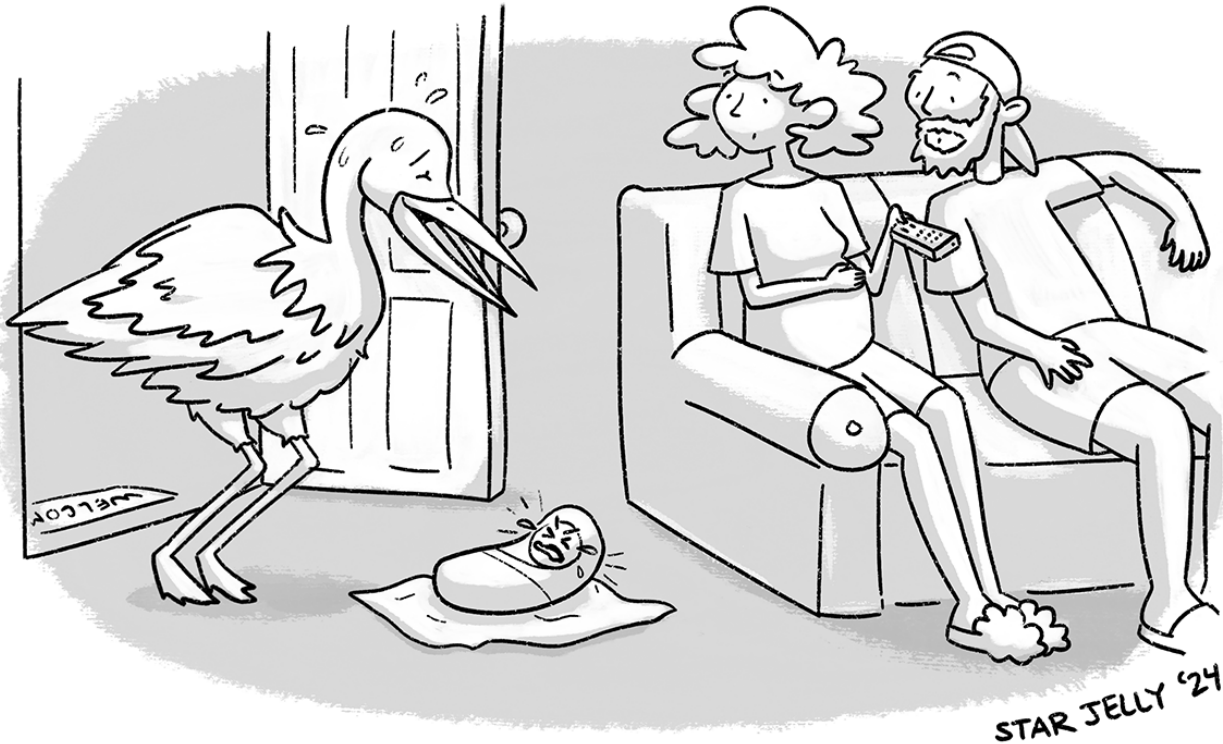
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“YEAH, I’M A LITTLE EARLY.
I WANNA BEAT HOLIDAY TRAFFIC.”

Four-day workweeks at City Hall? Malden is a model

By GRETA GAFFIN

A four-day workweek for city employees is being explored by Cambridge city councillors to see whether it could improve employee happiness and reduce turnover among city staff.

Malden, with its population of around 67,000 and a city hall around 5 miles north, is ahead of Cambridge in exploring the idea. Around 80 of its 1,300 municipal employees have been on a four-day schedule since coming out of the Covid pandemic, said Ron Hogan, its chief strategy and innovation officer.

“The time was right for us to do this, rather than being something that was driven by data,” Hogan told councillors at a Oct. 24 meeting of the council’s long-term planning committee.

The benefits became obvious. Staff turnover is now down significantly, with some people offered jobs elsewhere with higher salaries choosing to stay in Malden with a four-day week, Hogan said. “We’re not one of the highest-paying cities, we’re constantly challenged financially, and so any advantage that we can get, we’re looking for that.”

This could be important to Cambridge, where

the city was the fourth-largest employer last year, with 3,594 workers, according to an annual count by the Community Development Department.

The suggestion for the exploration came from the city manager, said councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, the committee chair: “We have a remote work policy now we didn’t before. Is this another shift that we want to consider?”

Cambridge City Hall is on a modified five-day workweek, open to the public until 8 p.m. Mondays and only until noon Fridays. Many city staff are also remote on Fridays, a policy the council fought for under previous city manager Louis A. DePasquale as around 130 municipal positions sat empty on the city website, many open for more than a year.

Some four-day week proposals discussed at the meeting call for a 32-hour workweek, but that wasn’t being considered in Cambridge and wasn’t the case in Malden. Employees there work the standard number of hours per week, with longer days Monday to Thursday, Hogan said.

The public needs to know staff aren’t taking an extra day off at public expense, Hogan said.

Also, not all city employees can skip Friday, such as administrative staff for police and fire



Marc Levy

Cambridge City Hall, covered by scaffolding July 1.

departments, Hogan pointed out. It’s an issue that requires managing, as a shorter workweek is a privilege that can be seen negatively by people who work in service jobs.

There can also be demands for flexibility such as for Malden’s building department, which has to provide services to contractors on Fridays and sometimes Saturdays.

Some human-services positions such as child care have state mandates and must run five days a week, city councillor Patty said. She thinks the

city needs to consider raising wages for these positions instead. “For so many of these burnout jobs, we’re not paying people enough to begin with,” she said.

Juliet Schor, an economist and professor of sociology at Boston College, spoke about other governments, nonprofits and businesses that have gone to a four-day workweek with no loss in productivity – and in some cases have seen increased productivity. There’s also been a decrease in turnover, saving onboarding time and costs.

It’s been good for employees, according to studies in place since 2022 that have monitored outcomes among some 10,000 people. “All of these companies have had a decrease in burnout,” Schor said. Employees sleep more and feel less stressed, which helps reduce the number who leave.

The changed schedules didn’t please around one-quarter of the people studied, Nolan noted.

One issue is how to provide services to citizens when staff are in the office less. Malden has worked on increasing what residents can do online, including digitizing records so people no longer need to come in to look at old permits or to renew dog licenses. The city has also added drop boxes for bills and voter registrations.



Carlos Colina in court April 6, 2015, in a screen capture from WCVB Channel 5.

Rap lyrics by killer were allowed in trial, ruling says

From Page 1

Colina killed Camilien by putting him in a chokehold, then dismembered the body and cut up Camilien’s credit cards and identification documents.

Police discovered the murder after a Biogen security worker reported a suspicious duffel bag on Officer William Loughrey Walkway, a bicycle and pedestrian path near the company’s office. Inside was Camilien’s torso. Security video led officers to Colina’s building, where they found bags in a trash room with other body parts and the torn-up cards.

At his trial, Colina admitted killing Camilien but said the victim had attacked him as the two men argued heatedly over rap music, and he feared for his life. Colina said he didn’t call police because he thought they wouldn’t believe the death was an accident. He testified that he dismembered Camilien’s body because he couldn’t fit the whole thing into one bag.

Colina contended in his appeal that the judge in his trial wrongly allowed rap lyrics that he had written describing murder by choking and subsequent dismemberment to be introduced at the trial, despite his testimony that he wrote the rap songs years before the murder

of Camilien. Similarly, he said records of his online purchases of a handsaw, pliers and rope used in the crime, also made years before the murder, should not have been introduced in his trial. Colina also argued that the judge did not give required jury instructions and the prosecutor misrepresented Colina’s testimony in her closing argument.

“We conclude neither the rap music evidence nor the record of online purchases was erroneously admitted in evidence,” the SJC decision said. “We further conclude that the trial judge’s nondeadly force instructions were correct, and that any error in the judge’s omission of an instruction on sudden combat or reasonable provocation was not prejudicial. While we agree that the prosecutor’s remarks during closing argument were erroneous, the defendant was not prejudiced.”

The SJC said that the rap lyrics were not introduced to impugn Colina’s character. Instead, the prosecution “sought to show that the defendant was fascinated with murder, strangulation, decapitation and dismemberment, and that he acted on these interests when he killed the victim. Therefore, this evidence went to the defendant’s state of mind and intent,” the decision said.

Although the lyrics “had the poten-

tial to prejudice the defendant because they contained violent imagery and offensive, racially charged language,” the decision said, “the trial judge was within her discretion in concluding that this risk did not outweigh the probative value of the evidence.”

As for the gap between when Colina said he wrote the rap lyrics and the murder, the decision said a CD containing one of the rap songs “was discovered in the defendant’s bedroom soon after” Camilien’s killing.

“Thus, the defendant’s testimony about when he wrote the lyrics did not preclude the trial judge from determining, in her discretion, that a sufficient temporal nexus existed between that rap song and the crimes charged,” the decision said.

“Rather than having an undue tendency to promote an emotional or otherwise improper basis for the jury’s decision, the record of purchases [of items used in the murder], along with the rap lyric evidence, provided a logical basis from which the jury could conclude that the defendant did not merely stumble upon the means to dismember the victim after killing him, but that the defendant potentially made these purchases in anticipation of living out his fantasy,” the decision said.

Bringing back composting could curb rats, officials say

By DANIELLE HOWE

“I have rats swimming in milk on my street,” was just one of the rodent complaints received by Somerville’s 311 line, said the city’s public works commissioner, Jill Lathan.

A Oct. 28 meeting of the joint School Building Facilities and Maintenance committee, which brought together city councilors and School Committee members, covered issues with elevators, pool closings and playground repairs, but the ongoing fight against rodents in Somerville public schools was prominent. Lathan, who was charged with providing an update to the committee, described the rodents as “beasts” who are the “bane of our existence.”

The rats swimming in milk made for a funny yet disturbing anecdote, highlighting the focus in the fight – food – that has been in discussion for months.

Filling holes, replacing doors and inspecting ceiling tiles are just some of the continued measures the city has been taking in preventing rodents from entering school buildings, said school district chief of staff Amara Anosike, but city councilor Naima Sait asked if more creative approaches were feasible: “Have we looked into composting?”

That resonated with councilor Lance Davis, who soon after brought forward a motion encouraging public works staff and the district superintendent to discuss a plan to reintroduce composting into the schools.

Superintendent Rubén Carmona had doubts. “I’m afraid that by adding another variable it will limit our ability to determine the patterns of presence of rodents in this space,” he said.

But according to Davis, composting will only reduce variables, being proven by experts to be an effective measure in combating rodent populations.

Test began before Covid

Somerville, while lacking its own citywide composting program, endorses the practice as an effective means to deter rodents.

In 2018 four Somerville Public Schools participated in a compost-

ing pilot program that aimed to encourage less waste and teach about recycling. The program, paid for by a \$30,000 city grant, was short-lived: Covid prevented it from expanding as planned.

Councilor Laura Pitone, a self-proclaimed composter, said data from the 2018 pilot could be integral

“It is shameful that they seem to passive aggressively be blaming teachers and children for having food.”

to moving forward in decisions on a renewed composting program, and members agreed.

Another advocate was councilor Matthew McLaughlin, who at the previous week’s City Council meeting said the initiative to bring back composting in Somerville could reduce the rodent population and save the city money. He urged the council to send a recommendation to the rodent special committee.

Compost and keep kids’ food

The joint group convenes Monday for the last time this calendar year. Davis said there is no urgency to have a concrete plan for a possible composting initiative by then – that “this might be a year from now, but I want to restart the conversation.”

Some may want the program to move more urgently, if it can be part of a solution to rat activity before policies are put in place that make life harder for district staff and students.

“It is shameful that they seem to passive aggressively be blaming teachers and children for having food,” School Committee member Emily Ackman said, referring during an Oct. 7 committee meeting to emails to the committee blaming rodent issues on children eating in school. Ackman admits food is a part of the issue but mainly blames the “inadequate buildings.”

Psychedelics research could persuade

From Page 1

They would have been allowed to grow, possess and use psilocybin and psilocin, which come from mushrooms, and dimethyltryptamine, mescaline and ibogaine, which come from plants. These substances would have been available for purchase at approved locations for supervised use with a licensed facilitator, not in retail stores. But the law would also allow anyone 21 or older to grow these substances in a 12-foot by 12-foot area in their home and to give away personal use amounts to others.

The proposed law included the creation of a five-person panel for regulations and record keeping called the Natural Psychedelic Substances Commission, similar to the state's Cannabis Control Commission.

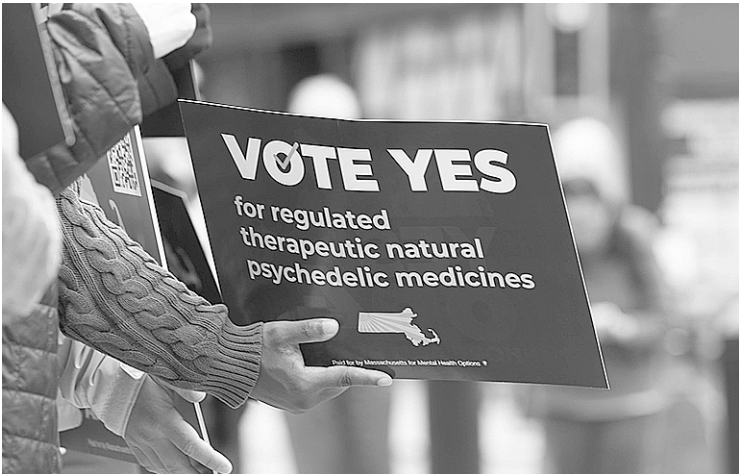
If it were up to Cambridge and Somerville voters, it would have passed: 57 percent of Cantabrigians who voted on the question were in favor, and it was even more popular in Somerville. Voters in that city approved of it 66 percent to 34 percent.

Foes are relieved

The Coalition for Safe Communities, the official ballot committee organized to urge voters to vote no on Question 4, believes the part of the law that would have allowed individuals to grow up to 144 square feet of psychedelics on their properties would have led to an unregulated black market.

"We were never arguing against the medicinal value of this, but the ballot question, the way it was written, was not about medicine," said Chris Keohan, who ran the campaign pushing voters to say no.

"As a father of two young kids, I found the campaign they were running to be offensive, and that's what



Yes on Question 4 via social media

A rally is held at the State House in Boston on Nov. 3 in favor of legalizing the use of psychedelics.

mobilized me to get involved," Keohan said.

Although psychedelic drugs have been shown to be viable treatments for mental health conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety, it's unclear how they could react with other drugs.

Side effects may include

Dua, who was involved with the coalition, warned about the effects of mixing the drugs.

"As a patient, you need to be informed about what interactions exist, and the problem with psychedelics is that we just don't know enough about them," Dua said. "Let's say you have a patient with schizophrenia, who's on a drug that affects neurotransmitters in the brain. You couple it with a psychedelic, you could send them into a fully blown psychotic state. We just don't know."

Dua thinks psychedelics should be administered only after further research.

"If you're giving something to

veterans, who are often older people, which is my patient population, you need to know what the interaction is with at least some of the standard drugs," Dua said.

The Coalition for Safe Communities also took issue with the part of the measure that would create treatment centers where people could buy psychedelics for use in facilities, because they would be for-profit, suggesting these centers would put corporate profits above public health.

Advocates will keep fighting

Endorsed by the Massachusetts chapter of Disabled Veterans and by Sen. Elizabeth Warren and U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton, a Marine Corps veteran, Massachusetts for Mental Health Options advocated for residents to vote yes on Question 4 for the benefit psychedelics can provide for people struggling with mental health conditions.

Oregon approved a similar ballot measure in 2020, as did Colorado in 2022. In Somerville, the measure was officially supported by city councilors

Jesse Clingan, Matthew McLaughlin, Jake Wilson, Judy Pineda Neufeld and Willie Burnley Jr., as well as state representative for Somerville Erika Uytterhoeven.

In Cambridge, city councillors Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, Patty Nolan, Sumbul Siddiqui and Ayesha Wilson pledged their support, as did state Rep. Mike Connolly and vice mayor Marc McGovern.

"We spoke to tens of thousands of Massachusetts voters and heard broad agreement that natural psychedelics should be more accessible to those who cannot find relief through traditional medication and therapy," a group statement said.

MA for Mental Health did not respond immediately to requests for further comment.

A later possibility

Keohan said he can see Massachusetts legalizing the limited use of psychedelics in the future, after more research has been done and with more regulations.

"And honestly, I would support it," he said – if a medical professional were required to be on-site at treatment facilities, if there were price caps for users of the service and no growing of psychedelics in homes.

"If those guardrails were in place, I would support a yes vote, and I would be happy to try to get this passed at the State House," Keohan said.

Dua agrees it's possible, and would support it with a redefined structure as well.

She doesn't think Massachusetts should rush it, as she believes it did by putting this question on the 2024 ballot.

"I bet you in the next five, 10 years it's going to be on the market, but appropriately and for the right people," Dua said. "We need to protect the ones that could be hurt and help the ones that can be helped."

Just A Start's Hub opened with focus on training in tech

By MARC LEVY

A **Comcast** grant of \$70,000 focused on information technology training and a surprise gift of 24 laptops provides an early focus

NAMES

for the Economic Mobility Hub opened Oct. 10 by the nonprofit developer **Just A Start** in North Cambridge.

The 70,000-square-foot Hub facility at Rindge Avenue and Alewife Brook Parkway is expected to serve more than 2,800 people a year with affordable housing, job training, universal prekindergarten and community support services.

Just A Start provides housing, social support and workforce development training for Cambridge residents.

The grant from the telecommunications company means "we've trained 70 residents of Cambridge and surrounding communities with valuable IT and digital skills. This has enabled them to secure better jobs and point themselves and their families toward a brighter future," said Carl Nagy-Koechlin, executive director of Just A Start.

Recent research from the National Skills Coalition reports that 92 percent of all jobs require digital skills, but nearly one-third of U.S. workers lack basic digital skills, especially in lower-income communities and communities of color, the company noted in a press release Oct. 16.

"Digital skills are essential to successful workforce development," said Carolyn Hannan, senior vice president of Comcast's New England Region.

The company has a program called Project UP it says is funded with \$1 billion to improve digital equity.

ADVERTISEMENT

5 WAYS to check on Mom's well-being this holiday season.



GIVE A HUG

Do you notice weight changes, increased frailty?



CHECK THE MAIL

Look for unopened mail or unpaid bills.



OBSERVE HER SOCIAL LIFE

Are there signs of active friendships, or isolation?



INSPECT THE KITCHEN

Look for expired food, broken appliances.



OPEN THE MEDICINE CABINET

Is Mom taking her medications as prescribed?

Use this checklist to look for warning signs during your holiday visits. If your mom isn't doing well at home alone, Neville Place or The Cambridge Homes may be the perfect solution. We offer an innovative enriching approach to senior living.

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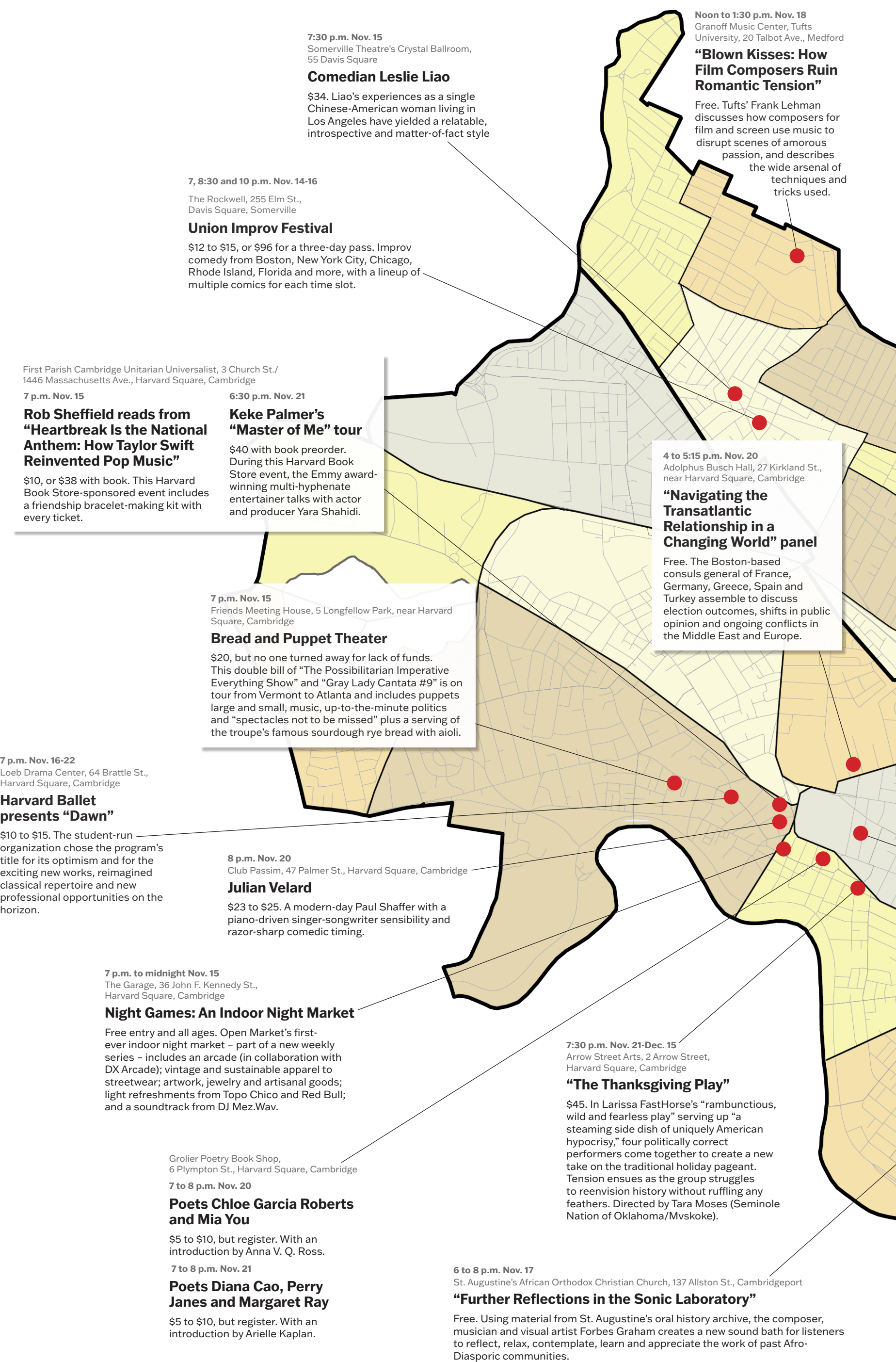
Be Immersed



Explore over 50 galleries
Free every day

Open Tuesday to Sunday,
10am–5pm

EVENTS AHEAD NOV. 14-21



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

Go to bit.ly/3XcsfzY to see the calendars day by day

7:30 p.m. Nov. 19
Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Spring Hill, Somerville (also Nov. 20)

Acrobatic Conundrum presents The Circus of Second Chances

\$20 and all ages. Emma Curtiss, Melissa Knowles and Terry Crane's dada circus romp features "rope acrobatics, Cyr wheel, hand balancing, live baking and clown."

Aeronaut Brewing, 14 Tyler St., near Union Square, Somerville

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14

Mandy Rosengren's "The 12 Pack" exhibition opening reception

Free, but RSVP. The Somerville engineer and artist depicts the shift of humans from hunters to shoppers with "reimagined hunters' trophies" created from wire and (discarded) soda tabs. On display through January 6.
12:30 p.m. Nov. 17

Jigsaw puzzle competition

\$30 per team and 21-plus. The brewery allows up to six members on each team to finish a 500-piece puzzle, with a \$100 Aeronaut gift card prize. The evening also includes a puzzle swap of used (but complete) puzzles.

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 20
Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., East Cambridge

Actors' Shakespeare Project presents "Emma"

\$25 to \$64. Kate Hamill's radical adaptation of Jane Austen's Regency-era novel about matchmaking features screwball antics and fourth-wall breaking meta-theatrics. Directed by Regine Vital.

7:30 to 10 p.m. Nov. 21
Lilypad, 1353 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge

Laura Jinn and Tatum Gale's "Termites Tour" with Lavagxrl and Battlemode

\$10. Jinn and Gale write, sing and produce electronic alt pop; Lavagxrl's style is playful beats, flourishes of strange electronica and unexpected synth shifts; and Battlemode's dynamic electro-pop incorporates the glitchy 8-bit chiptune sounds that accompanied adolescent days spent playing Game Boys.

6 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14
Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, lower level, 24 Quincy St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

Oral History Initiative: On the Fag Rag Collective (1971–1987)

Free. Celebrate the radical Boston-based collective, its gay national, gay male political-literary journal and its constellation of poets, writers, activists and anarchists. Writer Raymond Foye moderates.

The Foundry, 101 Rogers St., East Cambridge

7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 15-16

The Asian American Playwright Collective Playfest 7

\$20 to \$30. Eight new works by playwrights who also just happen to be Asian American. A moderated Q&A follows.

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 16

"Rock, Lock and Ya Don't Stop"

\$30. A daylong event celebrating two early forms of street dance with a panel discussion, workshops, battles and a jam. An afterparty in Boston follows until midnight. Presented by Rock Dance Network and Beantown Lockers.

7:30 p.m. Nov. 21
Museum of Science, 1 Science Park, Boston, on the Cambridge border

Paul Sutter's Carnival of Science presents "Staying Sane in a Changing World"

\$15 and 18-plus. A collective of scientists and artists bring a fun, fast-paced, approachable show exploring climate change, resiliency and the solutions being developed to save the planet.

6 to 9 p.m. Nov. 14
The MIT Museum, 314 Main St., Kendall Square, Cambridge

After Dark Series: Junk

\$10 to \$20 and 21-plus. The art and science of junk: Rock music performed on bicycles; fashion and design from chopsticks and banana crop waste; a Footwear Collective special installation; and kintsugi-inspired collage making from MIT campus "junk." Plus, Peter Mui from Fixit Clinic talks about designing for durability. Dumplings from Mei Mei and brews from Aeronaut are available for purchase.

Killian Hall in the Hayden Library Building at 160 Memorial Drive at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge

8 to 9:30 p.m. Nov. 15

FaMLE (MIT Laptop Ensemble)

Free. A collaborative music performance exploring emerging digital musical practices and using a variety of software and hardware instruments.

6 p.m. Nov. 19

Pianist Fabian Almazan

Free. A masterclass with the two-time Grammy-nominated Cuban-American pianist and composer and founder of Biophilia Records.

7 to 9 p.m. Nov. 18
Pappalardo Lab (room 050) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Building 3, also known as The Maclaurin Buildings, 33 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge

J. Rob Swift and Rasul Mowatt discuss the forthcoming "The City of Hip-Hop"

Free, but register. The legendary turntablist and North Carolina State University professor (and 25-year DJ) talk about their book, subtitled "New York City, The Bronx and a Peace Meeting," take audience questions and present a live DJ set.

7:30 p.m. Nov. 14-Dec. 8
Central Square Theater, Cambridge, 450 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, Cambridge

"Galileo's Daughter"

\$27 to \$103. Jessica Dickey's play alternates between Tuscany of the present day and the 1600s. A writer on the brink of divorce travels to Florence to research love letters written to Galileo.

4 to 6 p.m. Nov. 17
Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Kresge Auditorium, 48 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge

Cambridge Symphony Orchestra presents "Reflection"

\$20 to \$30. The CSO is joined by the Choirs of UMass Lowell, under director Jonathan Richter, and the Nashoba Valley Chorale, under director Anne Watson-born, for a double header of British music: Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Dona Nobis Pacem" and Gustav Holst's "The Planets."

FILM AHEAD NOV. 14-21

LOCAL FOCUS



The band Pavement and idiosyncratic drummer Gary Young.

‘Louder Than You Think’ drums up ’90s memories, then we go to ‘Playland’

By OSCAR GOFF

It is easy, perhaps, to reduce ’90s indie rockers Pavement to a stereotype; with their flannel shirts, fuzzy guitars and cryptic lyrics, they more or less fit the remembered image of the “alternative” decade to a T. Yet Pavement were far weirder than just about any of their contemporaries in the alt-rock canon – especially in the early days, when their drummer was a flamboyant hippie burnout more than two decades older than his bandmates.

That drummer, Gary Young, is the subject of the new documentary “**Louder Than You Think**,” which makes its local premiere this weekend at **The Brattle Theatre**. Young (who died shortly after the film’s completion) was a true eccentric, known for handing out vegetables to fans waiting in line for shows and doing onstage handstands when he probably should have been drumming.

“Louder” features some priceless early Pavement footage, as well as new interviews with bandleaders Stephen Malkmus and Scott “Spiral Stairs” Kannberg and several scenes dramatized by marionettes. But the heart of the film is Young himself, expounding on his brief flirtation with rock stardom from his home studio/lair. It’s a funny, occasionally harrowing portrait of a rock ’n’ roll lifestyle, and it’s guaranteed to get Young’s solo novelty single stuck in your head for weeks.

This week, the Camberville cinema scene sees a bounty of queer treasures. Throughout November the **Harvard Film Archive** welcomes back Jenni Olson – filmmaker, archivist and queer film historian – to present treasures from her own collection (housed within the HFA) as well as some of her own work. On Friday, Olson will present two archival programs: “**We’re Here, We’re Queer**,” containing treasures ranging from the rarely screened 1967 trans documentary “Queens at Heart” to footage of antigay activist Anita Bryant receiving a pie to the face in the middle of a press conference, while “**Flaming Youth**” collects vintage documentary and educational films portraying a wide range of perspectives on LGBTQ youth. Saturday brings a pair of underseen queer features: Paul Schneider’s “**Something Special**, AKA Willy Milly” (1986), a teen comedy in which a young Pame-

la Adlon spontaneously changes sex overnight, and Ann Turner’s “**Dallas Doll**” (1994), starring the great Sandra Bernhard. There’s more Sunday and Monday. In an age of algorithmically generated “recommendations,” the work of human curators has never been more important, and Olson is one of the best.

Of course, discussion of local queer cinema would not be complete without the beloved **Wicked Queer** festival, which returns this weekend with a sidebar program dedicated exclusively to documentaries. In addition to selections screening across the river at the Museum of Fine Arts and the Institute of Contemporary Art, the festival will touch down at The Brattle from Saturday through Monday with half a dozen features (plus a program of shorts, “Queer in This Together,” which screens Sunday). Highlights include profiles of two very different musicians, “**Teaches of Peaches**,” about the eponymous cult 2000s-era electroclash artist, and “**Janis Ian: Breaking Silence**,” about the legendary ’70s folk-rocker.

For full schedule and ticket info, visit The Brattle’s website.

Not to be outdone, the Somerville Theatre will showcase an intriguing new release that shines a light on Boston’s own queer history. Screening on Monday and Tuesday, Georden West’s “**Playland**” (2023) takes place across what is described as “a time-bending night” at the Playland Cafe, one of Boston’s oldest and most notorious gay bars. Playland was a very real place – it operated on Essex Street in the Combat Zone from 1937 to 1998 – but “Playland” promises to be no straightforward history, blending narrative scenes, archival documentary footage, musical numbers, performance art and more. It also features its share of luminaries, including Danielle Cooper (from TV’s “Pose”) and legendary drag queen Lady Bunny. No two articles I’ve read seem to fully agree on what “Playland,” as a film, is exactly – which leads me to believe it is not to be missed.

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**

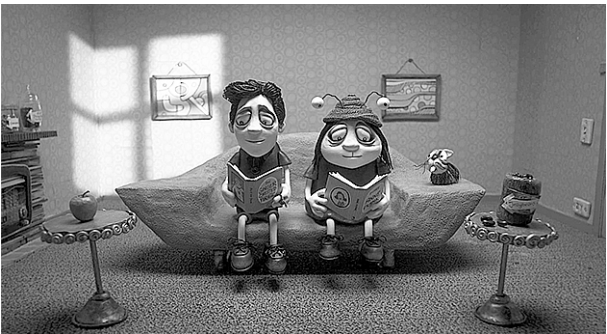
Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square. Founded in 1914. Three screens with 1,566 seats, including one with Dolby Digital Sound and 24 surround speakers and 70mm capabilities for a mix of first-run and repertory fare and classics. **(617) 625-5700 and somervilletheatre.com**

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



Adam Elliot’s second feature is “Memoir of a Snail.”

‘Memoir of a Snail’: Animated, funny and wild, but not for kids

By TOM MEEK

Not a claymation curio for the whole family, nor a sequel to “Marcel the Shell with Shoes On” (2021). No, this very dark and adult animated tale of twins separated after the death of their father and placed in foster care has edgy, plot-driving incursions into swinging, fat feeding, pyromania and religious zealotry. The film is wickedly funny at times but tenderly bittersweet, with deeply realized characters. The casting, an inspired all-star slate from Down Under, pairs “Succession” star Sarah Snook and Kodi Smit-McPhee (“Power of the Dog”) as Grace and Gilbert Pudel, fraternal twins born with health issues and bullied at school. Mom died early and dad, a street performer who struggles to keep the family afloat, succumbs a few years later; Grace and Gilbert get placed with families at opposite ends of Australia, Gilbert with Calvinist religious zealots who want to “pray the gay out” and abusively employ him as indentured labor on their apple orchard and Grace left pretty much on her own by foster parents darting constantly out to key parties or nudist retreats. Her bestie is an 80-year-old firecracker named Pinky (a brilliant Jacki Weaver), whose tale of how she earned the nickname and a sidebar about having sex with John Denver in a helicopter are uproarious delights. Much of the film is told through the longing letters between the siblings, desperate to reunite. Adam Elliot makes a strong impression with his second feature, which is agile in construct and scrumptious to behold – one of the best films you can see in a theater now.

At Kendall Square.



Kieran Culkin and Jessie Eisenberg in “A Real Pain.”

‘A Real Pain’: Talking through it

By TOM MEEK

Kieran Culkin and Jessie Eisenberg are Benji and David, cousins who sojourn to Poland to visit the house their Holocaust-surviving grandmother lived in and connect with their Jewish roots. Benji is slack, conflicted and seemingly adrift, whereas David is rooted (married, with a child) and tightly wound. The pair signs onto a Holocaust tour led by an amiable guide (Will Sharpe) who, along with a survivor of the Rwandan civil war (Kurt Egyiawan) examining the toll of genocide in other parts of the world, are the only two without personal, Jewish ties to Poland. In the group too is Jennifer Grey of “Dirty Dancing” fame as a middle-aged woman going through a divorce. Benji sidetracks the group regularly with his raffish whims and becomes something of the group’s mercurial class clown, though many of his politely peevish plays are sparked by seeds of genuine emotional intelligence. He’s an amiable lost boy and clearly one subject of the film’s title. As youths, he and David used to be closer, but given time, space and the arc of life, have grown apart, so “the pain” refers also to Benji’s loneliness and the pair’s fraying over the years as well as the inherent trauma of digging into the atrocities of the past. The film, written and directed by Eisenberg, has a talky, European meandering feel to it, but avoids making the Holocaust a didactic distraction with leaden exposition. It’s a journey of revelation and reconnection that works on the strength of authentic, awkward chemistry between its two leads.

At Kendall, Davis and Assembly squares.



MUSIC

ATTEND

Welcome to ‘Boston’

By MICHAEL GUTIERREZ

It’s that time of year nominations for the Boston Music Awards drop, and I wonder whether Cambridge needs a celebratory, rah rah sis boom bah, arts and culture awards shindig of its own. We like to pat ourselves on the back too, don’t we? Of course we do!

But here we are with tastemakers on the other side of the river eating food right off our plate. Look at all the local spots voted for Live Music Venue of the Year: Arts at the Armory, Crystal Ballroom, Middle East Downstairs, Sonia, The Sinclair, Club Passim, Deep Cuts, Lilypad, Lizard Lounge, The 4th Wall, The Burren, The Rockwell and The Jungle. More than half of the venue nominations are outside Boston ...

“Exactly right,” a massive oily slug, materializing amid a satrap’s den of plush pillows and nubile harem girls, replied, “If the BMAs limited their nominations to Boston, you might have a point about Cambridge needing its own awards. But we’re good at playing the role of impartial judge, jury and executioner. You mentioned Deep Cuts. That’s in Medford. You mentioned Crystal Ballroom. That’s in Somerville. Who’s going to speak up for music excellence in New England, aka Boston, ‘broadly construed,’ if not for us?”

“Hey,” interrupted one of the harem girls, “That’s the stated mission of the New England Music Awards.”

“Silence, wench!” With a wave of the slug’s shiny proboscis, a pair of armed guards hustled the offending party out of the room. “Now let us all eat cake and carrion!”

And so they did with glee.

Hit this

Saturday *Actors, Pilgrims of Yearning, Llynks (Middle East, Cambridge)*

Dark Spring Boston presents a darkwave bill. Like New Wave, except, you know, darker, clubbier, gothier. Expect lots of black leather, tight fits and throbbing synth lines. Headliner Actors are touring out of their native Vancouver, performing a handful of North American dates, before gearing up for a European tour in the new year. I’m eyeing that Berlin gig on Feb. 13. Opener Llynks, nominated for a BMA Dance/Electronic Artist of the Year, adds a little darkpop.

Sunday *Sadie Gustafson-Zook & Julie Williams (Club Passim, Cambridge)*

A little bit of folk and a little bit of country in the double stack lineup at Cambridge’s favorite garden-level club. Indiana’s Sadie Gustafson-Zook spins out sparkling solo acoustic folk numbers when she’s not carving linoleum blocks, sewing pencil cases out of scraps or admiring the way the ink in her Pilot G2 glides over her journal. Julie Williams brings the country. She’s a Nashville transplant, originally from Florida, wowing Music City with the pop-informed, Americana strains on her latest EP “Tennessee Moon.”

Nov. 21 *Third Thursdays with Srinivasan Raghuraman, Upasak Mukherjee, Shivaraj, Mike Rivard and Jacob William (Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church, Cambridge)*

The jazz series, featuring a guest artist each month, returns with a concert combining Indian Carnat-

ic singing, North and South Indian percussion, the Moroccan sintir and keyboards. How closely the performance dovetails with the series’ stated mission of promoting the harmolodic concepts of jazz great Ornette Coleman, who can say? When a world music program this choice is on offer, you just shut up and listen.

As always, Third Thursdays is underwritten by the mysterious Appalachian Springs Foundation. The private org supports diverse arts and culture initiatives, including the Thoreau Polymonophonic Journal Project (in beta testing since 2017) and the thoroughly un-Googleable world premiere of the video “Henhawk” (2021), which garnered “good reviews” and scored 30,000 New York Times ad hits. If they ran that ad twice as long, I bet they would’ve hit 60,000, easy.

Live: Orla Gartland at the Armory

Pop sensation Orla Gartland galed a sold-out Armory on Nov. 7 with a set that proved you need only two things to make a show sparkle: a kick-ass artist and a kick-ass audience. It’s just about the connection between the two, and you can forget about the rest if you have that. The lights, the props, the gimmicks, the hype – all of it.

And you can forget about the sound too, which might seem counterintuitive at a music concert, but Gartland proved that a musician can rise above a faulty PA if the energy in the room is just right. Woeful technical issues bedeviled the Armory soundboard, cutting out the speakers midsong more than once, twice and thrice. Lucky for all involved, the throbbing vessels of adulation in the crowd knew the songs so well off her latest LP “Everybody Needs A Hero” that the fans filled in the blanks with their own chorus.

Gartland can play the pop star when she wants to, leaning into catchy refrains and soaking up the adoration of a room full of young women, canoodling couples and cool dads bringing their little girls to their first concert. But the texture of her music is more Haim than Jem (Truly Outrageous!), and the text is anything beside vapid pop sloganeering.

A solo acoustic performance of “Mine” proved the haunting climax of the evening. The song, which is subject to interpretation but sounds for all the world like a victim of abuse sharing her story, stopped the room in its tracks.

Gartland played it like a lullaby, finger picking and serenading with a voice that mixed equal parts frailty and strength, until the final upward ascending note tipped the balance in favor of an uncontested, if quiet, victory. You could nearly see the young women in the crowd tipping over the front of their toes, leaning into a kind of shared trauma, and wondering whether they could find in themselves the same strength that they see in the singer on stage.

Emma Harner opened with a solo set of math folk – a subgenre I’ve never heard of, but listening to the complex progressions she produced made me see in a flash the gorgeous possibilities. More of that, please!.

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

FOOD

WHAT WE’RE HAVING

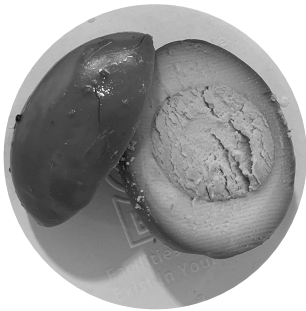


Tom Meek

The Cafe Phinista version of a shakshuka with cold cuts, meatball and a Vietnamese sausage in eggs.

Vietnamese breakfast at Cafe Phinista

SNACK



Chang Foods soy egg

Price: \$1.50
Chang Foods is in the zeitgeist: This is the second Snack in a row from it, by sheer coincidence. The cart, a lunchtime staple in Kendall Square, serves a variety of simple Chinese entrees over rice or noodles, but also a handful of Korean-style or Thai-style dishes. The food has a familiar, homey taste, made not with the intention of an elevated or necessarily authentic experience but to satisfy workers looking for respite from the typical chain food options. I tried one of its small sides, the soy sauce egg, a simple hard-boiled egg marinated in soy sauce. It tasted exactly as its name would suggest, a standard hard-boiled egg with a light hint of soy sauce. The flavor lacked depth, and the egg was boiled a little too long, but at the same time, this is exactly what I wanted – a simple homemade snack your parents might pack for a school lunch. JINOH LEE

■ **Chang Foods, roughly 600 Main St., Kendall Square, Cambridge**

By TOM MEEK

Cafe Phinista doesn’t do pho or fresh spring rolls – which you can get across the plaza at Soup Shack or Cafe Zing – but it does offer a killer Vietnamese breakfast menu and rich coffees you really can’t get elsewhere this side of the Charles.

A “phin” is a Vietnamese coffee filter. Most everything on Phinista’s coffee menu is preceded by the prefix “phin” and has condensed milk and/or special house foam added. Even the phin drip, a rich, acrid black coffee, comes with a foamy head. If you want an even richer and creamier sipping experience, let me point you to the classic iced Saigonese, with a light, whipped sugary foam atop (you can specify your degree of sweetness) and, even more exotic, the cà phê trứng, an iced coffee with sweet egg foam. You would not be far off to call it liquid tiramisu.

On the food side, Phinista offers barbecue chicken, barbecue pork, five-spice tofu, lemongrass beef and cold cuts as a bánh mì or in a rice or salad bowl. The baguettes at Phinista are classic and perfect, slightly crisp and flakey on the outside, chewy and fluffy on the inside.

A bánh mì baguette (or is it a batard?) is not the same kind as you’d get with ham and brie at a boulangerie, which are longer, chewier and denser. The French had influence on the Vietnamese – colonialism tends to do that – but the bánh (like the French “pain”) here is all their own. Part of that airier consistency is that rice is part of the flour mix.

The cold cut offerings are also not the traditional Boar’s Head – not even close – but pork bologna and spiced ham that smacks of street market authenticity. For my bánh mì I tried out the barbecue chicken, which came as moist, tender nuggets in a tangy-sweet but not cloying sauce. Combined with the pickled carrots and daikon, fresh cilantro, jalapeño heat and a smear of pate, it’s delicious and none too filling.

■ **Cafe Phinista, 1876 Massachusetts Ave., Porter Square, Cambridge**

An added pleasure is chowing on the underbelly of the sub, where the ingredient meld, becoming the most savory part of the nosh.

From Phinista’s robust breakfast and sweet crepe menu, you can – and should – try the breakfast bánh mì, which makes a medium fried eggs the centerpiece; the egg yolk becomes part of that delectable mix at the bottom of your baguette.

There’s also a Hanoi croissant (smoked bacon, eggs, cheese and fry sauce) and the bánh mì chao, a meat lovers’ shakshuka with that cold cut combo (the ham more like Spanish jamon), deconstructed meatballs (not round, just ground meat), a Vietnamese sausage yet spicy, akin to a classic sweet Italian sausage, all in a tomato puree. The eye-popping serving comes in a skillet with a baguette on the side.

On the crepe slate, there are Nutella spins, but the triberry parfait (with berries, granola, yogurt and whipped cream) is the all-star standout.

Phinista is in a prime locale, across from the Porter Square T in what had long been a Bruegger’s Bagels. The re-tooling from its last incarnation (the short-lived Zoe Acai Bar & Juicery) has created more of a cafe vibe with phone chargers, outlets and free Wi-Fi.

When you get hungry you’ve got options (breakfast all day, a packed bánh mì or baked goods). The only downside is having to chose.

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.

BUSINESS & MONEY

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

Sampling CanalSide

The food hall at the CambridgeSide mall opens with treats mostly new to the city

By MADELEINE AITKEN

CanalSide, the food hall inside CambridgeSide that the mall developed to replace its food court, is open, even due to get a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday.

Although the official opening date was set as Oct. 25, and promoted by CambridgeSide on its Instagram as such, only five of the 14 eateries – Caffé Nero, DalMoros Fresh Pasta To Go, Beard Papas, Juicygreens and Far Out Ice Cream – plus the C-Side Bar were open that Friday.

Others – anoush'ella, Nu Burger and InChu – opened Oct. 26, with Sapporo Ramen following Oct. 27, Lala's Neapolitan-ish Pizza on Oct. 28 and Teazzi Tea Shop on Oct. 29. The final two eateries, Fresh and Chilacates, will open this fall and winter, respectively.

Leslie Medalie, the president of Leary, which manages CambridgeSide's public relations, said some tenants “had unexpected delays.”

Some the eateries already serve Camberville: Caffé Nero (locations in Porter and Central squares), Chilacates (in East Cambridge and Central Square), Juicygreens (in Assembly Row) and Sapporo Ramen, which is a transplant from Lesley University's University Hall in Porter Square.

A food court is the kind of place you go if you happen to be in the mall; with CanalSide, CambridgeSide sought to make a reason to come to the mall. Did it succeed?

We put it to the test in a visit to several eateries, prioritizing restaurants new to Camberville, and my verdict is, overall, yes. Here's what I tried, starting with the best:



Lala's Neapolitan-ish Pizza *Hot Johnny (tomato sauce, fresh mozz, pepperoni, hot honey, basil)*
Price \$15.45
Rating 9.5/10

Lala's Neapolitan-ish Pizza is naturally leavened, which means instead of using packaged yeast to rise, it relies on a natural leavening agent, like a sourdough starter. I can't say I noticed the difference, but no matter: It was extremely good pizza nonetheless. Neapolitan-style pizza generally has a more pillowy crust than the thin crust of New York-style pizza, and Lala's stayed true to that. The crust of my pizza was doughy, pocked all over with dark charred spots that brought flavor and crunch. The sauce was bright and solidly tomato-y, the small pepperoni cups were the perfect vessels for catching the Parmesan grated on top, and the big basil leaves added freshness. I appreciated the adequate drizzle of hot honey, too. Its sweetness balanced out the saltiness of the cheese, while its spiciness balanced out the breadiness of the dough. All in all, this was a pretty perfect pizza, something that isn't always easy to come by in this city.

DalMoros Fresh Pasta To Go
Pesto pasta
Price \$14.99
Rating 8.5/10

Fast-casual fresh pasta is on the rise, but still a pretty new concept and entirely new to Camberville. At DalMoros, everything is customized. You pick your pasta shape (fusilli, rigatoni, fettuccine or bigoli) and your sauce (bolognese, amatriciana, “like butter,” aglio/olio/peperoncino, Napoletana, cacio e pepe, pesto, mamma rosa, caprese or mortadella). Extra toppings such as meatballs and chicken can be added for a surcharge. When my fettuccine with pesto came out, my expectations were low: The pasta was barely visible under the sauce, and I thought it would be goopy and overly heavy. But as soon as I took a bite, my feelings changed. The sauce was flavorful and, once mixed through the pasta, just the right amount. The pesto was garlicky and bright with a slight creaminess, and while the pasta was a touch overcooked, it was unmistakably fresh, with a great bite and texture. My only other complaint was that the vessel it came in, a Chinese takeout-esque box of thin cardboard, didn't make sense for something that was so saucy (read: wet). But it was delicious and came with more than enough pasta to make it feel worth its nearly \$15 price tag.



Nu Burger *Fenway (sharp cheddar, tomato, onion, lettuce, spicy pickle, NuSauce)*
Price \$12
Rating 8/10

Camberville is no stranger to burgers, but the smashburger variety can be harder to come by. Nu Burger now offers a destination for them. On the menu are a series of burgers (chicken sandwiches are still “coming soon”), some rather out of the box (the California includes grilled jalapeño salsa, pistachio guacamole and Oaxaca cheese, while the Buffalo has buffalo sauce, blue cheese, tomato and lettuce), but I went classic with the Fenway. And classic was very good: it came with two patties, a nice surprise for \$12 topped with melty cheddar, fresh tomato and lettuce and grilled onions, which were nicely caramelized and added a good hit of flavor. The NuSauce and the spicy pickles were a great way to top it off. My one issue was that the sauce was applied to the bottom bun, so the soft bread was quickly sodden between the juices of the burger and the sauce. It felt like it could have been better assembled, but otherwise was close to a home run.

Sapporo Ramen *House ramen (signature broth, chashu pork, egg, bean sprouts, corn, scallions, nori)*
Price \$16
Rating 7.5/10

I prioritized places that didn't already have locations in Cambridge or Somerville but decided trying Sapporo



Ramen, which made a name for its authentic noodles in Lesley University's Asian food court, was worth breaking that rule. The menu includes sushi as well, but to stay true to its name I tried the classic house ramen with a signature broth and noodles topped with a soft-boiled egg, bean sprouts, corn, scallions and nori. You get to choose your protein; I went for the chashu pork. The broth was deeply flavorful and the noodles were cooked perfectly, retaining their bounce and springiness. The meat didn't quite have the melt-in-your-mouth quality that chashu pork generally promises, but wasn't bad. I enjoyed the hefty sprinkling of raw bean sprouts and scallions, which were just softened by the hot broth but remained fresh enough to cut through the richness of the broth. Was it the best ramen I've ever had? No, but it was still pretty excellent.



Far Out Ice Cream
Vanilla-mango ice cream
Price \$5.45
Rating 6/10

Far Out has brought New Zealand-style ice cream, which is made by blending hard ice cream with fresh fruit to create a soft-serve texture, to Brookline and Boston and, now, to Cambridge. This spin on something nearly everyone knows and loves comes with suggested combinations – the Raspberri Mudslide combines chocolate ice cream with raspberry and tops it with dark chocolate flakes and chocolate sauce, for instance – but I decided to create my own. I chose the vanilla base and combined it with mango, which was good: The ice cream was exceptionally creamy and tasted like fresh mango, not mango flavoring (an important distinction). But I thought it could've done with more of the fruit; while the flavor was good, it wasn't particularly strong.

In sum, CambridgeSide did well with CanalSide. Everything I tried was good, if not very good, and the hall undoubtedly adds a liveliness to the mall that has been lacking. The stated goal with CanalSide was to create a space that represented the diverse cuisines available in Cambridge and Somerville, and while it may not have checked every box, there are options for a wide range of tastes. Plus, in each case, I felt the price I paid was fair for the portion, an increasing rarity these days. The amount of pasta and ramen I got felt especially generous.

We've established that CambridgeSide succeeded in making CanalSide a reason to come to the mall. I would come back – and Thursday's 5 p.m. party includes entertainment.

Question raising server wage was fought hard by industry

From Page 1

Ballot Question 5 would have increased the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker gradually from the current rate to the state minimum wage of \$15 by 2029. As it stands, tipped workers are paid \$6.75 by their employers as long as their wages plus tips amount to at least \$15 an hour. If they don't, employers must make up the difference.

The proposed law also would have let employers, after paying workers an hourly wage that is at least the state minimum wage, combine all tips for distribution among all workers, including nontipped back-of-house staff such as cooks and dishwashers.

Restaurant associations opposed

The No on 5 movement was backed by the Massachusetts Restaurant Association and Gov. Maura Healey. It warned that if restaurants have to pay their employees more, they could need to cut staff or struggle to stay open, and prices will go up for diners. They argued that tipped workers don't want a tip pool because they don't want to make less money than they're used to.

“Servers and bartenders are the ones that are facing forward, serving guests and earning those tips. Why would they want to share their tips with nonservice staff?” said Jessica Muradian, director of government affairs for the Massachusetts Restaurant Association.

If the measure had passed, it would have been a huge blow to an industry that still hasn't fully recovered from the pandemic, she said.

“We said, if you want to know how your servers and bartenders feel, ask them,” Muradian said. “Workers came out in the droves, they held rallies, they organized. Massachusetts restaurant staff said this is what's best for us; we don't need someone from out of state coming into our state and telling us what's best for us and for our industry.”

“Folks from Massachusetts who are servers and bartenders here have been raising families, buying houses, putting kids through college,” Muradian said.

One Fair Wage pushes back

Others in the industry do think an increased minimum wage is best. McGovern said passing the measure would have been “the right thing to do” and “the right step forward.”

“I think the two-tiered wage system is a really outdated way of discriminating against certain workers, and it unfortunately leads to the most vulnerable of our workers being further exploited,” McGovern said.

She noted the high number of employees from marginalized and minority communities. “The restaurant industry is the largest employer of single mothers and of formerly incarcerated individuals,” McGovern said. “We have a huge number of immigrant workers in the kitchens, and 70 percent of the entire industry is women.”

Like McGovern, Marco de Laforcade, who works as a bartender at Birds of Paradise in Brighton, supported raising the minimum wage for tipped workers.

“I believe that we need to fight for the entire working class, and I recognize that the Question 5 proposal wouldn't have solved all problems,

but it certainly would have been a step up for service workers to be on more equal footing,” said de Laforcade, who described themselves as a socialist.

Owners campaigned hard

A bit of research was all de Laforcade needed to support Yes on 5.

“I looked into systems where people in the service sector get paid a standard wage with tips on top, and I found out that on average, in places with those kinds of systems, the poverty rate for service workers is noticeably lower, there's more consistency in their pay, I even saw that sexual harassment is down by half,” de Laforcade said.

McGovern attributed the loss of the ballot measure in large part to restaurant owners pushing the No on 5 campaign on their employees and patrons.

The National Restaurant Association has more than 40,000 members

“Every member restaurant was printing out ‘No on 5’ posters and banners.”

representing nearly 500,000 eateries nationwide, and the Massachusetts Restaurant Association has 18,000 member restaurants. Both opposed the ballot measure and were able to employ a wider campaign than One Fair Wage, which McGovern called “grassroots.”

“Every member restaurant was printing out ‘No on 5’ posters and banners and hanging them in their restaurants, printing them on check holders, making servers wear T-shirts,” McGovern said.

She suggested that this barrage of No on 5 paraphernalia affected the public's understanding of the issue and prevented employees from going against the status quo.

“I think a lot of people were making the false connection of seeing servers wearing No on 5 T-shirts at work and thinking they must want me to vote this way, whereas we've heard servers saying ‘No, I just have to wear this T-shirt or otherwise I'm out of uniform,’” McGovern said. “If your boss gives everyone T-shirts and they're adamant about people wearing them ... you need your job, you're going to suck it up and wear the T-shirt.”

De Laforcade found themselves “definitely in the minority” at work.

“Most of my co-workers voted no on the question,” they said. “I think that some of it was the prevalence of the propaganda coming from the restaurant industry. I think the MRA played a really big part in making the situation more confusing and spreading around things that weren't true, like that servers would be making less money or that businesses would be closing on a massive scale.”

Though McGovern acknowledged the validity of the concerns for working people, opposition to 5 feels to her like something else. “The workers who have made decent livings for themselves in the industry were not willing to see a change in order to help out other people,” McGovern said.

■ 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.

LEGAL ADS

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 – NOVEMBER 21, 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

6:30 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-1139918: 1350 MASS AVENUE
Business B Zone
PRESIDENT & FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE – CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS C/O BRETT SMITH, ESQ.
Special Permit: Verizon Wireless proposes to REMOVE two (2) existing LTE antennas and hardware from the existing Alpha Sector, one (1) existing Alpha Sector 6 x 12 hybrid cable and one (1) existing Alpha Sector 6-OVP, and INSTALL one (1) new MS-6.3-DB90-T antenna to the proposed heavy duty wall bracket, seven (7) new RRHS inside of the existing penthouse, two (2) new Alpha Sector 12-OVP, two (2) new Alpha Sector 6 x 12 hybrid cables, as well as updated support equipment and cables as shown in greater detail on the Plans. Art. 4.000, Sec. 4.32.g.1 & Sec. 4.40 (Footnote 49) (Telecommunication Facility). Art. 10.40-10.46 (Special Permit).
6409 Federal Middle Class Tax Relief Act (Spectrum Act).

6:45 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-1140206: 1350 MASS AVENUE
Business B Zone
PRESIDENT & FELLOWS OF HARVARD COLLEGE – C/O ALLISON CONWELL, AGENT FOR CENTERLINE
Special Permit: To replace 2 existing antennas with 2 new antennas in nearly the same locations, replace 6 remote radio heads with 10 new remote radio heads in nearly the same locations, replace certain cabling with new cables, add diplexers, and remove and replace certain equipment in AT&T's existing rooftop equipment shelter.
Art. 4.000, Sec. 4.32.g.1 & Sec. 4.40 (Footnote 49) (Telecommunication Facility). Art. 10.40-10.46 (Special Permit).
6409 Federal Middle Class Tax Relief Act (Spectrum Act).

7:00 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-585557: 120 CHILTON STREET
Residence B Zone SETH TASKER & KAREN ELLIS – C/O PAUL

MAHONEY, ARCHITECT
Special Permit: Build an addition at rear of house to extend nonconforming house within nonconforming side yard setbacks and increase non-conforming FAR. Windows within setback. Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements).
Art. 8.000, Sec. 8.22.2.d & Sec. 8.22.2.c (Pre-Existing Non-Conforming Structure). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit).

7:15 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-279459: 359 WALDEN STREET
Residence B Zone
359 WALDEN LLC – C/O ADAM MUNNELLY & LAUREN MARRETT
Special Permit: Relocation, enlargement, and addition of windows and doors on the nonconforming right-side facade. Addition to the existing enclosed front porch that will increase the existing building mass that is currently nonconforming to the required front and right-side 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).

7:30 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-287510: 94 FAYERWEATHER STREET
Residence B Zone ELLIOT & KATHYR RANGER
Special Permit: To replace our existing, non-conforming 2nd story porch with a 2-story enclosed addition. We are requesting to extend the porch to the edge of the house on the driveway side and overhang on the second story by two feet over the existing structure footprint. Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements). Art. 8.000, Sec. 8.22.2.d (Non-Conforming Structure).
Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit).

7:45 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-1139335: 11-15 DOVER STREET
Residence B Zone KENNETH CHIN, KEN SAM CHIN & FONDA CHIN
Variance: To convert existing 3 residential/ 1 commercial units into 4 residential units. Add 2 dormers, along back part of house: allowing the rooms at the rear of the top floor to be more usable space. Proposed dormer is less than 12' in length and within side setbacks; the dormers increase the interior ceiling height and create FAR. Add skylight and window within setback.
Art. 5.000, Sec. 5.31 (Table of Dimensional Requirements). Sec. 5.26 (Conversion).
Art. 8.000, Sec. 8.22.3 (Alteration or Enlargement of a Non-Conforming Structure). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.30 (Variance).

The Week, 11/07/24 and

11/14/24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board of the City of Cambridge will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.** held remotely (see below for instructions to participate) on a Zoning Petition by Cambridge City Council to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Articles 2.000, 4.000, and 6.000 with the intent to add a definition of **“Flexible Parking Corridor”** to Article 2.000, add footnotes 64 and 65 to Section 4.30 Table of Use Regulations, and add Section 6.25 Flexible Parking Corridor Regulations which would allow existing off street parking facilities and vacant lots to have less restrictive zoning limitations in order to serve parking needs in areas with limited on-street parking and would allow parking facilities on municipally owned lots to be used for automobile parking as a principal use.

This hearing will be on Zoom Webinar. Go to www.cambridgema.gov/planningboard to view petition documents, send written comments before the hearing, or learn how to join the hearing online or by phone. Contact the Community Development Department at cddzoning@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4600 with questions. Written comments received by 12:00 P.M. on the Friday before the meeting will be considered by Board Members in advance of the meeting. Comments received later will be entered into the record.

The Week, 11/07/24 and 11/14/24

Public Notice Relative to Zoning and Municipal City of Cambridge, Massachusetts Office of the City Clerk

The Ordinance Committee will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, November 21, 2024, from 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m.** on a Zoning Petition by the Cambridge City Council to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Articles 2.000, 4.000, and 6.000 with the intent to add a definition of “Flexible Parking Corridor” to Article 2.000, add footnotes 64 and 65 to Section 4.30 Table of Use Regulations, and add Section 6.25 Flexible Parking Corridor Regulations which would allow existing off street parking facilities and vacant lots to have less restrictive zoning limitations in order to serve parking needs in areas with limited on-street

parking and would allow parking facilities on municipally owned lots to be used for automobile parking as a principal use.

This public hearing is also to discuss amendments to the Parking and Transportation Demand Management Ordinance, and the Commercial Parking Space Permits Ordinance.

This public hearing will be hybrid allowing participation in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and remotely via ZOOM. The ZOOM URL to view the meeting is <https://cambridgema.zoom.us/j/97895847144>. **If you would like to speak at this Public Hearing, please register to do so using this URL:**
<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/CityCouncil/PublicCommentSignUpForm>. You may also email comments to the City Clerk at Cityclerk@cambridgema.gov.

To request a copy of the amendments in full, e-mail City Clerk, Diane LeBlanc at DLeBlanc@Cambridgema.gov. Copies are also available at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and online at www.cambridgema.gov/cdd/zoninganddevelopment/zoning/amendments.

The City of Cambridge will provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities upon request. Please contact the City Clerk at 617-349-4260 or at DLeBlanc@Cambridgema.gov.

For the Committee,

Vice Mayor Marc McGovern,
Co-Chair
Councillor Paul Toner, Co-Chair

The Week, 11/07/24 and 11/14/24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION

The Planning Board of the City of Cambridge will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** located at Remote participation on Zoom (see below) on special permit application case PB-22 Amendment for the property located at 3 Michael Way for which the Applicant is Justin Caravella and Shwu Kong seeking special permits pursuant to Section 11.15. b. Modification to a townhouse development after a subdivision has been recorded for a proposal to Construct an addition and a dormer to an existing townhouse.

This hearing will be on Zoom Webinar. Go to www.cambridgema.gov/planningboard to view application documents, send written comments before the hearing, or learn how to join the hearing online or by phone. Contact the Community Development Department at cddzoning@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4600 with questions.

The Week, 11/07/24 and 11/14/24

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-9 – FIRST PUBLICATION CITY OF CAMBRIDGE In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty- Four AN ORDINANCE

That the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge be amended on a Zoning Petition by the City of Cambridge Board of Zoning Appeal to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Articles 2.000 and 8.000 as follows:

ARTICLE 2.000 DEFINITIONS
Dormer. A roofed projection built out from a sloping roof, containing a window or windows.

ARTICLE 8.000 NONCONFORMITY 8.22.1
h. Construction of a dormer or dormers to a nonconforming one- or two-family dwelling which may further violate the yard, height and/or FAR requirements of Article 5.000 shall comply with the following conditions:

1. The primary face of dormer(s) shall not extend beyond the face of the wall below.
2. The length of any dormer shall not exceed 1/2 of the length of the roof upon which it is built.
3. Sides of dormer(s) shall not extend to within 3'-6" of the existing roof termination.
4. Windows within dormers shall cover a minimum of 50% of the primary dormer wall.
5. The top of the dormer shall not extend above the existing roof ridge.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on November 4, 2024 and on or after November 25, 2024 the question comes on passage to be ordained.

Attest:- Diane P. LeBlanc

City Clerk

The Week, 11/14/24

Speed restrictions down to four, MBTA says

By MARC LEVY

There are only four speed restrictions along Greater Boston’s entire subway system, the MBTA said Tuesday.

Suspending service on two stretches of the red line between Boston and Quincy between Nov. 5 and Sunday ended five of the last nine safety-based restrictions that have been throttling commuters and frustrating riders since March 2023, when the red line had more than

100 trouble areas; the green line had 65; the orange line had 40; and the blue line had 10 (which sounds small but affected 77 percent of its track).

The transit agency said nearly 9,500 feet of rail has been replaced since then and a variety of other improvements made at the same time, including power and signal work such as cable replacement and repairs and refurbishments at stations – painting and power washing, steel and concrete work and installation of new signs, MBTA deputy press secretary Lisa Battiston said.

The news was followed Wednesday with the announced return of “hands-on” subway line managers, which a press release called an effort to “maintain the visual appearance and upkeep of subway stations systemwide.”

“Stations are the gateway to our system and they are integral to the communities that we serve,” MBTA leader Phillip Eng said, describing a goal for the hires of “making our stations cleaner, safer and more welcoming.”

Eng, a New York transplant, brought with him from the Long Island Rail Road his new chief of stations and facilities, Dennis Varley. He will oversee managers Amanda Bright for the red

line, Jaleesa Turner for the green line and Mike Brunache for the orange line, the three that serve Cambridge and Somerville directly.

A Wednesday strategic plan update said that among Eng’s accomplishments in the past year were reaching agreements with all 28 transport unions, exceeding annual hiring goals and the securing of more than \$616 million in federal grant funds.

Next up are the modernization of the North Station Drawbridge; a South Coast Rail project for connections between Southeastern Massachusetts and Boston; and the electrification of the Fairmount Commuter Rail Line.

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.

Deer dine exposed to their predators, as fast as they can and barely chewing

By JEANINE FARLEY

When William Clark (of the Lewis and Clark expedition) saw abundant elk and “white tale deer” in 1805, he was describing the deer, not naming them, but eventually the description became the common name. White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) are native to North America, where humans have probably always hunted them. They were important to native peoples for food, of course, but also for their hides, bones, sinew, antlers, stomach and hooves, which were used for clothing, tools, food storage and more. According to Capt. John Smith, the Powhatan people used “the sinewes of Deere, and the tops of Deeres hornes,” which they “boyled to a jelly,” to make a “glew that will not dissolve in cold water.” Before Europeans arrived, it is estimated that there were 40 million to 80 million white-tailed deer in North America.

When colonists arrived in North America, they realized they could sell deer hides to Europeans for a good sum. In the late 1600s, traders sold 85,000 of the hides per year. By the mid-1700s, this number had increased to 500,000 per year. By the 1800s, railroads had expanded, repeating rifles improved hunting efficiency and hunting dogs became popular. Deer became easy targets throughout North America, and their numbers plummeted.

Deer became scarce in New England much earlier than this. The lawmakers in the Province of Massachusetts Bay in 1693 outlawed deer hunting from Jan. 1 to July 1. The penalty was 40 shillings, and the witness who reported the crime got half. The other half went to help the poor. In 1717, killing deer at any time in Massachusetts Bay was outlawed because “the depth of snow in some late winters hath been so great as hath occasioned the destruction of a great part of the deer in this province.” To enforce game laws, Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to appoint game wardens (called *Informers of Deer*, or *Deer Reeves*).

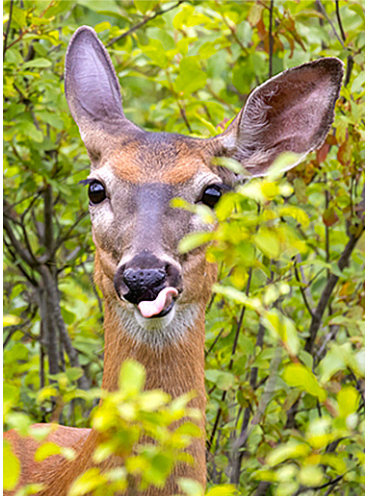
J.A. Allen wrote about white-tailed deer in Massachusetts in 1869, “This beautiful animal is now rare in this State, and will soon, probably, be extinct ... They were last seen in the vicinity of Springfield about fifty years ago.” By 1890, the deer population in North America reached its lowest levels ever. Only about 300,000 remained. Most of the nation from the East Coast to the Rockies had no deer.

In the North Atlantic region, a period of cooling (called the Little Ice Age) occurred from the 1600s to 1850. After this time, loggers in far Northern New England began clearing land, which created suitable deer habitat. By the late 1800s, a few deer spread into northern Maine, New Hampshire and southern Canada. This region is north of their original range, but by this time the Little Ice Age was over, making the region more hospitable to deer.

Many states began to outlaw or severely limit deer hunting. Hunters worked to reestablish deer populations. In 1878, a hunting club in Vermont bought 17 captive deer and released them into woods closed to hunting. By 1895, this deer population had grown to several hundred. In 1898, Massachusetts closed the entire state to deer



Tom Murray



Tom Murray

hunting. The few deer in Northern New England spread south gradually. Pockets of deer in the Berkshires and on the Cape expanded their range, too.

But the really big change occurred in 1937. Congress passed a wildlife restoration act that taxed hunting guns and ammunition. The money went toward wildlife restoration projects, and white-tailed deer benefited greatly. Within a short time, deer returned to our woodlands. Today there are 30 million white-tailed deer in the United States, about 150,000 of which are in Massachusetts. Many locations have too many deer for the capacity of the land. To keep the population in check, Massachusetts has several deer-hunting seasons from October to December, including archery season, shotgun season and primitive firearms season. Hunting reduces the Massachusetts deer population by about 10 percent. The parts of the state with the most deer are closed to hunting, though.



Simon Gurvets

Male deer have antlers, while females do not. The antlers are made of bone. In August and September, males set off in search of females and mating (called rutting) occurs in November or December; once the breeding season is over, the bucks shed their antlers.

Females give birth in the spring. The babies (fawns) lie motionless on the ground hidden in leaves or tall grass. Their spotted coat helps camouflage them. The mother returns to the fawns to nurse them, but otherwise stays away. The fawns grow, and by the following

spring, they leave their mother but stay nearby. They return to the mother for the fall and winter. The following spring, the young are fully grown and leave their mother permanently to join either male or female groups.

Deer eat large amounts of food, especially leaves, shoots, seeds, grasses, acorns, berries and wildflowers. They even eat foods that are harmful or indigestible to humans, such as mushrooms, poison ivy and woody plants. Most of these plants grow around forest edges in open areas, exposed to

The white underside of a deer's tail is displayed during a moment of alarm. A deer eats in Saugus on June 24, 2023, and a winter deer in Cambridge Highlands on Feb. 12, 2023.

predators. Therefore, deer fill their bellies as quickly as they can, chewing just enough to swallow.

Many of the plants they ingest contain cellulose. People cannot digest cellulose molecules, but deer can. Deer have four chambers in their stomachs. The first chamber stores the hastily swallowed food. When the deer is in a safe place, it regurgitates this food and chews it again, forming a paste called cud. The deer swallows the cud, which enters a second chamber. Microorganisms in this chamber ferment and break down the cellulose, producing methane gas. Deer burp to get rid of this gas.

Deer regurgitate the cud from the second chamber and chew it some more! When swallowed this food eventually goes to a third chamber, which removes 65 percent of the water. When the food enters the fourth and final chamber, stomach acids digest the food – like in a human stomach. Stomach acids kill the microorganisms that had been breaking down the cellulose. The deer digest the microorganisms, too! Everything then moves to their 28-feet of intestines, where nutrients are absorbed into the body. Unabsorbed food becomes waste.

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.