

A circular illustration of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a grassy field is being worked by several people. One person on the left is using a tool to turn over the soil. Two other people stand in the center, one holding a long pole. A fourth person is visible on the right side of the field. In the background, there is a small wooden building with a gabled roof, surrounded by trees. A large flock of birds is flying in the sky above the field. The entire scene is enclosed within a circular frame.

Page 12

COLD FRONT

ALL ARE ALIKE
UNTO GOD

THANK YOU CAMBRIDGE! GIVE SINGUARY. 2/26/2020

Nation of
IMMIGRANTS

BUILD LOVE
CAMBRIDGE TOGETHER

See HIGHLIGHTS, Page 11

MEETINGS JAN. 30–FEB. 6

CAMBRIDGE

Porter Square change and police technology

By MARC LEVY

Refining ideas for Porter Square

Massachusetts Avenue planning study, 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday. Weigh in on the future of Porter Square, including possible zoning changes, urban design concepts and open-space improvement ideas developed over the past several months with community input. Watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

Police seek high-tech tools

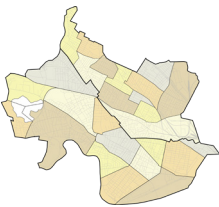
City Council, 5:30 p.m. Monday. Police ask for an infrared automated license plate recognition system, with cameras placed citywide “based on public safety needs and crime trends”; a drone with high-resolution infrared cameras that can be equipped with a speaker “to give verbal commands” (with potential uses described as documenting traffic accident scenes, checking out suspicious packages, searching for missing and lost people and getting aerial photographs and videos of crime scenes to help reconstruct events and gather evidence); and a “GrayKey” tool that gets data off of locked phones or other devices (after police get a search warrant or owner permission). The council meets at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square. Televised and watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

Bike lane open houses

Broadway Street Safety Improvement Project open house, 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Fletcher-Maynard Academy, 225 Windsor St., The Port; and **6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 6** at City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, Mid-Cambridge. Broadway is due to get separated bicycle lanes and related safety improvements between Portland and Quincy streets (though these open houses are primarily about the section between Portland and Columbia streets). Similar projects have whipped up strong feelings around traffic complications and loss of parking; this is a chance for residents to ask questions and give feedback.

Town-gown reports

Planning Board, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. It’s town-gown report time, when the board checks in on what Lesley and Harvard universities and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are doing in, for, with and to the city. 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

Public safety reform, Davis homes and art

By MATTHEW SAGE

Reducing resident displacement

Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development, 7 p.m. Thursday. The city’s antidisplacement task force makes a series of policy recommendations to reduce Somerville property vacancies. Delayed from a mid-2024 release, the report addresses displacement of residents, small businesses and artists and will reportedly provide ways to minimize affordability problems. Though more informational events on the group’s work will happen this spring, community members are invited to share feedback Thursday. Watchable via videoconferencing.

Report to reform public safety

Department of Racial and Social Justice, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. Following the release of reports this week, contributing groups – the Public Safety for All Task Force, Civilian Oversight Task Force and Antiviolence Working Group – discuss recommendations for police reform and alternate public safety models in Somerville. Residents are invited to review the reports and submit questions for discussion beforehand. At Somerville High School, 81 Highland Ave., Central Hill.

New bar and grill near McGrath

Ward 2 Neighborhood Meeting, 6 p.m. Wednesday. A bar and grill restaurant, Bonfire Boston, may be coming to the Union Square area. Representatives of the company, their attorney and architect will present plans at a neighborhood meeting for the restaurant to be located at 282 McGrath Highway, replacing the shuttered Portuguese sports bar Nucleo Sportinguist. Watchable via videoconferencing.

Davis Square mixed development

Planning Board, 6 p.m. Thursday. The board hears a site approval application for a mixed-use, four-story development with three residential units and commercial art gallery at 53 Chester St., Davis Square, next door to Red-bones Barbecue. The current structure, built in 1920, is a two-family house. Watchable via videoconferencing.

THE WEEK

by CAMBRIDGE DAY

Published Fridays
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Publishing
TCI Press, Seekonk

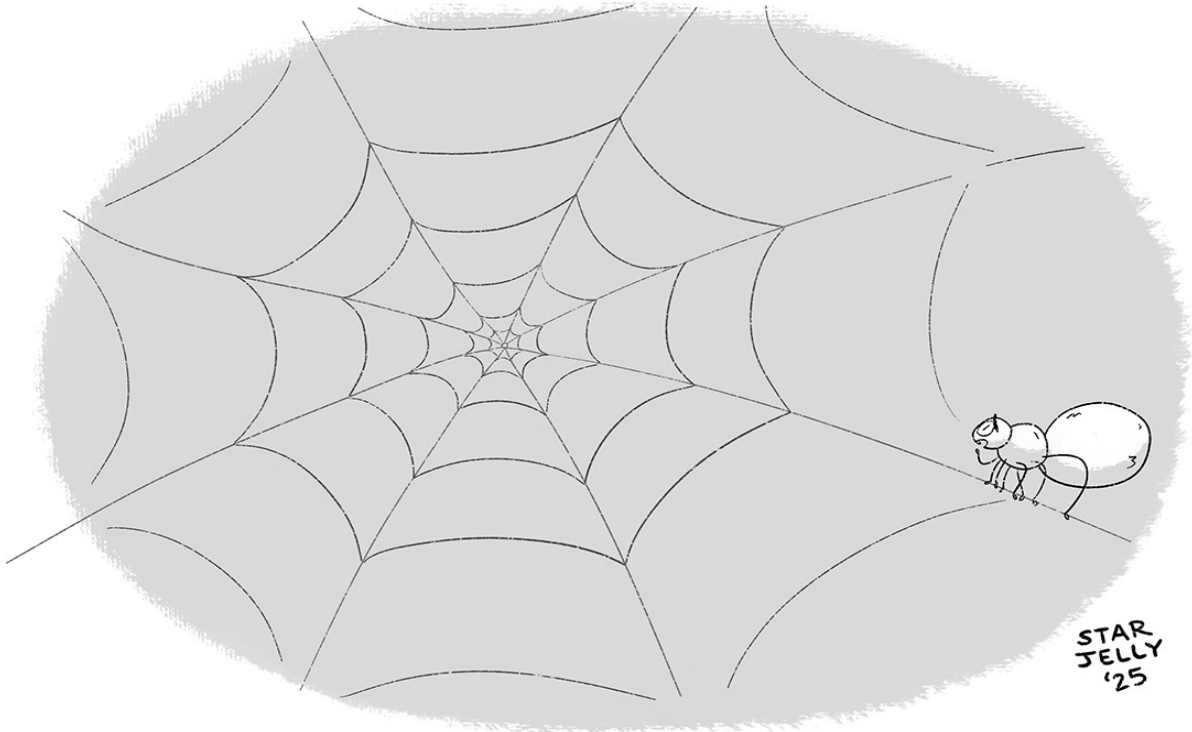
Distribution
EDS Distribution, Boston
Fernando Alves (781) 801-9457

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The Week by Cambridge Day publishes with gratitude for contributors to the cambridgeday.com donation box and to Jason Pramas and Chris Faraone of the **Boston Institute for Nonprofit Journalism**.

Star Jelly Comics

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“CRAP... I MADE A MISTAKE.
BETTER START OVER.”

STAR
JELLY
'25

Faith in tech, higher power and policing in meeting about killing

By MARC LEVY

A call for more crimefighting technology was heard Tuesday from Cambridge’s police commissioner at a community meeting about a fatal shooting two weeks earlier on Clifton Street, accompanied by a call by the slain man’s mother for the community to trust in local police officers.

Commissioner Christine Elow and other city officials took occasionally sharp questions from residents at a community meeting at the Peabody School in North Cambridge about lack of notice to neighbors after violence, lack of long-term support for the families of victims, why some areas aren’t better lit as night falls and why police didn’t use their sirens when responding to the scene of the attack that killed Angel Nieves, 21, less than two weeks into the new year.

Police got calls at 11:25 p.m. Jan. 13 that Nieves had been hit by multiple gunshots from a white SUV that fled toward Rindge Avenue. Nieves died soon after at Mount Auburn Hospital. There have been no arrests, but “we have an entire team from the Cambridge Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police and the District Attorney’s Office that have been working this case around the clock,” Elow said. “This is a top priority.”

It was known quickly by police that Nieves had been targeted, and with his death the risk of more gunfire was over, Elow said. But neighbors said they remained rattled by the knowledge of how close they were to the violence.

“This was a shooting at 11:30 at night. What if I’m out parking my car?” one asked. Another recounted hearing the sounds of another, long-ago shooting: “It’s kind of not great to think, okay, those were the sounds of somebody being murdered.”

Officials offered some defenses and explanations to questions from an audience of a few dozen people: While some want more of the lights that can make people feel safe, those living nearest the lights might find them intrusive – and the lights can draw activity as well as repel it; and sirens are used for getting through traffic and used only when necessary.

Speaking from faith

Support for the officials, and a call for residents to rethink the crime that brought them there, came from Joanna Jimenez, the mother.

“I don’t harbor any hate or resentment, because my lord Jesus Christ does not allow me to be that way,” Jimenez said. “It’s unfortunate that we’re here today, but I have faith that through god, all things are possible – and this had to happen so that we can come together and speak.”

“What I want everyone to do,” Jimenez said, “is focus on building trust in the community with the police, because we can’t do it on our own.” Police officers – some she identified by names or nicknames – “have been my stronghold when I had nothing,” Jimenez said.

There had been skepticism when Elow told residents that police had a lower-key response to the shooting



Marc Levy

Joanna Jimenez, the mother of shooting victim Angel Nieves, speaks at a Tuesday community meeting in North Cambridge.



Marc Levy

Police commissioner Christine Elow calls for better crime-solving tech.

when it became known Nieves was the only target, but Jimenez supported the commissioner. “I want to give you that peace of mind that it wasn’t a retaliation [for an earlier crime]. This was personal,” Jimenez said.

She was aware of online chatter about a 2021 case in which Nieves, then 17, was accused of killing his stepfather in Western Massachusetts. Two years ago he was found not guilty of the charges, she noted, and her son being killed – as he walked home from visiting an ex-girlfriend – was unrelated.

He had been a “rebellious teenager” and caught up in criminal behavior, Jimenez said, but the tragedy of the killing was how completely he had turned his life around upon coming home from a stay in Fall River, and how short a time she had with the new Angel before the shooting.

“I got to enjoy him for only 14 days and watch him transform his whole life in the city that transforms everyone’s life,” Jimenez said. He was already working at a Boston chocolate shop, signed up for a Just A Start work training program and newly religious. “Before my son passed away, my son gave his life to Christ.”

“I’m not seeking justice, because I know god will do that for me,” she said.

Incidents stand out

Police officials say they are seeking justice here as well, along with for the handful of other unresolved violent crimes from years past – police said Tuesday that Cambridge’s crime rate was “pretty stable” if with more gun violence last year after historic lows.

There were 13 gunfire incidents in 2024, four of which drew blood. There were no deaths among the five victims of gunshot wounds, one of whom was injured in a road rage incident. (Most of these incidents involved residents hearing gunfire and police later finding shell casings proving where the shots came from.)

A year earlier there had been six gunfire incidents for police to investigate, four of which drew blood. Among the six victims in 2023, there was one death, for which no one has been arrested.

As those incidents have stood out among the city’s relative calm, calls have grown for police to take action – but “some of the challenges that we’re having with our homicides is not that they’re unsolved, but that they are uncharged,” Elow said. “Some of the challenges that we have is [finding] people that are willing to go into court.”

Crimefighting with technology

That has never been easy, Elow said – but now there are ways to make up for it.

“One of the things that we’re really missing from our investigations is more technology,” Elow said. Though Cambridge has been cautious about allowing devices that could be misused against residents engaged in lawful activity – and some of that concern was raised Tuesday by a resident – increasingly Cantabrigians demand it.

A call for more community police during the meeting went unanswered.

City-owned surveillance cameras will be up in public parts of Central Square likely in March as a test, Elow said. The cameras – for which a vendor is being chosen Monday – will be “an amazing tool for us to help with our investigations,” Elow said.

In addition, an order will be before the City Council on Monday asking for license plate readers, Elow said. The agenda also includes requests for a drone with infrared cameras; and a “GrayKey” tool that gets data from locked phones or other devices.

Because it oversees private property, the Cambridge Housing Authority was able to put cameras in hot spots for criminal activity within its Newtowne Court and Washington Elms housing project. Elow believed “there was a lot more activity” in parts of The Port before the CHA cameras were installed.

As upper school closes, concern over where kids are placed for next years

By DANIELLE HOWE

Plans for where to place current students of the soon-to-close Kennedy-Longfellow School are bringing confusion.

The decision to close the 158 Spring St., East Cambridge, school, with its roughly 220 students grades pre-K through 5, was confirmed by a School Committee vote Dec. 17 due to a combination of low test scores and concentration of high-needs students. It is set to close at the end of this school year.

At a Jan. 21 committee meeting, interim superintendent David Murphy said the district has been in contact with all K-Lo families one-on-one to go over transition planning.

Distribution of students will happen in two ways, as laid out in a Jan. 10 letter to families: Students will move in groups to ensure continuity, with rising first and second graders going to the King Open School at 850 Cambridge St., Wellington-Harrington, and rising third, fourth and fifth graders going to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School at 102 Putnam Ave. Riverside; or parents can choose to participate in a special lottery for available seats across the district.

(Of the 66 percent of families who have indicated a preference, 63 percent will participate in the group move and 37 percent have chosen the lottery.)

The change in location sets the groups up for moving to different upper schools as fifth graders become sixth graders: Putnam Avenue, which shares a campus with the MLK School; or the Cambridge Street Upper School, which shares a campus with the King Open. While that’s the intention, according to the district, alarms were set off when its communications suggested otherwise.

Confusion over upper school

All parents who spoke during public comment Jan. 21 raised concerns over what they perceived to be the district’s plan for all current K-Lo students to go the Putnam Avenue Upper School. This would mean students who are moved to King Open would spend years with new classmates only to be separated from them in the sixth grade.

Kids should have the option of switching to PAUS if they prefer, rather than the district assigning them automatically “when the time for middle school comes,” said Anne Coburn, parent of a K-Lo fifth grader and member of the K-Lo caregiver advocates.

Laura Clawson, a Graham & Parks parent, called the perceived decision “irresponsible to a degree that would be ridiculous if it wasn’t so harmful” and suggested that anyone involved in developing the plan should have their professional judgement questioned.

“If it’s not the plan” Clawson said, “it’s a massive communications failure by district leaders, and one they’ve failed to correct” since K-Lo advocates outlined their understanding in a Jan. 16 newsletter. The group, formed in the wake of the decision to close the school, first proposed the alternative in the newsletter.

Member Richard Harding had no previous knowledge of the plan and asked Murphy for clarification, adding that he would hope the committee would have a say in the matter. “I do think that I would like to see less



Danielle Howe

The Kennedy-Longfellow School in East Cambridge is set to close at this school year’s end.

transitions. I just want to be clear, I was supporting the notion that when a kid moved to wherever they went, they would then follow the natural progression into middle school,” Harding said.

Putnam Avenue fallback

Offering families a choice is not as simple as it may seem, since it is dependent on available seats, Murphy said, but “it is my expectation that students whose families want their children to matriculate into the designated upper school as part of the triad that they attend next year will have the opportunity.”

The district cannot guarantee space at the Cambridge Street Upper School for students who transition to King Open next year, though. Space will be held at Putnam Avenue as a fallback, so no “unsustainable bubbles” go to Cambridge Street, as Murphy phrased it.

“We are doing our absolute best to provide accurate info,” Coburn said after the meeting of Murphy’s response. “I’ve been sitting with this information for weeks now and I am still confused by the most recent explanation. I’m hoping to have the opportunity to better understand.”

Jackie Piques, the new director of communications for the district, clarified over email Jan. 21 that a Jan. 10 letter to families indicated Putnam Avenue as the destination for sixth graders and meant only the current class of fifth-graders without discounting the possibility of all K-Lo students attending Putnam Avenue. “We will continue to communicate and clarify as needed,” she said.

Despite the confusion, the district is confident it is moving in the right direction, “We’re going to keep moving along and prioritize the students of that building, as we have from the time that we first brought this information to your attention in November,” Murphy said.

Coburn, differences aside, agrees. “I’m in awe of what they’ve accomplished since the beginning of the year.”

“The K-Lo administration and staff have been working tirelessly to reach out to the K-Lo community, and they’ve been working closely with the district to achieve the task of speaking with all families affected by the transition,” Coburn said.

The district has communicated that it will provide a more substantive update in the first week of February.

METRO

New owners of Cardullo’s Gourmet plan to add a little tech and improve shopping

By MADISON LUCCHESI

The Cambridge staple Cardullo’s Gourmet Shoppe, with a location in Harvard Square and the Seaport, is under new ownership.

After nearly a decade with the previous owners, restaurateur Joel Hidenfelter is the manager of the Cardullo’s brand and business.

The previous owners of Cardullo’s thought “we’d be the best fit to take the business to the next level,” said Babu Koganti, the president of Flying Line Hospitality, which is partnered with Hidenfelter.

Koganti and Hidenfelter have retail and restaurant experience, including Hidenfelter’s management of the

South Indian restaurant Godavari in Woburn, according to a License Commission meeting on Sept. 9.

Cardullo’s, at 6 Brattle St., opened in 1950. Hidenfelter believes a selection of local goods, including Boston-made Phillips Chocolate products and locally baked cookies, is what keeps customers coming back, though with hundreds of unique items in each store, customers can “discover something new every time they come in.”

The new partners are looking to expand online gift box sales and heighten the stores’ social media presence, Koganti said.

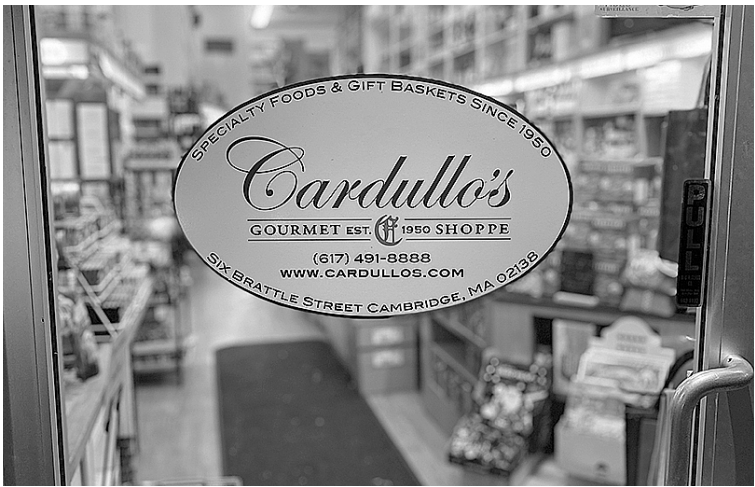
Hidenfelter also seeks to “transform labeling”: Each product gets a corresponding QR code so customers

can learn everything about the items, especially the wine selection.

The new labeling system will make the store an “easier place to shop” while the store’s layout remains. Longtime Cardullo’s shoppers know where everything is, Hidenfelter said, “and if you move things around, we’ll hear about it.”

After nearly a year of transitional planning, the transfer of ownership took place Nov. 12, Hidenfelter said.

The previous owners, Rich and Kim Wilson, bought the business in 2015 from third-generation Cardullo family members: sisters Francesca Cardullo and Doney Cardullo Tavilla. The Wilsons helped Hidenfelter learn the ropes of the business for a month before retiring officially. Cambridge



Marc Levy

The Cardullo’s Gourmet Shoppe in Harvard Square, Cambridge, is under new ownership.

Day reached out to the Wilsons for a comment, but did not get a response.

The store at 99 Seaport Blvd., Boston, opened in 2018 and attracts a more “niche market” than the Harvard

store, Koganti said. Plans for that location include a “revamp” of the deli, later hours, more wine tastings and a new selection of wines not available in the Seaport, he said.

School, health, housing and cities’ officials brace for Trump anti-immigration actions

From Page 1

In response, city and school officials in Cambridge and Somerville have reiterated support for immigrants. “Overall, the city of Cambridge remains unwavering in its commitment to supporting and promoting the safety, health and well-being of all of its residents,” Cambridge city spokesperson Jeremy Warnick said Jan. 22. He singled out efforts by the city’s Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship to inform immigrants of their rights; the Community Learning Center, which offers English classes and employment help to immigrants; and police department noncooperation with immigration enforcement.

Warnick said that so far, “there is a lack of clarity on what, if any, local programs will be impacted from a funding perspective by the new administration.” Further, he said that “while Cambridge has benefited from a number of federal grant programs, it is prepared to navigate any shifts in policies that may come with the new administration.”

Cambridge’s \$955.6 million city budget for this fiscal year includes about \$15 million in federal aid, including grants. Among the programs funded by federal money are a community development block grant that pays for affordable housing and community services, fuel assistance supporting help with utility bills for low-income residents and aid for housing and other programs for homeless people.

In Somerville, Mayor Katjana Ballantyne said the city “has proudly been a sanctuary city since the 1980s because we believe everyone deserves safety, dignity and respect. While we are deeply concerned about potential federal overreach and its impact on families and our economy, we remain steadfast in our commitment to protect the lawful and constitutional rights of all who call our city home.”

Ballantyne also said Somerville opposes mass deportation and is “deeply concerned that mass deportation will drive up food and other costs, drain funds from other national needs and endanger people who fled violence and crises at home.”

School districts prepare

The major issue at schools is safety for immigrant students, because the new administration will now allow ICE agents to carry out actions at schools. The heads of Somerville and Cambridge public schools said immigration agents won’t be allowed

to question a student or get student records for immigration reasons, and only parents or guardians can take a student from school.

“The preservation of a safe, secure and affirming learning environment for our students and their families will be safeguarded irrespective of potential changes to federal policy,” interim Cambridge schools superintendent David Murphy said in a Jan. 7 memorandum to staff. “Our students – all of our students – are entitled to the welcoming and supportive environments you help cultivate in our school communities on a daily basis.”

School employees have been told to refer requests made by immigration agents at school to principals.

Cambridge schools spokesperson Jackie Piques said the school district “will continue to partner with [the police department] to ensure our schools are safe.”

“Our priority is keeping students safe and providing a safe and welcoming learning environment where they are able to learn and where both students and families feel supported,” Piques said.

In Somerville, superintendent Ruben Carmona said much the same in a message to families – that school staff “will not coordinate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement” and “will only send students home” with a parent or guardian, or a friend approved by the family member.

Carmona also urged families to update contact information and offered support from the school system’s family engagement department.

During Trump’s first term as president, ICE agreed not to conduct enforcement actions at “sensitive” sites such as schools, hospitals and houses of worship; the new administration has reversed that policy.

“Sanctuary cities” and housing

Trump has also revived his first-term threat to cut off federal aid to “sanctuary cities” such as Cambridge and Somerville that have said they won’t help federal authorities including ICE enforce immigration laws because it’s not their responsibility. The U.S. Justice Department has ordered federal prosecutors to investigate whether state and local officials in sanctuary cities and states can be sued or charged with a crime; the press contact for the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts didn’t answer an email sent Jan. 23 asking how the office is responding to the order.

Low-income housing advocates



Marc Levy

Somerville’s Central Hill campus includes a school and health services.

are worried that Trump would stop allowing families that have some undocumented members but at least one legally present resident to live in federal public housing or get rent assistance vouchers. Trump proposed to bar such “mixed status” families from public housing and rent aid during his first term, but failed.

Cambridge Housing Authority executive director Michael Johnston declined to say how many mixed-status families live in subsidized housing in Cambridge. Trump’s candidate for director of Housing and Urban Development, Eric Scott Turner, didn’t directly answer when asked at his Senate confirmation hearing whether HUD would evict mixed-status families, according to a news report of the hearing.

When Arizona Democrat Ruben Gallego asked Turner for his position on housing mixed-status families, the nominee replied: “We have to take care of American citizens and American families. It’s not only the right thing to do, it’s not what we’re just called to do, it’s the law. My job would be to uphold the laws on the books.” HUD rules allow mixed-status families to live in public housing and obtain rent vouchers.

Johnston at the Cambridge Hous-

ing Authority said: “There seems to be a lot of items on the priority list for the new administration, and I am not sure where this fits in on the grand scheme of things, but we are waiting to see what happens before we panic. For us, we need to keep everything flowing forward with construction and planning.”

“At the same time, we are working to redo some trainings for our staff regarding immigration rights and plan to have a heavy presence at a couple of trainings that the city is holding,” Johnston said.

“Know-your-rights” trainings

Cambridge and Somerville have been sponsoring “know-your-rights” trainings for residents and others who might be confronted by federal immigration enforcement officers. In Cambridge, the Commission on Immigrant Rights and Citizenship plans to hold more sessions next month.

Cambridge Health Alliance, where some employees as well as patients could be affected by Trump’s policies on immigration, is “reviewing the multitude of executive orders that have been issued,” spokesperson David Cere said. “At this time, we are working with various partner organizations to

learn how the orders may be implemented.”

The Alliance posted a page on its website with information on resources for immigrants, including know-your-rights information.

Police, courts and detainers

Cambridge police don’t “enforce civil immigration laws, and we do not ask people we engage with about their immigration status,” said Robert Goulston, in one of his final statements before ending his time as police department spokesperson. In Somerville, Ballantyne said police work with federal authorities on criminal cases, but “our police and staff leave general immigration enforcement to federal entities.”

ICE has occasionally asked local police, including in Cambridge, to hold people who’ve been arrested but are ready for release for extra time so agents can get to a police station and detain the person for immigration violations. The requests are known as “detainers.”

Not agreeing to detainers is one hallmark of sanctuary cities. The state’s Supreme Judicial Court ruled in 2017 that it was illegal to hold people solely for immigration purposes past the time they were ordered to be freed. The ruling essentially made Massachusetts a sanctuary state.

Former Gov. Charlie Baker tried unsuccessfully to persuade legislators to create exceptions to the court ruling for people charged with serious crimes. Republican legislators filed similar legislation last fall, which was not adopted.

Goulston, in Cambridge, said that if police get a detainer request involving someone accused of a serious crime, the suspect will be transferred to court so a judge can decide on release. Under the SJC ruling, court officials as well as police could not agree to a request to detain the person solely for immigration violations; however, transferring a defendant to court could provide the time ICE would need if the suspect is released.

If the person is arrested for a minor offense, a bail clerk can decide at the police station whether to release the suspect, Goulston said. In that case police won’t agree to a request to detain people past the time they can be released, if immigration is the only reason. ICE made four detainer requests to Cambridge police last year, and all suspects were transferred to Cambridge District Court, Goulston said. Cambridge Day has asked for information about the cases under the public records law.

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

BUSINESS & MONEY

Amid a lab slowdown, 585 Kendall and its arts are on track for 2026

By MARC LEVY

With a Jan. 21 topping-off ceremony – in which a construction project’s final structural beam is raised into place – the Cambridge lab and arts building known as 585 Kendall is on track to be finished in 2026, said the BioMed Realty executive overseeing the project, Sal Zinno.

Exterior terra cotta panels for the three-tiered building started going up Monday. The tenant talking the bulk of the building’s square footage, Takeda, is expected to begin its fit-out in early summer and the core shell will be substantially complete in January 2026, Zinno said.

“Not everyone gets to do a 585,” said Zinno, who started at BioMed 16 years ago and “never expected to be here that long – [but] a 630,000-square-foot building with a theater at the base and 120-seat amphitheater? That stuff, and the color and the shape and all that, is really what makes what I do amazing. It’s not just commodity office product in the burbs.”

Along with Takeda’s move-in comes 30,000 publicly accessible square feet with a 400-seat theater; a 150-seat stage in a lobby with year-round garden; and “most importantly, a commons area on the ground floor where everyone will be welcomed,” said Connie Chin, chief executive of Global Arts Live and 585 Arts, the nonprofit programmer of the space.

The ceremony Jan. 21 on Third Street, in the heart of Cambridge’s Kendall Square, began in the open air in 15-degree temperatures.

A 44-foot iron beam rested on concrete barriers in front of the structure, quickly covered with signatures and scrawled good wishes by the gathered Suffolk construction workers, BioMed and Takeda executives and arts and community leaders such as the Cambridge Community Foundation’s Geeta Pradhan. The event drew state legislators, mayor E. Denise Simmons and city manager Yi-An Huang and city councillors Sumbul Siddiqui and Patty Nolan. Among the shivering crowd, many of whom ducked occasionally into a nearby lobby to warm up, only one person looked comfortable even without a jacket: state Sen. Sal DiDomenico – who grew up only blocks away, saw Kendall Square grow and is now Senate chair of the life-sciences caucus on Beacon Hill.

“We remember the days when Kendall Square was not the place it is today,” DiDomenico said. “I know what



Marc Levy

The final 44-foot, 4,330-pound I-beam is raised to the top of the future 585 Kendall in Cambridge on Jan. 21.



Marc Levy

Julie Kim, president of Takeda’s U.S. businesses, speaks during the indoor part of ceremonies Jan. 21.

the life-sciences industry does for people firsthand. We are just so excited and so happy to see Takeda continue to grow in our neighborhood.”

After a series of photo ops in front of the signed beam, a bagpiper played Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” and cranes began lifting its 4,330 pounds. It was rested in place at the top of the future 585 Kendall and the ceremony attendees fled inside for brief speeches and lunch.



Marc Levy

State Sen. Sal DiDomenico, BioMed Realty’s Sal Zinno and Suffolk Construction’s John Fish, from left.

BioMed’s next project after 585 Kendall isn’t clear, but in public and private remarks Zinno made it clear why he has stayed in the city and why, in DiDomenico’s words, BioMed has “so many buildings in Cambridge they don’t even know how many they have.”

“I love this market. Working in Cambridge is incredible, and lends itself to being able to create a project like this,” Zinno said. He didn’t doubt there was a next one – BioMed is “always on the lookout” and acquired a few buildings in Cambridge recently that could

be developed. (The company has been holding community meetings about a possible redevelopment at 320 Charles St., East Cambridge.)

Market problems that have put the brakes on projects in Cambridge and Somerville by developers such as Healthpeak and Asana is, for BioMed, only something to “keep a close eye on,” Zinno said. “It’s had an impact on what we build – we’re seeing a trend to buildings that have a higher percentage of lab. Your typical lab building is really a portion of office and a portion of lab; we’re seeing a line shift where some of our clients want to accommodate more scientists.”

Despite the broader trends hitting real estate and construction, Julie Kim, president of Takeda’s U.S. businesses, said that being able to gather its employees in one place was good for them and for the community.

“That building over there that’s going up, that’s going to be our new R&D tower [for] state-of-the-art equipment and labs to help accelerate the development of medicines,” Kim said. “Being able to bring everyone together here in Cambridge will allow us to collaborate and innovate even better.”

Kim agreed with Zinno that Cambridge and Kendall Square continues to be “the place to be.”

“There is no other place in the world where this ecosystem for life sciences exists. That is why we chose to be here and why we continue to choose to be here,” Kim said.

All materials for 585 Kendall have long been assembled – “the entire curtain wall is spread out in a yard in Canada and is going to come down by truck, it’s ready to go,” Zinno said – and safe from the effect of tariffs threatened to be implemented next month by the new Trump White House.

That means 585 Kendall is on track for a new public space and theater and for Takeda to take occupancy next year of the rest of the structure’s 16 stories.

“Complicated projects like this in the heart of the Innovation District truly take no time off, whether it’s days of extreme cold like today or torrential rains, extreme heat or whatever the conditions are,” Suffolk Construction chairman and chief executive John Fish said. “Our workers are here six days a week, 18 hours a day, ensuring the success of this world-class, state-of-the-art headquarters.”

Somerville Theatre changes ownership to team of longtime staff; Rudy’s space goes to Hollows

From Page 1

Judge underlined that the group – himself, fellow managers Jamie Mattchen and John “Jay” O’Leary and Ian Brownell, of The Brattle Theatre board and podcast and ScreenBoston listings website – expects to run the theater as it is.

“The reason we are doing this isn’t because we think we’re going to get rich, it’s because we value the roles that these theaters play in the community that we live in,” Judge said. “We consider ourselves stewards ... We want to make sure that these theaters remain what they are.”

The change was first reported Jan. 2 by Michael Gutierrez of Hump Day News in his Cambridge Day column, Attend.

Commissioners reviewed the purchase and sale agreement – a cash deal with no financing for a five-year lease with the option of a five-year extension – and confirmed with Vigorito that Fraiman continues to own the property and will be landlord for the business run by CSB Theatres. Since it is a lease, “the only thing we had to pur-



Tom Meek

Ian Judge in June 2021 as he oversaw creation of the Crystal Ballroom.

chase was the liquor license and the inventory/goodwill,” Judge said.

The limits on the lease is something of a formality, and the Fraimans “want them there for another 100 years,” Vigorito said of the new management group.

Arlington’s Capitol Theatre is also owned by the Fraiman family’s Frame One Theatres. Mel-

vin Fraiman, who passed away in 2022, acquired the Capitol Theatre in 1979 and the Somerville Theatre in 1984. His son, Richard Fraiman, assumed leadership more than a decade ago and oversaw the reintroduction of the space’s Crystal Ballroom in 2021.

Vigorito said she is working on a similar transfer of ownership to the team in Arlington for the Capitol, but the timeline is unclear. (The company name, CSB, simply stands for “Capitol Somerville Ballroom,” Judge said in email – encompassing Arlington and Somerville’s film and music venues.)

“We as a group decided to do this to make sure that the theaters remained independent. Each person involved has deep local roots, lives in the community and recognizes the value in keeping these businesses locally owned and operated,” Judge said. “We’ll continue programming our mix of new films, repertory programs, live music and so on. We’ll continue to work with local schools and businesses. We’ll keep hosting film festivals. Our membership program will continue. Gift cards are all still valid. We’ll continue to

schedule public and private events. There will still be real butter on the popcorn.”

“The goal is to make the transition as seamless as possible,” Judge said.

Support for the Somerville Theatre change came from City Council president Judy Pineda Neufeld – who was married at the theater – and councilor Lance Davis, as well as former councilor Jack Connolly, Vigorito said.

Licensing Commission chair Joe Lynch was also enthusiastic. “There is no better partner than the Somerville Theatre,” Lynch said.

The Hollows

Also at the Jan. 21 meeting, commissioners approved the transfer of the Rudy’s Cafe licensing at 248 Holland St., Teele Square, to a restaurant called The Hollows. The new eatery will be run by Charlie Redd, of Dragon Pizza and the Dragon’s Lair in Davis Square, and partners Doug Sherman and Bridget Zerner.

Rudy’s, a Tex-Mex cantina, closed Jan. 19. It had been open since 1982.

EVENTS AHEAD JAN. 30–FEB. 6

Gund Hall, 42 Quincy St., near Harvard Square, Cambridge

6:30 p.m. Jan. 30

“Sounds of Medieval Cluny”

Free, but RSVP. The opening of an exhibition celebrating the study of medieval architecture at Harvard includes a talk by curator Christine Smith, a Blue Heron vocal ensemble concert that would have been heard in the Cluny medieval monastery, commentary by musicologist Thomas Forrest Kelly and a reception. Also livestreamed. (For what it’s worth, the exhibit is called “Envisioning Cluny: Kenneth Conant and Representations of Medieval Architecture, 1872–2025.”)

6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 6

Mayors Imagining the Just City, Vol. 5

Free. Mayors from several states discuss planning and design interventions to address racial, social and environmental justice. Moderated by Katie Swenson, a senior principal of Mass Design Group. Sponsored by the Mayor’s Institute on City Design and Harvard’s The Just City Lab.

5 to 9 p.m. Jan. 30

Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., in the Baldwin neighborhood near Harvard Square, Cambridge

ArtsThursdays: Cozy Winter Glow

Free, and RSVP preferred. Explore the galleries, create a paper lantern, listen to the Eureka Ensemble, learn from biologists about migratory bird species, explore the science of biofluorescence from specimens that glow under UV light and enjoy free hot chocolate and churros, beverages for purchase and a raffle.

7 p.m. Jan. 31

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

Stand-up magic

\$20 to \$25. The New York show combining comedy and magic returns to the Rockwell, featuring Max Davidson, Tess Tregellas and Jason Silberman.

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

7 p.m. Feb. 1-2

We Black Folk: Griot Gatherings

\$20. Organized by digital media artist and past Folk Collective member Cliff Notez, the program includes performances by Kemp Harris, Grace Givertz, Cinamon, Zion Rodman, Kayla Blackburn, Devon Gates, Chris Walton, Pamela Means and former Folk Collective members Cliff Notez, Naomi Westwater and Lydia Harrell.

8 p.m. Feb. 3

Rachael Davis and R.O. Shapiro

\$23 to \$25. Davis has been singing and songwriting about the hilarious beauty of life from the north woods of Michigan to the Boston music scene and now in Nashville. Shapiro’s journeyed from the East End of Long Island to Austin to San Diego, and Americana is his sound now.

8 p.m. Jan. 31

Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., near Harvard Square, Cambridge

“How to Talk to a Human” with Jad Abumrad

\$62 to \$84. With a mix of audio clips, personal anecdotes and interactive games, the journalist and creator (and former co-host) of NPR’s “Radiolab” demonstrates proven strategies to navigate difficult or high-stakes conversations with confidence and empathy.

7:30 p.m. Feb. 1
Regattabar, 1 Bennett St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

Zishi Liu 2025 Chinese New Year Concert

\$25 to \$35. Saxophonist Zishi Liu leads a celebration of unity, good fortune and the vibrant spirit of the Lunar New Year with 10 Asian musicians, emerging and established, from diverse countries and backgrounds, united by a shared passion for jazz.

7 to 10:15 p.m. Feb. 5-March 9

Harvard University’s Farkas Hall, 12 Holyoke St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

Hasty Pudding show premiere with Woman of the Year Cynthia Erivo

\$250. The Pudding has put on pun-filled musical spectaculars since 1844, and have honored a Woman of the Year since 1951 (the honoree attends opening night). Tonight the organization premiere’s “101 Damnations” after having presented its Pudding Pot to Cynthia Erivo, the Emmy, Tony, Grammy-winning and two-time Oscar nominee who most recently starred as Elphaba opposite Ariana Grande’s Glinda in Universal’s film adaptation of the hit musical “Wicked.”

5 to 9 p.m. Jan. 30

Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy St., near Harvard Square, Cambridge

Harvard Art Museums at Night

Free. During this recurring event wander exhibits (including the new one by Joana Choumali), catch spotlight tours, browse the shop, enjoy sounds from DJ C-Zone and buy refreshments from Vitamin Sea Brewing and Suyu Joint.

Grolier Poetry Book Shop, 6 Plympton St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

7 to 8 p.m. Feb. 4

Poets David Miller, Jan Schreiber and Cammy Thomas

\$5 to \$10, but register. With an introduction by Jennifer Clarvoe.

7 to 8 p.m. Feb. 6

Poet Fred Moten

\$5 to \$10, but register. With an introduction by Keith Jones.

10 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 2

Mass Audubon Nature Center at Magazine Beach, 668 Memorial Drive, Cambridgeport

Hike to Hall’s Pond

Free, but register and 14-plus. Walk to Hall’s Pond in Brookline and learn about Minna B. Hall and Harriet Lawrence Hemenway, Mass Audubon’s two founding mothers and bird conservation activists (they ended the 19th century practice of wearing birds on hats).

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

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

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 14
Theatre@First, Unity Somerville, 6 William St., Somerville

Charity Rug & Vintage Sale

Free. Each year the nonprofit Healthy Tomorrow sells handcrafted rugs from Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, unusual items and even “Bernie” mittens to support the activist group Sini Sanuman in Bamako, Mali, which works to stop female genital mutilation in that country and helps girls and women with medical problems caused by it.

8 p.m. Feb. 1
Unity Somerville, 6 William St., just off College Avenue near Davis Square, Somerville

Six short plays written, rehearsed and performed within just 25 hours

\$25 suggested donation. Giving@First shows off its abilities under pressure (and on no sleep?) to benefit the Mutual Aid of Medford and Somerville, which gets the proceeds.

7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 4
Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Somerville (and the first Tuesday of every month)

Smut Slam

\$10 suggested donation. An open mic invites participants to tell five-minute, real-life dirty stories. The top three slammers win sexy swag from Good Vibrations. Kat Sistare hosts.

7 to 8 p.m. Feb. 3
Aeronaut Brewing, 14 Tyler St., near Union Square, Somerville

Picture + Panel: Raúl the Third and Ming Doyle

Free to \$15 and 21-plus. The monthly confab of graphic-novel creators brings in locals Raúl The Third, illustrator and author of the “Low Riders in Space” series and the “World of ¡Vamos!” books, and comic book artist and writer Doyle, whose work has appeared in works by DC, Vertigo, Image, Marvel, Valiant and more.

6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 2
Lehrhaus, 425 Washington St., Somerville

On-demand poetry from Raisa Tolchinsky

Free. The creative writing specialist at Harvard Divinity School and author of the prize-winning book “Glass Jaw,” about the world of women’s boxing, listens to you describe what you’re thinking or feeling and then turns it into a poem on her vintage Smith Corona typewriter, so you can take it home.

5 to 9 p.m. Jan. 30
Bow Market, 1 Bow Market Way, Union Square, Somerville

Lunar New Year Night Market

Free entry. Enjoy a local AAPI maker market at Upstairs at Bow, a 7 p.m. courtyard performance by NüWa Lion Dance and food and drink specials from Bow Market restaurants.

4:30 p.m. Feb. 6
Tsai Auditorium at the Center for Government and International Studies, South Concourse, 1730 Cambridge St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

Ben Rhodes on “American Foreign Policy in the Trump Era” lecture

Free, but register. The bestselling American author, political commentator and a former deputy national security adviser for strategic communications and speechwriting under president Barack Obama is co-host of “Pod Save the World.” A public reception follows the lecture from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Also livestreamed.

7 p.m. Jan. 31
Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge

Randall Fuller reads from “Bright Circle”

Free. In a book subtitled “Five Remarkable Women in the Age of Transcendentalism,” the University of Kansas professor discusses his group biography of Mary Moody Emerson, Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, Sophia Peabody Hawthorne, Lydia Jackson Emerson and Margaret Fuller – the last of whom lives on in The Port as the namesake of a neighborhood nonprofit.

7 to 10 p.m. Feb. 6
Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., East Cambridge

The Jar presents “One Nighter with Aparna Nancherla”

\$60 for a jar of six tickets, and 21-plus. The stand-up comedian and actor brings her dry, existential and whimsical sense of humor to her writing, too – her 2023 essay collection is “Unreliable Narrator: Me,

6 to 7 p.m. Feb. 6
Cambridge Main Library, 449 Broadway, Mid-Cambridge

Cambridge Cooks: The Life of a Plantain

Free. Dietitian Nutritionist Christine discusses the tropical plantain fruit, its health benefits and how to incorporate it into a balanced meal. Includes a taste test of a few ways it’s cooked around the world.

9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 1
Museum of Science, 1 Science Park, Boston, on the Cambridge border

Black History Month Celebration

Free with exhibit halls admission. Features speakers, family activities, cultural performances and community groups from the Boston area honoring the African American experience. Plus free screenings of “ReRooted,” a virtual production delving into the ongoing discussion surrounding natural hair, and 2018’s “Black Panther.”

6 to 7 p.m. Jan. 30
The Foundry, 101 Rogers St., East Cambridge (and most Thursdays through Mar. 13)

Adulting Made Easier: Group Therapy for Ages 22 to 29

\$16.50. Six hourlong sessions for emerging adults looking to foster a smoother adjustment into a fulfilling adult life.

6 to 8 p.m. Feb. 4
CanalSide Food + Drink, 100 CambridgeSide Place, East Cambridge

Music bingo

Free, but RSVP. Test your knowledge of diverse types of music during this game where you’ll mark off songs on your bingo cards as songs from various decades and genres are played; get five in a row and yell bingo to claim victory (or just have fun singing along).

Noon to 1 p.m. Feb. 6
Central Square Theater, Cambridge, 450 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, Cambridge

Lunchtime History: Black Cantabrigians from the 1700s on

Free. Bring your own lunch and learn from the Cambridge Black History Project about Black communities of many different roots that have maintained a continuous presence in Cambridge for centuries, and their wide-ranging contributions. Cookies provided for everyone.

5 to 6 p.m. Feb. 4
Cambridge Public Library Central Square Branch, 45 Pearl St.

“Central Square Shares the Love: Community Mosaic” exhibition opening reception

Free. During January patrons created collage pieces sharing what they love about Central Square and its library; the resulting mosaic is on display through February. Light refreshments provided.

FILM AHEAD JAN. 30–FEB. 6

LOCAL FOCUS



George Méliès’ 1902 “A Trip to the Moon” is in a series at the HFA.

See the magic of Méliès, underappreciated ‘Body’ and a gigantic Tarantino

By OSCAR GOFF

To kick off its “Dread of Winter” series of thrillers and other tales of foreboding, **The Brattle Theatre** hosts a new 4K restoration of Henri-Georges Clouzot’s influential 1953 thriller “**The Wages of Fear**,” running Friday through Monday. Yves Montand stars as Mario, a down-on-his-luck French expat in a South American shanty town who is recruited, with three other social outcasts, for what amounts to a suicide mission: driving two trucks loaded with nitroglycerin through 300 miles of rough jungle roads to seal off a raging fire at an oil derrick.

The suspense is, of course, self-explanatory, combining the flaring tempers of “The Treasure of the Sierra Madre” with the ticking time bomb of “Speed.” But what really sets “Wages” apart is Clouzot’s hard-edged view of humanity at its worst, as exemplified by Mario and his rough-necked cohorts, but even more by the ruthless American oil company who blithely sends them off to an almost-certain fate.

If nothing else, the wintertime pot-holes on the side streets of Somerville won’t seem nearly as bad on the ride home.

Any history of genre filmmaking or special effects cinema likely begins in earnest with George Méliès, the French magician turned filmmaker who engineered some of the very earliest cinematic “tricks” at the dawn of the 20th century with a series of wildly inventive and influential shorts. To celebrate this earliest of auteurs, the **Harvard Film Archive** is kicking off a series titled “**The Illusory Tableaux of Georges Méliès**,” bringing together three thoughtfully curated programs showcasing the director’s work.

Saturday’s program, “**The Optical Tricks of a Cinemagician**,” naturally shines a spotlight on Méliès’ pioneering use of special effects as an extension of his previous career as a show-biz conjurer, while “**Only in Dreams: The Evils That Lurk**” brings together some of the director’s darker and more phantasmagorical works on Sunday (a third program, slated for Feb. 9, is titled “**Voyages through Earth, Sea and Space**”; this is where you find Méliès’ most famous work, 1902’s “**A Trip to the Moon**”). All three programs will be accompanied by live music by Martin Marks.

One of the pleasures of following genre film is the way in which certain titles, after being dismissed at their release, slowly develop a cult following. Such is the case of Karyn Kusama’s “**Jennifer’s Body**” (2009), a box office bomb now revered as one of the most delightful teenage fright flicks of its day. Megan Fox stars in the title role, a high school vamp who is sacrificed by a visiting indie-sleaze rock band for a shot at Satanic superstardom. Unfortunately for them – and her classmates – Jennifer isn’t as virginal as she’d let on backstage, and the ritual transforms her into a cheerleader succubus who begins feasting her way through the student body.

Written by “Juno” scribe Diablo Cody (whose then-inescapable success likely made the film a victim of misplaced backlash), “Jennifer’s Body” is simply a smart and bloody good time, filled with one-liners and a delightful supporting cast, including future Oscar nominee Amanda Seyfried and cult scream-king Kyle Gallner. The film screens Sunday at the **Somerville Theatre**, hosted by local drag legend Throb Zombie as part of Fangoria Magazine’s Gash Festival.

With the Somerville’s 70 mm projectors out in full force for Brady Corbet’s VistaVision epic “**The Brutalist**,” it would be a waste not to take the opportunity to play an old favorite or two in their ultrawide glory. On Monday and Tuesday, the theater hosts a pair of special 70 mm screenings of Quentin Tarantino’s “**Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood**” (2019).

The film itself has quickly earned its place as one of the director’s most beloved, featuring career-best performances from Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt and a shaggy-dog storyline featuring some of the filmmaker’s most memorable scenes.

But it is also, first and foremost, a love letter to the Hollywood of the late ’60s, which makes its lingering shots of Los Angeles landmarks all the more poignant in light of the devastating wildfires that continue to wreak havoc on the City of Angels.

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



Guillaume Canet stars in “Ad Vitam.”

‘Ad Vitam’ and ‘Back in Action’

By TOM MEEK

Two in which a husband-wife team knuckles up and fights bad-dies. The first, “Ad Vitam” (Latin for “for life”), is a French action import, something Netflix does regularly: Take an international thriller no one’s ever heard of, quickly (and poorly) dub it and drop it onto its platform for fast hits (the movie charted as the No. 7 most-watched in the country). It makes sense for business, and the film isn’t that bad. Guillaume Canet (“Non-Fiction”) and Stéphane Caillard (“The Take”) star as Franck and Leo, husband and (pregnant) wife police officers – part of an elite tactical response unit (with requisite ski masks and Kevlar) who stumble upon an international conspiracy and cover-up by the French government. They are subsequently targeted by mercenaries and fellow police officers who chase after Franck when he is framed for murder. The movie shows off Franck’s tower-climbing skills and aerial daring. The practical effects, car chases and beatdowns are gritty and well-choreographed – think of the French parkour cop flick “District 13” (2004) starring David Belle – and Caillard’s Leo is not just an accoutrement, but a kick-ass can-do in her own right, baby on board or not.



Cameron Diaz and Jamie Foxx in “Back in Action.”

The bigger budget of the two is “Back in Action,” the pairing of Cameron Diaz and Jamie Foxx (who suffered a stroke while making the movie) as Emily and Matt, former spies who have moved to the suburbs and started a family. They now have two kids, a socially active 15-year-old, Alice (McKenna Roberts) and a precocious 12-year-old techie, Leo (Rylan Jackson), and are so deep undercover that the kids don’t even know their parents’ former lives. The past catches up with Emily and Matt when old friends are looking for “the key,” which has the power to control any grid system. “Ad Vitam” has a similar “key” MacGuffin that leads to crucial evidence. While Alice and Leo initially shun their mom and dad for being old and out of date, they start to appreciate their parents as they spring into action – Emily beating down a bouncer at a dance club and Matt turning a gas pump hose into a flamethrower. Glenn Close is a fun addition, channeling Dame Judi Dench as Emily’s mom and a former MI6 operative. Neither of the films featuring a key to die over, a character named Leo and a mom doing roundhouse karate kicks have a great plot or great acting, but both are highly watchable, popcorn-worthy, pass-the-time hangover candy.

On Netflix.



Last chance screening

‘Soundtrack to a Coup d’Etat’

6 p.m. Thursday at The Brattle. The doc by Johan Grimonprez details the dubious events surrounding the 1961 assassination of Patrice Lumumba, inaugural leader of the Democratic Republic of Congo – just liberated from Belgium and quickly becoming a Cold War conflict – and how socially active jazz greats of the day were involved. Among them: Nina Simone, doing her amazing “Sinnerman,” Abbey Lincoln and Max Roach bringing the beat and emotional heat and Dizzy Gillespie, as well as Malcolm X and Maya Angelou filling the frame with sound and voice. An incredible intersection of time, place and players that the director turns into an immersive experience that entertains and informs unlike any Wikipedia page or history book.

TOM MEEK

MUSIC

ATTEND

Do the light thing

By MICHAEL GUTIERREZ

Is it time to invite light shows to the “best of” music awards party, along with stuff such as Best Album, Top Artist and Music Venue of the Year?

If you go to enough concerts, maybe you’ve noticed the increasing percentage of them that include a light show, or some related projected visual artistry, as a foregrounded feature of the event.

To be clear, I’m not talking about the work done by lighting technicians, who coordinate the in-house stage lighting displays at venues. No doubt these people do great work, which elevates the experience of seeing and hearing music live. They have a category all to themselves at the Boston Music Awards. Ryan Baker (MGM Music Hall) won in 2024.

Instead, what I’m talking about is the specialists who travel from gig to gig. Some local favorites include Digital Awareness, the Sons Lunaris Light Show and the Dregs Liquid Light Show. Keep your eyes open and you’ll see them on bills around town. Each of these kaleidoscopic outfits can transform a room in weird and wonderful ways that “house lights” never dream of.

I’ve banged this drum before, and don’t give me any guff about there being too many awards already and not enough room “under the tent.” There’s plenty of room. So let’s find someone in charge of handing out awards and, in the words of Jean Luc Picard, “Make it so.”

Hit this

Friday *Fiddlehead: Something In The Way Fest Preshow (The Sinclair, Cambridge)*

Something In The Way is a once-in-a-blue-moon rock’n’roll fest that’s dusting itself off to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Run For Cover Records and The Bowery Presents. The fest website assures us that a two-day barnstormer at the Roadrunner is “a perfect way to celebrate the impact of these two pillars of the modern music landscape.” That sentence would read stronger with a definite article instead of an indefinite article, e.g. “the perfect way” instead of “a perfect way.” Save yourself a commute and hit the preshow in Harvard Square with Fiddlehead, Linda Claire, Pet Fox and more.

Saturday and Sunday *We Black Folk Fest (Club Passim, Cambridge)*

The two-day fest returns to Club Passim curated by the Folk Collective. Two consecutive days this time, kicking off the first and second day of Black History Month, instead of stringing together two Sunday shows like last year. Denser scheduling can produce more energy and sustain momentum. That’s good news for folk fans, who can camp out all weekend at Club Passim. The lineup features some familiar names, including last year’s emcee Cliff Notez, singer-songwriter Grace Givertz, multi-everything Kemp Harris and more. Keep an eye out for fresh faces such as the jazzy Lydia Harrell and indie folker Kayla Blackburn. Pay what you can, \$20 suggested.

Wednesday *Songwriters in the Round (The Armory, Somerville)*

Talia Rose writes and performs enchanting folk numbers that fold everything you treasure about the

tradition into pop constructions with a more contemporary bent. Shades of some of your favorite folkie greats, sure, but take her name checks of Imogen Heap and Adrienne Lenker seriously. Hear her live as Songwriters in the Round, a regular singer-songwriter series, returns to everyone’s favorite army barracks in Somerville. She’ll be joined by Jack Byrne, Bailey Harris and, honestly, a first-rate selection of drinks, snacks, gag gifts and memorabilia.

Live: Tami Fest 4 at Lizard Lounge

All our present joys feel bitter-sweet as a fascist goon and his quack administration install themselves into the White House. Or is joy, even the bittersweet kind, asking too much? Some would have us hang our heads in mourning for the next four years.

If there’s a path out of our state of perpetual sadness, I think I might have witnessed its faint outline Tuesday at Tami Fest 4, a medical benefit for Tami Lee, a Camberville-area bartender and beloved member of the music community. The fourth iteration of the benefit was held in the comfy subterranean confines of Lizard Lounge. All proceeds – tickets, food, drinks, tips, raffle proceeds – were donated to the cause.

What moves people to help others in need, rather than stomp on them in their weakest moment? Is it a sense of community?

There certainly were a lot of familiar faces in attendance, musicians and music lovers who’ve traded between different local stages in search of sweet sounds. And behind the bar, more often than not, was the warm and welcoming smile of Tami Lee, at Lizard Lounge, Cambridge Common, Toad, Christopher’s or West Side Lounge.

There were also faces in attendance that I did not recognize, and faces that did not recognize me. Suddenly the inside and outside of “community” didn’t seem so clear to me.

Maybe we all just stopped in to enjoy the neo soul of Jesse Dee, the bluesy strut of Danielle Miraglia and the Glory Junkies, the brassy abandon of Dub Apocalypse and more, without giving the purpose of the benefit much thought.

I’m much more impressed, though, by the idea that a chunk of attendees didn’t know Tami at all. What does it matter if I’ve ever been served a drink by Tami? Or gone to the same church, rooted for the same team, or grew up in the same ZIP code? The spirit of goodwill that compels human beings to help each other shines brighter than parochial favoritism.

What a beautiful idea that is. I’m going to end my period of postelection mourning. Better to take a page from the Tami Fest playbook. Step up in trying times. Do some good. Grow connections with people who care about people, regardless of whether they’re “inside” or “outside” their community.

If you missed the show, and still want to contribute, you can donate at the GoFundMe. If you’re not online now, just Google “Tami Fest” and “GoFundMe” when you get a chance.

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

Margeaux serves a seafood-themed tasting flight with shrimp and grits, halibut and swordfish.

Coastal collections and soup at Margeaux

SNACK



Revival Salt-N-Pepa sandwich

Price: \$9

Sometimes a menu item just seems to be an out-of-the-ordinary dud, and that was my experience with Revival’s Salt-N-Pepa sandwich. It’s a breakfast sandwich with egg, bacon, cheddar and jack cheese, and maple mustard butter on a salt-and-pepper biscuit. The egg was a solid square block that felt reheated rather than freshly cooked (to be honest, it was McMuffin egg-esque) topped with a barely melted slice of cheese. I was enticed by the butter and the biscuit, and neither remotely delivered. The biscuit was so thick that the spread got totally lost, and it was so dry and crumbly that the whole thing fell apart after about two bites. I’ve enjoyed breakfast and lunch at Revival in the past (and we featured its founder in the Read column last week), so I don’t want to write off the whole place – but this is really not the thing to order.

MADELEINE AITKEN

■ **Revival Cafe + Kitchen, 125 CambridgePark Drive, Cambridge, with another location in Davis Square, Somerville**

By TOM MEEK

We were big fans of Colette Wine Bistro when it opened in the Porter Square Hotel just before the pandemic upended everything. It had stellar French onion soup and performed little feats of magic with duck confit and eggs on a brunch menu, but Covid and changes in management and ownership led to an ebbing – that soup went sadly from fantastic to ordinary. When the tide rolls back, though, opportunity is revealed, and this fall Colette was taken over by new ownership and transformed gently from a French bistro into a Southern-comfort supper club with a French infusion, the Margeaux Supper Parlor.

The concept at Margeaux (that sneaky “e” in there reflective of its French Cajun influences) is food pairings, or gastro flights, if you will – fairly rare in the area. It’s a prix fixe, in a way: For \$35, you can mix and match servings of the soups (French onion, gumbo and lobster or crab bisque) or salads (Roquefort wedge, endive and fig, and burrata and tomato confit). For the four bigger-fare flights listed as “tasting collections,” there’s a meaty Fork and Knife of beef Wellington, steaks tips and a rib-eye; a Comfort collection of lobster gnocchi, fried chicken and pumpkin ravioli; and a Farm and Field with duck, lamb and pork. My favorite is the Coastal, which has a pescatarian lean with rich shrimp and grits, crispy seared halibut and a savory swordfish steak.

Each collection costs a bit more than the salad and soup menu pairings, and you can get any tasting plate as an à la carte dish or full-size entree, so if you wanted a salad and a pork chop entree, you can do that – or you could get the deviled eggs with crispy oysters (there’s an appetizer menu that includes charcuterie and a tuna tartare), a bowl of bisque and a tasting-size portion of the beef Wellington. Each tasting collection has a recommended flight of wines to accompany them. That said, if you wanted to break out for a full-pour glass of wine, it’s a bit confusing, as you have to scour the paired menu to

■ **Margeaux Supper Parlor, 1924 Massachusetts Ave., Porter Square, Cambridge**

find your Sancerre, cabernet, albariño or whatever your want of the moment is; it’s not broken out into reds, whites and blush as is conventional.

Much of the interior remains the same as from the Colette days. (Thankfully, there are new, sturdier barstools.) The vibe was, and still is, festive warmth. The big addition is the giant Southern gothic doors in the middle of the spacious, wraparound dining area that evokes a sense of wonderment and possibility of what’s beyond.

On my Coastal flight, the halibut was moist and flaky atop a cauliflower purée and my swordfish was hearty and juicy, with nice accents of capers and lemon atop a rice pilaf. But the winner was the shrimp and grits, creamy comfort made with Boursin and kicked up a notch with chili pepper flakes. It, and a lobster gnocchi that comes with generous amount of meat and a pouffy shaved-cheese pompadour, makes for belly-warming eats on frigid New England nights. If I had one nit, it would be that the gnocchi be a tad more al dente.

As part of its hotel occupancy, Margeaux runs a breakfast service that features eggs Benedict, croissant French toast, avocado smash and your classic quiche lorraine. On the weekend, for brunch, that menu expands to include steak and eggs, chicken and waffles, and those soul-warming grits.

As far as that onion soup goes, it’s back on, sweet, smooth and savory with a perfectly melted Gruyère crown – another satiating delight just right for these cold nights.

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

Just like us, Jes Tom is a ‘Work in Progress,’but they know how to make it funny

What an absolute joy it is to watch Jes Tom “become,” navigating a gender transition with incisive and approachable jokes (“A few years ago I started testosterone, which is why I have the mustache of the coolest boy in eighth grade”).

LAUGH Tom’s Off-Broadway solo show “Less Lonely” probed not only at the uncertainty we all encountered during the Covid pandemic, but also the personal isolation that can accompany personal growth.

The latest outing, “Work in Progress,” acknowledges that continual work. Folks who learned of Tom from Hannah Gadsby’s “Gender Agenda” showcase on Netflix will find plenty of evolution – and new things to laugh about – even since that 2024 special’s release.

Much like their work on Max’s “Our Flag Means Death” and for the online satirical magazine Reductress, Tom’s comedy delights in subverting assumptions: about the world, about relationships, about Tom. Appearing alongside Tom is local musical comic and host of Roslindale’s Queer Comedy Night, Nora Panahi.

AMMA MARFO

■ **“Jes Tom: A Work In Progress” at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Feb. 7 at The Rockwell, 255 Elm St., Davis Square, Somerville. \$25 to \$30.**



Jes Tom on stage. They play The Rockwell on Feb. 7.

Samantha Brooks

THEATER

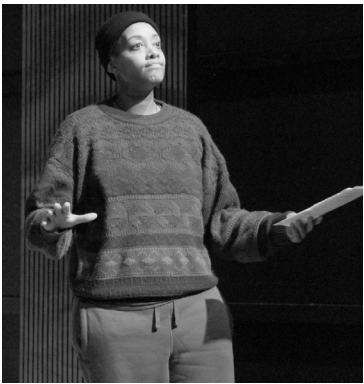
Women aviators, pilots, astronauts and scientists command this ‘SPACE’

By MADELEINE AITKEN

“S P A C E” will bring more than a decade of work from co-creators L M Feldman and Larissa Lury to fruition when it opens at Central Square Theater on Thursday.

Thirteen years ago, Lury’s partner showed her an article about the Mercury 13 – the 13 Americans who were part of a research program to test and screen women for spaceflight from 1959 to 1960. When Lury and Feldman started working together, they realized the Mercury 13 weren’t the whole story.

The project has changed “dramatically” over time, Lury said. “We were really excited by Dr. Mae Jemison, the first woman of color to go to space,



Central Square Theater

Valencia Proctor plays Bessie Coleman and Irene Leverton in “SPACE.”

who started this program called the 100 Year Starship project.”

The 100 Year Starship is a collaborative research initiative between Nasa and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency that aims to develop the needed technology to send a mission bearing humans to another star system within 100 years of its start in 2012. “By setting that concrete goal, you start to ask questions about how we live here together on Earth, what we prioritize, what we need,” Lury said. “By figuring out how to get there, you figure out how to actually live here.”

Feldman and Lury wanted to capture that idea by creating doubles of characters that bend space and time. Each cast member plays two or three characters, all real American pilots, aviators, astronauts and scientists, only some of whom are still alive. “Everyone in the play is either a Mercury 13 person or what we call the vanguards, who are working on the 100 Year Starship with Mae Jemison to figure out a better system,” Feldman said.

The play includes Bessie Coleman and Irene Leverton (Valencia Proctor); Christina Hernández and Jerri Sloan

(Monica Risi), Jackie Cochran and Gene Nora Stumbough (Catharine K. Slusar), Sally Ride and Geraldyn Cobb (MK Tuomanen), Hazel Ying Lee, Wally Funk, Ivy Rieker (Hui Ying Wen), Jasmin Moghbeli and Jean Hixson (Mitra Sharif) and Mae Jemison and Jane Hart (Kaili Y. Turner).

“We get to gather this dream team of humans in a room to ask these questions and figure out what they mean for specific people over time,” Lury said. (They’re a “dream team” because of a collective skill set, but also because they come from different generations that could not be combined in real life.)

The play emphasizes the women’s impressive abilities, arguing that because of structural inequalities, they “have not been allowed the space to really explore all that potential energy,” Lury said.

They also explained that there are parallel space races being explored: the space race of the 1960s and “of the 2020s, with billionaires and the privatization of space,” Feldman said. “There’s an urgency to figure out how to do it in a way that has values that are equitable, inclusive, sustainable.”

But “S P A C E” does not aim not to deject or depress. “It doesn’t feel really heavy. It’s funny, it’s very physically active,” said Lury, who shares a background in acrobatics and circus with Feldman. “Not that there’s circus in the play, but the physicality is a huge part of the storytelling.” Feldman, a trapeze artist, asked “How is the body telling the story? How are bodies in space visually deepening and enriching what we’re sharing verbally?”

Feldman and Lury allowed the play to morph through collaboration with cast members. Working at Central Square Theater, they said they’ve felt supported to allow it to grow into its final form.

“We’ve had over 200 people work with us on this project at one point,” Lury said. “It’s one of those things that doesn’t feel like it would be possible with just our voices. Having a collective of different perspectives and different energies has really shaped what the project has become.”

“There are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of pages that are not in the play anymore,” Feldman said. “I’m profoundly proud of where it is now.”

■ **“SPACE” is at the Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, Cambridge, from Thursday through Feb. 23. Tickets start at \$27.**

BEHOLD



Martha Friend

Somerville artist Dina Gjertsen has created for the sidewalk “Friend Smithsonian Museum” a miniature of the house that hosts the museum.

Detailed replica is a mini masterpiece making a sidewalk museum more fun

As if it wasn’t eye-catching enough, Martha Friend’s iconic “Sapphire City” house – the one with the collection of blue glass bottles out front – has a quaint addition.

Somerville artist Dina Gjertsen has created a miniature, to-scale replica of the house at the “Friend Smithsonian Museum,” the space set aside for visiting works in front of the building and facing the sidewalk. The replica was installed in December.

The museum has featured ongoing installations, many with Friend’s own quirky found object art in them.

But this latest one is unforgettable; from its color choices to the re-creation of individual sculptures, the attention to detail is impressive. Of particular note is an even smaller “Friend Smithsonian Museum” nestled at the bottom.

As with the museum’s other installations, the piece is lit 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The replica will be on view for at least another month, Friend said.

CLAIRE OGDEN

■ **The Friend Smithsonian Museum at the Sapphire City House, 135 Highland Ave., Spring Hill, Somerville.**



DID YOU KNOW?

Highlighters were invented in East Cambridge by Carter’s Ink

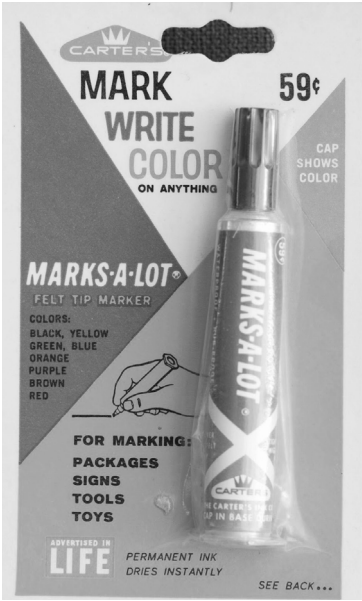
From Page 1

That is, its Combined Writing and Copying Ink could be used to make multiple copies of a document long before the invention of the photocopy machine or carbon paper.

John W. Carter, cousin to the three brothers who founded the company, revived Carter’s in 1872 after a devastating fire by hiring a chemist to develop inks, and by 1884 it was making nearly 5 million bottles of it each year. Carter’s added library paste, ink eradicator and new colors to its product line, and, as typewriters became popular, carbon paper and ribbons. In its East Cambridge plant, Carter’s installed automated equipment for filling, capping and labeling bottles.

In 1926, the company topped its First Street building with an electric clock, which became a landmark on the riverfront. By 1930, Carter’s Ink employed more than 500 people and claimed to be the largest ink manufacturer in the United States.

The company remained profitable through World War II and continued to expand its East Cambridge operations in the 1950s. In March 1958, the company introduced felt-tipped markers called “Marks-A-Lot” that proved



Michael Kuchta

A Carter’s Ink’s Marks-A-Lot felt tip marker, sold in an easy-to-see blister pack in the 1950s and ‘60s.

instantly successful – soon joined by “Draws-A-Lot” versions made with water for parents who didn’t appreciate that the original left permanent marks on walls, clothes and furniture.

In 1959, Carter’s hired Francis Honn to do quality control. He often

grabbed samples from the assembly line and one day tested a translucent yellow marker by using it across a page of type.

“The black type literally jumped out at me,” Honn recalled in an unpublished memoir nearly a half-century later. “Here was a better way of highlighting key printed words than underlining!”

When the company’s sales staff sent letters to customers, Honn told them to use his yellow-ink discovery over a few key words, such as “refund” and “free sample.” At the bottom of the page, he added: “Wonder where the yellow came from? Carter’s Reading Hi-Liter.”

Within a week, “letters came pouring in asking where they might buy this wonderful product,” Honn wrote. He got permission from the company to sell the Reading Hi-Liter in a test market. Company president Nate Hubley suggested school bookstores.

As Honn remembered it, the company had to invest only \$3.50 to market the new product, creating a rubber plate to print “Reading Hi-Liter” on their existing yellow markers. Honn and his team didn’t so much “invent” the highlighter as recognize its usefulness and find ways to sell it to the world.

Highlighting markers have changed the way readers take notes, editors revise texts and students study. They now come in pink, green, orange and blue in addition to the original yellow. (“Yellow is still the only good color,” Honn argued in his 2009 memoir.)

Honn left Carter’s Ink by 1970. After a long career as a chemist and company executive, in which he was granted more than 25 patents, Honn retired in 1988 and died in 2016 at age 94.

The word “highlight” has become a verb. The yellow-ink concept transitioned to the digital realm too, as an icon for highlighting text in programs such as Google Docs and Microsoft Word. In a 2016 interview with the alumni magazine of John Carroll University, Honn said, “The fact that something so simple could still have such an impact today makes me happy.”

Unfortunately, the success of the Hi-Liter was not enough to ensure Carter’s local presence. The company opened a plant in Tennessee in 1965 and shifted manufacturing to the lower-wage state. Despite an East Cambridge worker strike, within two years only the company’s administrative and research staff remained in Cambridge.

In 1975, Carter’s Ink reported sales of just \$20 million, not enough to compete with larger firms in the office products industry. The following year it was acquired by Dennison Manufacturing of Framingham, an office supply and label maker more than 10 times its size. Under Dennison’s ownership, Carter’s remaining operations were moved out of East Cambridge, though the Carter’s name remains even today on packages of ink, markers and stamp pads.

About History Cambridge: History Cambridge started in 1905 as the Cambridge Historical Society. Today we have a new name and a new mission. We engage with our city to explore how the past influences the present to shape a better future. We recognize that every person in our city knows something about Cambridge’s history, and their knowledge matters. We listen to our community and we live by the ideal that history belongs to everyone. Throughout 2025, we are focusing on the history of East Cambridge. Make history with us at historycambridge.org. ■ History Cambridge is a nonprofit organization. Our activities rely on your financial support.

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■ 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.

CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Cambridge Housing Authority, in its capacity as managing member, acting on behalf of Corcoran Park Holding LLC, the Owner and Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for the Corcoran Park Drainage Project at 1 Corcoran Lane, Cambridge, MA 02138. The project consists of remedial site repairs to replace storm drainage utilities and concrete foundations, with earthwork, cast in place concrete, concrete paving, asphalt paving, planting soils, lawns and seeding and steel handrails. The work is estimated to cost \$300,000. All bids are subject to federal minimum wage rates as required by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Davis-Bacon Act and included in the project specifications. General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount and made payable to Corcoran Park Holding LLC. A 100% payment bond and a 100% performance bond will be required for the awarded contract. General bids will be received until Friday, February 14, 2024, at 2:00 PM and publicly opened on-line, forthwith. A site visit for all interested general bidders will begin at Corcoran Park, 1 Corcoran Lane, Cambridge, MA 02138 on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at

10:00 AM. All bidders are invited and encouraged to attend. Attendees of the site visit should RSVP to CorcoranParkDrainage@Cambridge-Housing.org. Deadline for General Bidder questions shall be submitted by Wednesday, February 12, 2025, by 5:00PM. Questions received after the above deadlines may not be considered by the Awarding Authority. No interpretations of the meaning of the plans, specifications or other pre-bid documents shall be made to any bidder orally. Every request for such interpretation must be in writing. Questions concerning this project must be submitted via the Bidders Question Form <https://forms.office.com/r/vt-mZpwTVcs?origin=lprLink>. Bid forms and contract documents will be available at WWW.PROCORE.COM on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 10:00 AM (may be downloaded and viewed electronically). THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID, HARD COPY BIDS AND EMAILED BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE AWARDING AUTHORITY. ALL BIDS shall be electronically submitted through WWW.PROCORE.COM. At any time during the bidding process, you may download and print the various bid documents for your company’s records. Additional instructions to complete the other bid forms are accessible on the Procure website. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding process if it is in the public interest to do so. The Awarding Authority also reserves the right to reject the bids if less than three bids are received.

Bids shall remain in effect for 60 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded after opening. Successful bidders shall agree to commence work and complete the work in accordance with the dates set forth in the Bidding Documents and Contract Documents. Interested in bidding on future CHA Projects? Go to CHA’s Interested Vendor page at www.cambridge-housing.org and enter your company’s contact information for our future bid solicitations. Please include your company’s info, a contact email, and the trade(s) that your company provides so we can send you future projects directly.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION

The Planning Board of the City of Cambridge will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** located at Remote participation on Zoom (see details below) on special permit application case PB-406 for the property located at **675 Massachusetts Avenue** for which the Applicant is Resurgence Investment, LLC d/b/a Jersey Mike’s seeking special permits pursuant to Section 20.304.5.4 Formula Business for a proposal to Establish a Formula Business occupying approximately 1,780 square feet in the first floor of the existing building.

TO VIEW PLANS AND DOCUMENTS: Visit www.cambridge-ma.gov/specialpermits online. Printed copies are on file in the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge, Massachusetts and

at the Community Development Department, 344 Broadway. TO SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS: E-mailing planning-boardcomment@cambridgema.gov is preferred. Please include the case number or address. You can also mail comments to Cambridge Planning Board, 344 Broadway, Third Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139. Written comments received by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting will be considered by Board Members in advance of the meeting. Comments received later will be entered into the record. TO COMMENT IN REAL-TIME: Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation at meetings of the Cambridge Planning Board. You can view the meeting remotely and make comments by computer or telephone using Zoom Webinar. Visit www.cambridge-ma.gov/planningboard online to view the full meeting agenda, register for the Zoom Webinar, and get up-to-date information about the meeting. TO VIEW MEETING ONLY: The meeting will be streamed online through the Open Meeting Portal at www.cambridgema.gov and broadcast on cable TV – Channel 22 within Cambridge. FOR QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE: Contact Swaathi Joseph at 617/349-4668 (TTY 617/349-4621), email sjoseph@cambridgema.gov.

Thursday, February 6, 2025, 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/CHCfeb2025> or call (301)715-8592. Webinar ID#: 850 4421 8595. Confirm meeting details and materials at <https://tinyurl.com/CHistComm>. Submit written comment to hstcomm@cambridgema.gov prior to 24 hours before the meeting.

Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties
Case 5251: 125 Brattle St., by Ellen Williams and Lawrence Miller. Replace windows and a door.
Case 5252: 14 JFK St., by 1834 Realty Inc., owner o/b/o Russell House Tavern, tenant . Install blade sign.

Public Hearing: Demolition Review
Case D-1720: 38-40, 48 and 54-56 Banks St., by Lubavitch of Cambridge, Inc. Partial demolition of #38-40. Relocation and partial demolition of #48. Demolition of #54-56 (1892).

Chandra Harrington, Chair
Cambridge Week , 1/23/25, 1/30/25

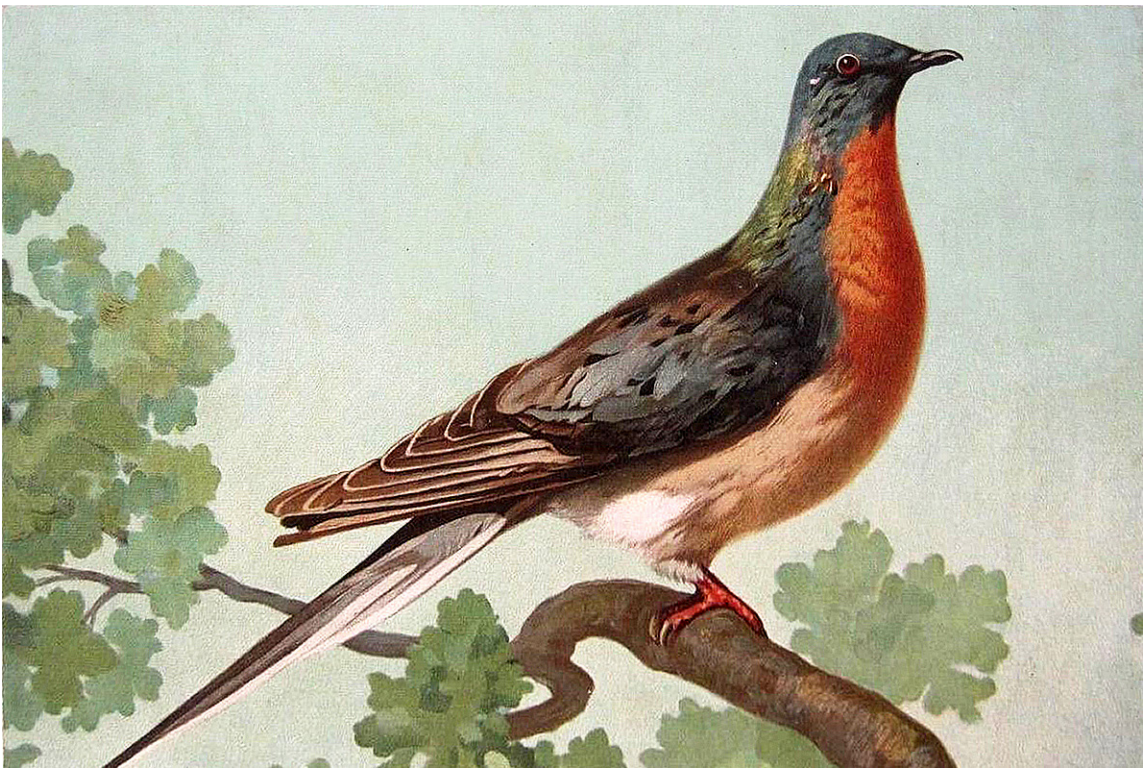
Cases may be taken out of order and approved at the beginning of the meeting. Persons who wish to have a hearing on a case should notify the Commission in advance or be present at the beginning of the meeting when the Consent Agenda is discussed.

LEGAL NOTICE CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting will be held on

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.



John Henry Hintermeister, left; James St. John, above

The only way to see a passenger pigeon is in art such as this 1908 lithograph, left, or taxidermy, above at the Falls of the Ohio visitor center at the Louisville Museum.

Hunted to extinction

By JEANINE FARLEY

I have written about many birds that we can find in Massachusetts today – here’s one that used to be here in countless numbers. It was so ubiquitous that people thought it could never become extinct. That’s right: I am talking about the passenger pigeon, the last of which, Martha, died at the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914.

Many scientists today consider the passenger pigeon to have been a keystone species, animals that play such a vital role in the ecosystem that their removal changes it dramatically. (More about this later.)

What was North America like when passenger pigeons lived here?

Passenger pigeons flew in such great numbers that they sometimes obscured the sunlight; they have even been compared to a solar eclipse. In 1630, Thomas Dudley, governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, wrote: “Upon the eighth of March, from after fair daylight until about eight of the clock in the forenoon, there flew over all the towns so many flocks of doves, each flock containing many thousands that they obscured the light.”

In 1663, F.C. Browne of Framingham wrote:

The Pidgeons, of which there are millions of millions. I have seen a flight of Pidgeons in the Spring, and at Michaelmas [Sept. 29] when they return back to the South-ward, for four or five miles, that to my thinking had neither beginning nor ending, length nor breadth, and so thick that I could see no Sun. They join Nest to Nest and Tree to Tree by their Nests many miles together in Pine-Trees. I have bought at Boston a dozen Pidgeons ... for three pence. But of late they are much diminished, the English taking them with Nets.

So you can see that even as early as the 1600s, settlers to North America hunted these birds in such great numbers that they reduced their numbers on the Atlantic coast.

In inland regions of the country, they continued to fly, though. In 1813, John James Audubon described the massive flocks this way: “The air was literally filled with Pigeons; the light of noon-day was obscured as by an eclipse; the dung fell in spots, not un-

like melting flakes of snow ... Like a torrent, and with a noise like thunder, they rushed.”



Smith Bennett

A passenger pigeon hunt in Louisiana in July 1875 published in *The Illustrated Shooting and Dramatic News* of July 3, 1875.

Wild Things is taking questions

Do you have questions about birds, bugs, bees, butterflies or other wildlife? Send questions to wildthings@cambridgeday.com and we will find out the answer.

like melting flakes of snow ... Like a torrent, and with a noise like thunder, they rushed.”

It is difficult for us today to imagine both the noise and the darkness that the great flocks of pigeons produced. Ornithologist Alexander Wilson described it this way:

Happening to go ashore one charming afternoon, to purchase some milk at a house that stood near the river, I was suddenly struck with astonishment at a loud rushing roar, succeeded by instant darkness, which, I took for a tornado about to overwhelm the house. The people observing

my surprise, coolly said, “It is only the pigeons!”

As the number of people settling in North America increased greatly in the 1800s, so did the persecution of these birds. Although hunting for passenger pigeons by European settlers began merely as a quest for food, over time hunters reaped such enormous profits from these birds that they killed them by the hundreds or thousands. By the mid-1800s, a few passenger pigeons still visited parts of Massachusetts; by 1890, the bird was completely gone from our state.

The light of noon-day was obscured as by an eclipse; the dung fell in spots, not unlike melting flakes of snow.

John James Audubon

Hunters devised many methods to catch these birds, but one of the most common methods was to use “stool pigeons” as bait. Alexander Wilson, the father of American ornithology, described the use of stool pigeons to capture birds in the Atlantic states this way:

As soon as it is ascertained in a town that the pigeons are flying numerously in the neighborhood, the gunners rise en masse

... Four or five live pigeons, with their eyelids sewed up, are fastened on a movable stick [the stool] ... By the pulling of a string the stick on which the pigeons rest is alternately elevated and depressed, which produces a fluttering of their wings similar to that of birds just alighting ... Passing flocks descend with great rapidity, and, finding corn, buckwheat, etc., strewed about, begin to feed, and are instantly covered by the net. In this manner ten, twenty, and even thirty dozen have been caught at one sweep.

Meantime the air is darkened with large bodies of them moving in various directions; the woods also swarm with them in search of acorns; and the thundering of musketry is perpetual from morning to night. Wagon loads of them are poured into market ... Pigeons become the order of the day at dinner, breakfast and supper, until the very name becomes sickening.

Stool pigeons were special birds. By employing them, hunters could convince a flock of pigeons to abort their flight overhead and descend to the ground in front of them. Professor H.B. Roney of East Saginaw, Michigan, wrote, “A good stool-pigeon (one which will stay upon the stool) is rather difficult to obtain, and is worth from \$5 to \$25. Many trappers use the same birds for several years in succession.”

A 2017 study of passenger pigeon DNA shows that the passenger pigeon population remained steady in North America, darkening its skies, for 20,000 years. There were so many that all the eagles and hawks and owls and wolves and bobcats and bears and snakes and weasels and raccoons and other predators could not extinguish them – but when European predators arrived, they used the latest technology to massacre the birds: telegraphs to wire news to hunters about flock locations and railroads to transport barrels and barrels of dead ones to markets far away in the east.

There is much more to say about the passenger pigeon, including how our Northeastern forests have changed because of the absence of these birds. But I will save that for next week.

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.