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Experimental shorts, improvised music ▪ 'Last Crusade' ▪ For mom

EVENTS AHEAD PAGES 6-7
Full Fringe ▪ Mini-operas ▪ Yum food gala ▪ Live karoke ▪ Circus

MEETINGS AHEAD PAGE 2
Switching to e-travel ▪ Budget, budget, budget ▪ Dem delegates



WILD THINGS

Tiny golden-crowned kinglets (they weigh as much as a stick of gum) can survive our harshest winters if they just keep eating even tinier prey.

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THE WEEK

MAY 8–15, 2025

FREE | by CAMBRIDGE DAY

RETUNED



Michael Gutierrez

A Porchfest appearance by the band Guster packs Aberdeen and Cedar streets in Somerville last May. Event rules have changed.

Somerville Porchfest map and rules change in 14th year

By MADISON LUCCHESI

It's not that Somerville is expecting an encore at Porchfest from Guster, an internationally touring indie rock band with local roots that did a free set last year – packing Aberdeen Road in Spring Hill solid with fans and pumping up overall festival attendees to an estimated 30,000.

Ahead of its 14th year on Saturday, though, Porchfest is seeing changes from its organizer, the Somerville Arts Council: whole streets taken off the map, a new application process with a required porch badge pickup and a roving ambassador program to provide eyes on the street and help direct festivalgoers.

"Porchfest has grown so much for the last few years, and Guster was just an additional reason as to why we needed to add more restrictions," said Iaritza Menjivar, an event manager for the Arts Council. "The event has grown out of its capacity – out of our capacity – and we're just trying to find ways to keep the events around."

Somerville Porchfest is a music festival in which musicians perform on, well, porches and at houses around the city – a homespun event founded in 2011, taking a break in 2020 only for "CouchFest," the online version of the event during the Covid pandemic. Originally around 60 bands, last year there were 413 performers. This year it's risen to nearly 500.

See PORCHFEST, Page 4



Julia Levine

Liz Speakman is the departing director of Cambridge's Community Safety Department.

Unarmed team faced challenge from city police

By SUE REINERT

The city's unarmed emergency responders faced challenges from within city government in their first year of operation, with a special police unit sometimes showing up at the same calls that the unarmed team answered and 911 dispatchers reluctant to assign the unarmed team to eligible service requests. City councillors discussed the internal tensions April 28, but officials had no specific solutions to propose.

Strains between the new Community Safety Department as it fielded its unarmed alternative to police and a new police department "co-response" team that included a social worker were first reported by The Harvard Crimson on April 25. The student newspaper described how Community Safety Department officials were blindsided by the police initiative, which threatened to limit the emergency calls the civilian team could answer.

More was revealed at the council meeting. Departing Community Safety Department director Liz Speakman said the police co-response unit sometimes answered the same emergency calls that the department's Community Assistance Response and Engagement team was sent to, with both units ending up at the same location.

See UNARMED, Page 3

Retrospect vintage restored a lifestyle as Door Store shut

By MADISON LUCCHESI

When the furniture maker and seller called The Door Store said last summer it had to close for lack of business, the news brought a surge of customers that kept it open months longer than expected. Even now it is not quite gone – but the vintage goods shop Retrospect has relocated into the site and is thriving too.

After being "invisible before" at 864 Massachusetts Ave., just a few minutes' walk closer to Central Square, Retrospect has moved its melange of clothing, accessories and jewelry, Tiffany lamps and paneled room dividers with dreamy, Victorian-era iconography, furniture and casino games and media and old tech such as cameras, turntables and typewriters to 940 Massachusetts Ave., Riverside, between Central and Harvard squares. A steady stream of customers come in to sift through its shoes, dresses and jackets, sit in the cozy furniture and appreciate the eclectic tableau composed by owner Tanya Iordanov.

See CHANGEOVER, Page 5

NEWS PAGE 3
Somerville's single-issue candidate just wants the Teele Pit developed

BUSINESS PAGE 5
Cantabrigians can stop traveling to South Boston for Lulu Green

ATTEND PAGE 9
McCarthy's and a reopened Toad are already sounding the right notes

MEETINGS MAY 8–15

CAMBRIDGE

City's $1.1B budget, state delegate election

By MARC LEVY

Budget hearings get underway

Finance Committee, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday. This committee run by city councillor Patty Nolan holds hearings on city and school budgets for the fiscal year starting July 1, an operating fund totaling $991 million (up $35.6 million, or 3.7 percent, from the previous year's budget) and capital funding of $151 million. Adoption is anticipated June 2. Staff is expected to start with a discussion of the tax rate and how it fits into preparation for the budget, Nolan said, followed by questions about financing for specific departments – nearly all of which have been pulled for discussion now and all day Wednesday. The committee meets at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square. Televised and watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

Help change the government

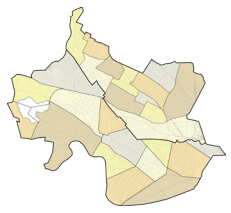
Cambridge Democratic City Committee multiward caucus, 2 p.m. Saturday. Each of the city's 11 wards selects delegates who will attend a state party convention Sept. 13 in Springfield and play a role in 2026 national midterm elections. The event, with guest Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, is at the Cambridge Main Library, 449 Broadway, Mid-Cambridge.

Proposed FY2026 schools budget

Finance Committee, 6 p.m. Tuesday. This committee run by city councillor Patty Nolan holds hearings on the $268.3 million schools budgets for the fiscal year starting July 1. That's a $23.3 million increase over the current budget, or 9.5 percent. The committee meets at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square. Televised and watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

Multifamily design guidelines

Planning Board, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. With adoption Feb. 10 of zoning that allows for four-story (and potentially higher) buildings to go up as-of-right in all residential areas, city staff have adapted developer guidelines from 2020's Affordable Housing Overlay zoning. "It became clear that good multifamily design is not limited to affordable housing," staff said. Board members will dig into the principles to see if thinking has changed with a few years of experience. 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

Becoming e-mobile, talking mutual aid

By JEFF SHWOM

SustainaVille E-Mobility Expo

SustainaVille, Noon to 6 p.m. Friday. Folks interested in electric vehicles and mobility options such as electric cars, bikes or scooters are invited to attend the city's E-Mobility Expo and engage with presenters including the Somerville E-Bike Library, Green Energy Consumers Alliance and CargoB. This event is the last of the city's annual sustainability and climate action week. Held at the 44 Day St., Davis Square, public parking lot.

Neighbors talking to neighbors

Departments of Racial And Social Justice and Health And Human Services, 3 to 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday. The city hosts adult and youth dialogue sessions on race as part of its recently launched "Neighbors Talking to Neighbors" program – a conversation series trying to create and strengthen open, respectful community connections through facilitated dialogue. The departments organize four topics of city and national importance, including immigration, LGBTQIA+ community and interfaith relations. Free, but registration is required. Watchable via videoconferencing; an in-person event is expected to end the series.

PorchFest this weekend

Arts Council, noon to 6 p.m. Saturday. A famed community event in which musicians play live music from their porches and front yards throughout the city. Since 2011, the "decentralized music festival" has grown in size. Guster played a pop-up show near members' old apartment last year; emergency responders had issues getting through swelling crowds, leading to new event and safety rules: Music is forbidden on most major roads, and official festival musicians get PorchFest badges. In-person across the city, with playing times moving from West Somerville to East Somerville by zone. (Rain Date: Sunday.)

Mamas restarts aid study group

Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday. The organization relaunches a monthly study space with discussions about what mutual aid is and how it is organized. The organization works to build a "community to learn, practice and deepen our commitments to making change together," meeting online monthly.

Star Jelly Comics

See more at instagram.com/starjellycomics/



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METRO

Teele resident plans run to see the 'Pit' developed



Benjamin Murray

Michael Murray, Somerville City Council candidate, by long-undeveloped land in Teele Square.

By SYDNEY WISE

The "Teele Square Pit" has been an unwanted landmark in West Somerville for more than 13 years. As a candidate for city councilor, Michael Murray intends to see the site developed.

The dirt pit at 1154-1164 Broadway is a reminder of a 2011 three-alarm fire that consumed what was once several small businesses. Several plans for the site have been approved and subsequently stalled.

Most recently, the site was bought by Anuj Pradhan and 1154 Broadway Realty Trust for $800,000 in 2015, the South Middlesex Register of Deeds shows. Plans for a hotel were approved in 2018 but have since expired, The Boston Globe reports.

Murray has lived in the Teele Square neighborhood for 19 years. He remembers the fire, he said, and is frustrated with the lack of progress on the site.

"I've been in correspondence with city government and councilors about The Pit for many years, asking for updates. I found these people to be somewhat responsive, but I never had the sense that anyone was particularly focused on tending to Teele Square and creating pressure to get something done," Murray posted on Reddit, where he announced his campaign.

"If we had had someone on the council, especially representing Ward 7, who made it their primary goal to address The Pit, I bet we wouldn't have a big open pit anymore," he wrote.

Murray outlined mechanisms by which the city might act, including by calling the landlords regularly about their progress – or taking control of the site through a land taking.

"Having something other than a pit in our main square would really improve the neighborhood in a significant way," Murray said. (It is a pit in name only, having been filled in over the years.)

Online, Murray has referred to himself as a single-issue candidate, but said he aims to represent the wants of his constituency. "I see the job of a councilor, or somebody working in politics at any level in an elected position, to vote their constituents plus their conscience," he said. "On any given issue, I would be first saying what my constituents want as an elected official and then making sure that it's something that fits with my conscience and my sense of what's right and wrong."

Murray, an educational consultant and mental health counselor, called himself a progressive who is "as concerned as many people about bigger issues that I care deeply about. But one way to kind of stay sane and stay grounded is: Can we improve our neighborhood? Can we keep focused on improving the place where we live?" he said.

He will challenge incumbent Judy Pineda Neufeld, who has represented Ward 7 since 2022 and is now City Council president. Pineda Neufeld has announced her intention to run for re-election via her website.

Unarmed Care team and police co-response had tensions, city admits

From Page 1

Dispatchers were assigning Care to only 45 percent of the calls for which the team was eligible, until recently, Speakman said.

As Speakman described it, emergency dispatchers use a specific communications channel to direct the Care team to a request for help. When the team arrives, members notify the 911 center and transfer communications to a channel that anyone can access. The police co-response unit monitors that channel and can "self-assign" itself to the call if it believes that is appropriate, Speakman said.

The officer-social worker team is allowed to respond to any call, city spokesperson Jeremy Warnick said previously. In contrast, Care can answer only certain types of mental health and other calls, and only when there's no threat of violence.

Care had to negotiate with police unions about what types of calls it could answer, and for months team members only picked up discarded needles and syringes.

Creatures of habit

As for the city's emergency call center not assigning Care to calls it's allowed to answer, Speakman said dispatchers "are very habitual." For example, a call to check an unwanted person comes in "very frequently," she said. "And our team was originally only on three days a week and then four days a week, and so the dispatchers were sort of habitually sending the team they typically send," she said, referring to police. "And so creating a new habit was something that we wanted to work on."

The numbers improved in March when the Care team expanded its hours to five days a week, she said. She said after the council meeting that the team was sent to 90 percent of eligible calls in March, because the Community Safety Department successfully addressed the issues that were affecting dispatch.

Dispatchers also didn't send Care to calls it qualified for because they worried about violence even with no evidence of a problem, Speakman said at the council meeting.

"For example, someone was locked in a McDonald's bathroom and the dispatcher said, 'Well, I don't know. Maybe they had a weapon, maybe they had a knife.'"

The 911 call center housed the alternative response agency when that department was established, but city manager Yi-An Huang made it separate in early 2023 to ensure it was independent from the police department.

"Definitely work to do"

At the council meeting, Huang acknowledged the tension between the police co-response initiative and Care and said one reason it might arise is because the police department's progressive outlook is similar to the Community Safety Department's mandate. "I think that being said, we have all recognized and I think the reason behind community safety and an unarmed response is that when people call 911, oftentimes they don't need somebody with a gun to show up," Huang said.



Marc Levy

Care team members do outreach Aug. 29 in front of Cambridge City Hall.

He also noted that the co-response team may have been given leeway to answer all emergency calls because it's funded by a grant, not city money, so police officials weren't eager to restrict its deployment. Still, "I think there's definitely work to do to clarify the overlap and, you know, essentially showing up to the same call is not great practice," he said.

Huang didn't say what's specifically being done to prevent both teams from answering the same call. Councillor Patty Nolan suggested that the overlap might disappear if Care provided the co-response service, allowing police and Care to work together. The Community Safety Department will be discussed at a meeting of the council's Public Safety Committee.

Unanswered question

Speakman is leaving her city job to work at the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, a nonprofit based in Central Square, and will be replaced by Marie Mathieu, who was the Cambridge Public Library's first social worker in 2021 before become assistant director of clinical services with Care in 2023.

Nolan asked Speakman if the conflict with police "and the stress of perhaps not being feeling fully supported is part of the reason you're leaving."

> "There's definitely work to do to clarify the overlap … showing up to the same call is not great practice."
>
> **Yi-An Huang, city manager**

Mayor E. Denise Simmons said she didn't think the question was appropriate.

"If she wants to answer it," Nolan said.

"I would ask her not to," Simmons said.

Speakman did not.

Care and citizen-led Heart

The Community Safety Department was approved in 2021; at the same time the council voted to have the city fund a grassroots police alternative outside city government, the Holistic Emergency Assistance Response Team. Heart was formed after the murder of George Floyd by a white Minneapolis police officer on May 25, 2020.

Both initiatives stalled for months. City officials finally took steps to activate the department in January 2023 after a Cambridge police officer shot and killed Arif Sayed Faisal, 20, a Bangladeshi immigrant and college student in a mental crisis. Faisal was cutting himself with a large knife as he ran from police through a Cambridgeport neighborhood, and refused to drop the knife while approaching an officer, police said. A judicial investigation found the officer was justified.

Meanwhile, the city awarded $300,000 in pandemic relief funds to Heart but did not give the organization a permanent grant until last year, when the Community Safety Department approved $150,000 to Heart from a fund in its budget intended to support antiviolence programs by community organizations.

The department's proposed budget for fiscal year 2026 says it will provide financial and partnership support for community groups for antiviolence work, similar to this year, but does not specify how much. City spokesperson Warnick said details will be decided after the budget is approved. Heart now has a phone number but takes calls during limited hours only two days a week and can respond only over the phone. It also convenes support groups and hopes to establish a mobile "crisis response" program that can provide immediate help in person, its webpage says.

No direct line to Care

Speakman previously said she would like the Community Safety Department to have its own emergency telephone number. That has not happened. People who call 911 can ask that the call be sent to the Care team.

Briefly teary at the April 28 meeting, Speakman told the council a story from her own life – of a loved one with mental health struggles.

"We felt really helpless, and there was no Care team. Maybe things would have been different if there were," she said. "If you're in a situation and you have a loved one who is really struggling and maybe yelling and throwing things because of the crisis that they're in, and you don't know who to call – what I would say is I would call this team every day. I have so much faith and trust in each of these human beings to show up with compassion, with love, with respect and dignity."

The city's proposed budget for the department calls for a slight reduction from this year's projected expenses, to $2.7 million from $2.8 million, as some human resources responsibilities are taken up by a new employee benefits department. The total number of employees would remain at 15.

METRO

Somerville charter amendments are voted down

By MARC LEVY

Somerville's proposed charter changes are headed to the state Legislature for approval to appear on the city's November ballot, and so is a separate question about whether voters want mayors to serve four-year terms starting in 2028 instead of the current two years.

Not going to the Legislature, city councilors decided at a special meeting Monday, are such questions as whether the city gets a new chief administrative officer role; if the council should have more power over the budget, and if a proposed budget should be available to the public for longer before it is voted; if noncitizens and residents as young as 16 should be able to cast ballots in city elections; and whether Somerville should switch to a ranked-choice form of voting, which would avoid the need for primaries. Each were proposed as ballot questions like the length of mayoral terms, not for consideration as part of the charter.

All of these amendments proposed by councilor J.T. Scott failed with only two voters in favor – Scott and councilor Willie Burnley Jr. – though many of the votes in opposition were not because the ideas were unpopular. It was because they put all charter change at risk, officials said.

"We were advised that they would potentially result in the entire charter being rejected by Beacon Hill," council vice president Lance Davis said. "That system stinks. It's in my opinion ridiculous the degree to which municipalities are constrained."

The special meeting came about because on April 29 the council was voting on a proposed charter to send to the Legislature and the mayoral-term question as well. "I was shocked," Scott said, referring to the council getting that question from the office of mayor Katjana Ballantyne. He used what's called a charter right to delay – for one meeting – the sending of Somerville's packaged home rule petition to the Legislature.



Marc Levy

Somerville City Hall, seen Sept. 19.

With time growing short for the Legislature to consider Somerville's request, as the bodies take a recess in July, a special meeting was called to deal just with the charter and Scott's amendments. A Thursday council meeting can now proceed without them.

"As I was preparing them, I asked one simple question: Is the council willing to extend to itself the same respect that it grants the executive – the use of a referendum as a way to settle policy debates? Is that a privilege we only afford to the mayor?" Scott said Monday.

Yearslong process

Work on updating the city's governing document – largely untouched for a century – got underway in October 2020 with help from University of Massachusetts at Boston experts and a volunteer commission that was seated in March 2021. It produced a report in September 2022 that was worked on by a Charter Review Special Committee led by Scott and reviewed by the council in biweekly meetings; those led to unanimous passage in May 2023.

After being sent to Ballantyne, the report sat for more than a year, Scott said. What was sent back to the council in September 2024 was different enough to need another six months of council work that wrapped up in March, again passing unanimously. Bowing to the reality of a strong-mayor system, the new version let go of several approaches to giving the council more power to balance that of the mayor.

Again, though, there was a sticking point from Ballantyne: term lengths.

Avoiding an impasse

Since there are other ways to put a question on a city ballot, Scott said using a "binding referendum to obtain a power that has been previously rejected is outrageous."

But without the vote on four-year terms, the charter was at an impasse, councilors said.

"I know we wish it wasn't true, but it is: We need to have agreement between both branches to get this passed. There is, in fact, like it or not, one issue that has been a sticking point between the two branches, which is the mayoral term," Ben Ewen-Campen said.

Scott agreed.

"The implicit threat," he said, "is that without this ballot measure tacked on the end of the home rule petition, the mayor will once again sit on it and we can't move forward," Scott said.

A Beacon Hill barrier

Council approval of Scott's amendments could also be troublesome for the charter: "It still has to go the mayor's desk for signature. I would guess that some of these would just be deal breakers for her," councilor Matt McLaughlin said.

They would also be potentially confusing to legislators on Beacon Hill, who will be seeing charter-related home rule petitions from around Massachusetts and may not have any understanding of Somerville politics, McLaughlin said.

"If they get to the Somerville city charter and there are 10 ballot questions on it, if I was that state representative – not knowing any of the details behind this – I would say, 'I'm not wasting my time on this, this clearly doesn't look ready,'" he said.

"More like the 15th hour"

Scott's first three amendments were raised, discussed and voted individually, with each drawing some words of general support but no votes in favor beyond his own and Burnley's.

At that point Scott asked that the amendments that remained be handled together, speeding the process along "given the tenor of the discussion to this point" – and despite them all being individually "wildly popular measures that have broad support in the community."

There was no reversal of support on the council for those proposals, councilor Jake Wilson said, but "I want them so much that I want to pursue them with the methods that actually seem likeliest to make those happen. So please, let's get this charter sent to Beacon Hill already."

"It's not just the eleventh hour. It's more like the 15th hour," Wilson said. "Let's get this done."

Candidate sees the light

Along with Scott expressing gratitude to his colleagues for their consideration, and some expressing gratitude in return for the work he'd done on the charter, there was reflection about what lay ahead in the campaign season. Davis signaled he would campaign against four-year mayoral terms.

One factor in council approval of Ballantyne's ballot initiative was that it had gained support since it first came to the council, Wilson said.

"It was a split vote – a 6-5 vote at the time – against the four-year term. I believe three of us who voted against putting the four-year mayoral term into the charter two years ago now support a four-year term," said Wilson, who is now running for mayor against Ballantyne. (Burnley has also declared a run for the office.)

"I am of half a mind to just put the four-year term in the charter and be done with all this. I think that if we had a vote on that, it would probably pass," Wilson said.

Porchfest is changed in 14th year

From Page 1

"Especially after Covid, I feel like people found that having these outdoor events were essential with everybody staying connected and doing something as a community," Menjivar said.

The council formed a Porchfest Committee over the winter with musicians, business owners and Department of Public Works staff to tackle issues around the festival's growth.

"More residents, performers and city partners have expressed the need for clearer structure and boundaries to help preserve the event's original grassroots spirit and to ensure it's a safe event for everyone," Menjivar said. "Guster was just an added component. It was, obviously, an exception. These conversations have been happening internally with the council and the bands themselves."

The largest change to Porchfest this year was to the city map: "High traffic streets" are now restricted from participating, Menjivar said, eliminating the porches and yards where last year some 60 bands played, The Boston Globe reported. That's the size of the original Porchfest.

"The change to the porch map was essentially just thinking about safety for everybody, and it wasn't a decision that was made lightly," Menjivar said. The excluded streets are important arteries and keep them clear means emergency vehicles and community members can get through Somerville during Porchfest.

Even with the removal of the city's mayor corridors – Broadway, Summer Street, Highland and Somerville avenues, College Avenue and Cedar, Lowell, Central, School and Walnut streets – "many performers were able to find alternative locations or connect with new hosts," Menjivar said.

An application process that collected contact information from bands was another change, along with the requirement for porch monitors: a nonband member to oversee each performance who were registered by musicians alongside the bands.

A new badge system requires a placard be displayed on participating porches – to increase awareness of which porches and people are involved in the event, Menjivar said.

A representative for each porch had to pick up their badge at City Hall Annex. Original pickup hours were across three days during business hours; two days with evening pickup times were added. The arts council "expanded the dates to make it a little bit easier for everybody," said guitarist Ethan Lauer, of the cover band Can O Worms.

Though there's been some online grumbles, performers are not complaining about the changes when asked.

"The registration process was more intense than in previous years, but nothing unreasonable," said Alasdair MacKenzie, bassist and vocalist of Hush Club, a Somerville indie band performing at 201 Holland St. from noon to 2 p.m.



Michael Gutierrez

Boston band Cosmic Rush plays Porchfest in 2024, a year with 413 performers and 30,000 attendees.

The registration process also "wasn't an issue" for the indie band Graveyard of the Atlantic, guitarist and singer Dave Debany said. The band, performing at 38 Meacham Road from noon to 2 p.m., plans to preview unreleased material ahead of releasing a single this summer and an album out at the end of the year.

For Can O Worms, the only uncertainty came after the application process. "There's always anticipation of [whether you are] going to get the gig or not," Lauer said. The Waltham band is making its Porchfest and large audience debut at 2 Village Terrace from 4 to 6 p.m., planning to play classic rock, pop songs and some original work.

Porchfest ambassadors will be stationed throughout the city to hand out maps to performances and direct people to the increased number of port-a-potties, the council said.

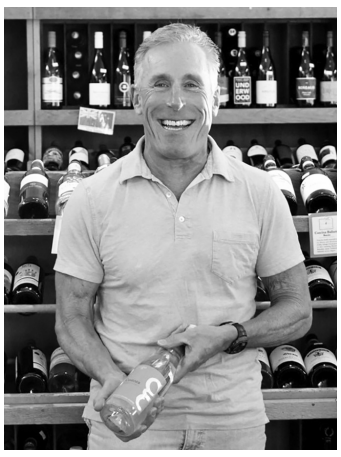
Members of the council will also be stationed at the City Hall Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's Mobile Emergency Operations Center with representatives from fire, police, Public Works and other city departments who will "work together to ensure a safe and well-coordinated Porchfest 2025," Menjivar said.

To make Porchfest happen, it takes a huge effort, Menjivar said. "We appreciate that people love this event and we are glad we can keep bringing this to the city, but we need everybody's help to keep this event viable," she said.

To sign up for emergency text alerts for this year's Porchfest, text Somporchfest *to 888777.*

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

BUSINESS & MONEY



Tom Meek

Paul DeRuzzo at his University Wine Shop in Porter Square, Cambridge.

University Wine owner DeRuzzo toasts goodbye

By TOM MEEK

For nearly 40 years, Paul DeRuzzo has owned and run the University Wine Shop in Porter Square, taking over from the man who founded the shop in the 1950s – and at the time of the sale was in his late 80s.

"I told myself I wasn't going to be that old when I cashed out," DeRuzzo said.

DeRuzzo sold the wine shop in April to a group that runs several liquor and convenience stores in Boston as well as the Surrey Street Market just outside Harvard Square.

University Wine has been a go-to for an affordable bottle — its $10 bin has been a fixture in the store, though it's edging up to $15 – and impromptu hangout spot for students and neighbors.

"His store was a gathering place for people of all persuasions and opinions," said resident, former Patriots manager and sports talk show host Upton Bell. "Sports, politics and arts were often discussed. I went there for more than wine."

DeRuzzo grew up in Concord and went to college at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. After graduation he planned to go to business school, but when the Bedford liquor store he and his friend worked at came up for sale, they bought it. Four years later, they bought University Wine from Henry Fine, who had moved the store to Porter Square after several years in Harvard Square. Not long after, DeRuzzo bought out his two partners.

In 2017, a rent increase forced him to move the shop to 1737 Massachusetts Ave. from 1739 Massachusetts Ave. DeRuzzo said the move nearly undid him financially.

His reasons for getting out – besides that it "was time," as DeRuzzo said: "It's just tough now to be in business around here. The neighborhood's changing." A sense of community is being lost as the corridor builds up, he said, and as younger generations drink less.

He's seen children grow up to buy their first bottle of wine from him. Some, DeRuzzo said, even came to work for him. He doesn't know what will happen to his staff under new management, including two employees who have been with him for nearly the entirety of his ownership. Several employees planned to move on but hoped for another year or two.

For DeRuzzo, what's next is to just step back and breathe a bit. He lives in his family home in Concord with his mom, now in her 90s, but the goal is to go south, where he said he wants to spend more time with wildlife and nature.

Vegan Lulu Green plants itself in Kendall Square

By MADELEINE AITKEN

Named "Best Vegan Restaurant 2024" by Boston Magazine, South Boston's Lulu Green is opening its second location in Cambridge's Kendall Square in late spring.

Lulu Green was co-founded by sisters Mary and Nada Lattouf. Inspired by their Lebanese heritage and the Middle Eastern diet they grew up on, they started Lulu Green with the goal of providing healthy and delicious food, entirely plant-based, to their community.

"My dad farmed our estate olive grove back in Lebanon," Mary Lattouf said. "Growing up in Brockton on the South Shore, my dad had a big garden, harvesting apples, pears, peaches, cherries, lots of vegetables like potatoes, corn, kale, tomatoes. Basically, you name it, it was in the garden."

As children, whole foods and home-cooked meals were the only foods Mary and Nada knew.

"I was dying to get my hands on McDonald's as a kid," Mary Lattouf said. "I certainly didn't appreciate it growing up, but later I did, and ultimately made the journey to becoming 100 percent plant-based."

Before founding Lulu Green, Mary Lattouf worked for Whole Foods Market as director of its Healthy Eating Program; Nada's background is as a pharmacist at CVS Health.

"We have this great combination of understanding food as medicine and the benefits of nutrition on the body," Mary Lattouf said.

The Lattoufs, along with chef Brian Corbley, who serves as director of operations, opened Lulu Green in South Boston in January 2020, just weeks before the Covid pandemic hit. They pivoted to serving takeout only, inspired by the relationships they had cultivated with their South Boston community within the first six weeks of opening.

The idea to open a second location in Cambridge came about when the Lattoufs started noticing how many guests they were serving were coming from Cambridge.



Lulu Green

Lulu Green co-founders Mary Lattouf, left, and Nada Lattouf with chef Brian Corbley. The team has crafted an eclectic vegan menu.



Lulu Green

A bowl at Lulu Green.

"We've gotten so many requests to open a restaurant in Cambridge," Mary Lattouf said. "And it's just such a great community and a great city of culture, innovation and art. We feel like our food is really innovative, so it's a great place to be."

Kendall Square's Lulu Green location will open at 675 W. Kendall St., previously occupied by PlantPub, another plant-based restaurant that closed in late 2023. An official opening day is not set, but Mary Lattouf estimated it should be some time in late May or early June.

A broad menu

The menu, which will be largely the same as at the South Boston location, is not "a Middle Eastern restaurant, per se," she said. "We do tacos, Asian-inspired dishes, pastas."

A hummus at Lulu Green, for instance, is from a recipe by the Lattoufs' mother – "She's taught our chef how to make a lot of the recipes and how to work with lots of Middle Eastern spices," Lattouf said – and is on the menu for brunch and lunch with offerings such as marinated olives, muhammara and tahini beets. But it's alongside huevos rojos, pancakes and avocado toast. There are sweets, smoothies and açai bowls, burgers and sandwiches, and salads and bowls, all vegan. The Kendall store will serve hand-cut fries as a Cambridge exclusive.

"Our chef does a fantastic job, and he has many years of globally inspired experience," Mary Lattouf said. "We want the dishes to taste even better than they look."

There's an equally strong emphasis on drinks, both coffee – sourced from Barismo, a Cambridge roaster – and cocktails made without artificial colors, flavors or preservatives.

"The grenadine at our bar, for example, is made in-house and it gets its red color from pomegranate juice," Mary Lattouf said. "We don't use anything artificial or any hydrogenated oils or trans fats in anything we make."

A "bright, open space"

Hours are being decided, but the restaurant will serve weekday lunch and dinner and weekend brunch.

The restaurant has a "fun, happy vibe," she said, similar to the South Boston space, as well as an outdoor patio. "We have a great designer we work with, and it will have a very playful color palette," she said. "It's a bright, open space with high ceilings, and we're doing low, comfortable banquette seating, so it'll be very cozy."

The attention to the space and what's on the menu is part of the Lattoufs' goal to create gathering places where they can build community and people can build connections.

"Our mom's house was always open to guests, the fridge always stocked and ready with something great that she had cooked that day. She was always ready, at the drop of a hat, for people to arrive and to feed them," Mary Lattouf said. "We want the restaurants to be an extension of our home, where guests can come together and enjoy great food and warm hospitality."

Changeover at The Door Store might be called a gift in Retrospect

From Page 1

If they venture back far enough, customers will find the pool table, where they are welcome to play a round and lounge between turns on the store's vintage couches, because Retrospect is also "a community place," Iordanov said. "I'm trying to make it the place where local people can come and hang out. Not only that, they don't have to buy anything – they can just play pool or listen to music."

In addition to building community with the neighboring shops whose employees come in to play, the move has been "very good" for Retrospect's foot traffic, Iordanov said. "There are a lot of customers that come and just hang out. It's a lot of fun to be there."

Iordanov "wants everyone to be able to afford" the items in the store. She invites customers to negotiate with staff and sometimes to name their own price for an item; there's a section designed for it. "If anybody cannot afford the things that are here, they can go to the name-their-own-price," she said. "The shoes and the clothes there are no-price. We had them even in our old store and mostly the homeless people will come and say, can I have them. And I would never say no."

The store is filled with items curated from estate sales and found by Iordanov, a 20-year Quincy librarian who opened Retrospect after retiring.





Marc Levy

Tanya Iordanov's Retrospect vintage store in Cambridge sells statuary, slot machines and much more.

She touches up some of the furniture herself with designs applied onto wood surfaces – artistically smeared hearts or images of surreal romanticism that complement a distressed wood dresser.

Retrospect is "unique" because "you can buy everything" – anything customers see in the store from the light fixtures to the old furniture she "dresses up," Iordanov said.

The furniture will be gathered in a whole other section of the property now closed to customers. It will hold not just Iordanov's work, but Door Store goods as well. Its production continues despite closing as a retailer in October after more than six decades. (Retrospect relocated at the end of November, connected by a former Door Store employee who became a Retrospect customer at the old location.)

The doors hanging on the Retrospect ceiling "to remember The Door Store" is a clue, as is the fact that the exterior Retrospect sign includes letters from the original Door Store sign and additional letters cut by Dawn Leate, the former shop's manager and owner of the carpentry business DJ Designs.

Leate and Door Store owner Andrew Anisimov (who has an apartment upstairs) are still fulfilling furniture orders in the basement, and Iordanov said she will connect them with anyone "sad about The Door Store closing" and in the market for custom furniture. "The Door Store was such a legend," she said.

Leate considers Retrospect to be a "good fit" for the storefront because the store is "quirky like The Door Store. I couldn't think of a better team to be working with."

Retrospect is open from noon to 9 p.m. every day except Wednesday, when Iordanov upcycles clothing.

EVENTS AHEAD MAY 8–15

May 5-11
The Rockwell, 255 Elm St., Davis Square, Somerville

Boston Fringe

6 p.m. May 8
$15 to $75. Tonight's lineup includes Deby Xiadani's portrayal of the contest to be the next Miss Billerica, the dance murder mystery "Facts & Figures," the musical "Wrath of the Selkie" and clowning by Bryce Flint-somerville.

6 p.m. May 9
$15 to $75. Tonight's lineup includes "Taking a Drive," a musical featuring two friends singing about their problems; "Spiritual Advisors," which features four plays by the Asian American Playwright Collective about Asian American and Pacific Islander stories; the "Miss Route 1" beauty pageant with Deby Xiadani; a performance by comedy duo Jackie and Allison; and a "Show Me Your Bits" comedy showcase with Jonathan Anderson.

11:20 a.m. May 10
$15 to $75. Today's lineup includes "Judy Punches Back," in which a puppet goes on a journey to earn respect; "Twelve," a completely improvised musical performance; "Unhinged & Bumblef*cked," in which comedian Kristin Zee brings the audience through her dating patterns; a performance by the improv group Rhymes with Orange; "Infraordinary," a performance of four connected sketches; "50% Nonverbal," a live presentation and musical performance by C. Neil Parsons; "Me'leven," a comedy and storytelling set by Grace Elin; "Wild Blue," a live dramedy about flyover states by Sky Nockels; "Salvage," a dance performance; "Prince Yudith," a comedy special about the titular character and his servant Rufus visiting from Hertznia; clowning by Bryce Flint-Somerville's "Barroz"; "Taking a Drive"; "Show Me Your Bits"; "Facts & Figures"; and the musical "Wrath of the Selkie."

11:20 a.m. May 11
$15 to $75. Today's lineup includes "Petrushka & the Caterpillar," in which Theater in the Open retells classic stories with new endings; "50% Nonverbal"; "Me'leven"; "Twelve"; "Unhinged & Bumblef*cked"; "Wild Blue"; "Salvage"; a performance by Rhymes with Orange; "Infraordinary"; "Fidget. Spinster.," a stand-up set by Amma Marfo about the modern dating world; a performance by Jackie and Allison; and Bryce Flint-Somerville's clowning in "Barroz."

11:30 a.m. May 11
The Burren, 247 Elm St., Davis Square, Somerville

Burlesque brunch

$20 to $25 and 18-plus. Enjoy a midday meal and watch some of New England's best performers showcase classic burlesque in all its forms. (Brunch not included in ticket price.)

6 to 9 p.m. May 9
Summer Shack, 149 Alewife Brooke Parkway, Cambridge

Murder Mystery Dinner

$77. Every diner is a suspect in this whodunit. Ticket includes a three-course diner.

7 p.m. May 13
Longy School of Music, 27 Garden St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

Opera Creation Lab presents "Something for Everybody"

Free to $20. Premieres of seven mini operas created in the lab. Themes vary from romance to comedy to biblical stories.

8 p.m. to 10 p.m. May 10
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., near Harvard Square, Cambridge

Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus presents: "For Our Common Home: Resounding Ecojustice"

Free to $25. Berklee's Linda J. Chase composed a performance that combines classical, jazz, gospel and klezmer music for the 120-person choir and solo vocalists and instrumentalists.

2 to 3:30 p.m. May 10
History Cambridge's Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, 159 Brattle St., West Cambridge

"East Cambridge in the Revolution" tour

Free, but register. A look at the East Cambridge locations critical during the Revolutionary War and the ways their legacy shape the neighborhood today.

6 to 11 p.m. May 9
Start at Lizzy's Ice Cream, 29 Church St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

Ice cream crawl

Free entry. Part of the Facebook group "Make Friends After College," the crawl travels from Lizzy's onward to Christina's Homemade Ice Cream in Inman Square and Gracie's in Union Square. (Only three? Cowards!) The group's final stop is Aeronaut Brewery in Union Square for more time to mingle.

May 9- 12
Harvard Film Archive at The Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

Mother's Day Mini-Marathon

9 p.m. May 9
Free to $10. A celebration of maternity through seven films. The marathon kicks off with Pedro Almodóvar's "All About My Mother," which follows Manuela, a women grappling with the loss of her son, as she searches for her son's father.

5, 7 and 9:15 p.m. May 10
Free to $10. Today's film screenings include Chantal Akerman's "News From Home," in which Akerman reads notes from her mother set to sweeping shots of New York City; Martin Scorsese's "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," which follows a single mother picking up the pieces of her and her son's lives after the sudden death of her abusive husband; and Bong Joon-ho's "Mother," which depicts mother Kim Hye-ja's journey proving the innocence of her son, Do-joon, after a murder.

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

7 to 8 p.m. May 8

Poets Ann Bookman, Partridge Boswell and Daniel Johnson

Free, but register. With an introduction by Tom Daley.

7 to 8 p.m. May 15

Poets Kit Schluter and Patty Crane

Free, but register. With an introduction by C. Francis Fisher.

7 p.m. May 9
Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge

"Cosmic Library" podcast recording

Free. The Literary Hub podcast, which explores the content and impact of massive books such as "Finnegans Wake," "1,001 Nights" and the Bible, handles "The Brothers Karamazov" in this discussion and throughout its sixth season. Authors Andrew Martin and Elisa Gabbert join host Adam Colman.

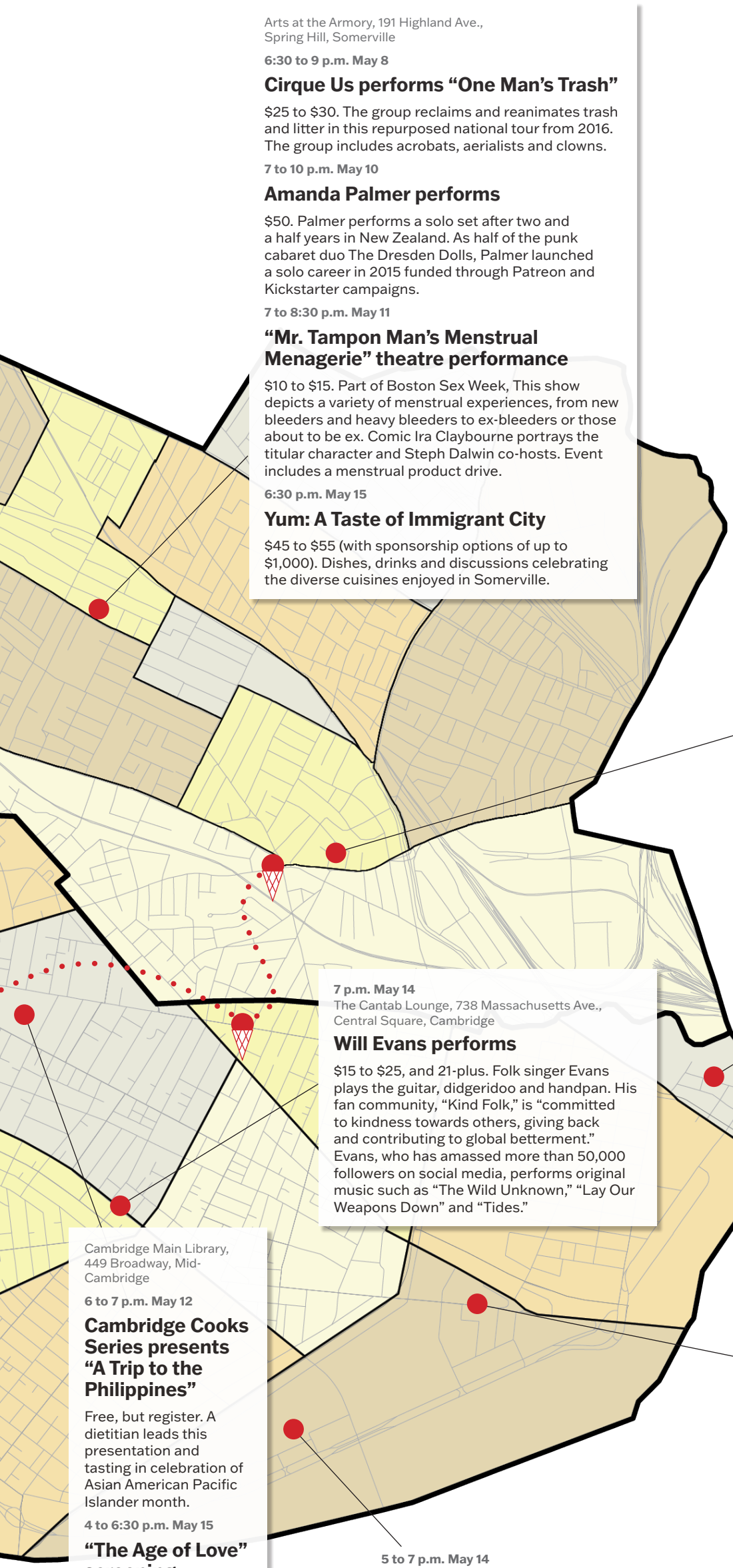
5 to 7 p.m. May 9
Magazine Beach Park Nature Center, at the river end of Magazine Street, Cambridgeport

Animal & Ice Cream Social

Free, but register. Participants learn about native wildlife from Mass Audubon's animal ambassadors and walk around the park with a sweet treat.

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

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



Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Spring Hill, Somerville

6:30 to 9 p.m. May 8

Cirque Us performs "One Man's Trash"

$25 to $30. The group reclaims and reanimates trash and litter in this repurposed national tour from 2016. The group includes acrobats, aerialists and clowns.

7 to 10 p.m. May 10

Amanda Palmer performs

$50. Palmer performs a solo set after two and a half years in New Zealand. As half of the punk cabaret duo The Dresden Dolls, Palmer launched a solo career in 2015 funded through Patreon and Kickstarter campaigns.

7 to 8:30 p.m. May 11

"Mr. Tampon Man's Menstrual Menagerie" theatre performance

$10 to $15. Part of Boston Sex Week, This show depicts a variety of menstrual experiences, from new bleeders and heavy bleeders to ex-bleeders or those about to be ex. Comic Ira Claybourne portrays the titular character and Steph Dalwin co-hosts. Event includes a menstrual product drive.

6:30 p.m. May 15

Yum: A Taste of Immigrant City

$45 to $55 (with sponsorship options of up to $1,000). Dishes, drinks and discussions celebrating the diverse cuisines enjoyed in Somerville.

Noon to 6 p.m. May 10
Throughout Somerville

PorchFest

Free. Audience members experience live music by traveling around Somerville to see performers on porches and in yards. Musicians perform from noon to 2 p.m. in spots west of Willow Avenue; from 2 to 4 p.m. between Willow Avenue and Central Street; and from 4 to 6 p.m. in areas east of Central Street.

The Jungle, 6 Sanborn Court, Union Square, Somerville

8 p.m. May 8

SingOut: Live Band Karaoke

$10. Sign up to perform with a live band. Song choices include work by Chappell Roan, Fleetwood Mac, The Eagles,Frank Ocean and more.

8 p.m. to midnight May 15

"Clown Town: A Queer Circus Variety Show"

$12 and 21-plus. The show includes a live performance by Sidebody, a Somerville punk band slated to perform at Boston Calling this year, and a clown and drag show.

6 to 8 p.m. May 13
Lamplighter CX, 110 N. First St., North Point, Cambridge

Sip & Sculpt class

$75. A beginner pottery class with instruction from experts on pinch pots and other sculpture techniques. The ticket includes a kit with all the tools needed to make pottery during class and at home.

7 p.m. May 14
The Cantab Lounge, 738 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, Cambridge

Will Evans performs

$15 to $25, and 21-plus. Folk singer Evans plays the guitar, didgeridoo and handpan. His fan community, "Kind Folk," is "committed to kindness towards others, giving back and contributing to global betterment." Evans, who has amassed more than 50,000 followers on social media, performs original music such as "The Wild Unknown," "Lay Our Weapons Down" and "Tides."

7 to 9 p.m. May 8
Museum of Science, 1 Science Park, Boston, on the Cambridge border

Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World forum

Free, but register. Participants collaborate to stem the spread of a virtual infectious disease threat in this simulation. Light refreshments at 6:30 p.m.

Cambridge Main Library, 449 Broadway, Mid-Cambridge

6 to 7 p.m. May 12

Cambridge Cooks Series presents "A Trip to the Philippines"

Free, but register. A dietitian leads this presentation and tasting in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander month.

4 to 6:30 p.m. May 15

"The Age of Love" screening

Free, but register. The film follows 30 seniors attending a 70- to 90-year-old speed-dating event. Director Steven Loring joins virtually for a Q&A.

5 to 7 p.m. May 14
Linde Music Building, also known as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Building W18, 201 Amherst St., Cambridge

Korean-themed celebration of the humanities

Free. The consul general of the Republic of Korea and a surprise guest attend with Grammy-winning cellist Mike Block, student dance team MIT Flow and other arts to hear student pitches, enjoy food and drink at a reception and take part in a Korean painting workshop with MIT's Global Humanities Initiative.

The MIT Museum, 314 Main St., Kendall Square, Cambridge

6 to 9 p.m. May 8

After Dark Series: Birds

$10 to $20 and 21-plus. Work on avian-inspired crafts, test your bird knowledge and meet Rosemary Mosco, author of "The Birding Dictionary." Dumplings from Mei Mei and local brews from Lamplighter are available for purchase.

6 to 7:30 p.m. May 12 (and continuing on May 26)

Liquid Lab Art Workshops

$60 to $80 and 18-plus. A two-session class instructs participants in creating art using tools found in biology labs: in this case gel electrophoresis, which uses electrical currents to analyze DNA, RNA and proteins.

FILM AHEAD MAY 8–15

LOCAL FOCUS



Annie Dodson performs live scores as part of Grrl Haus Cinema's short film showcase at The Brattle, "Experimental Echoes."

A Grrl Haus showcase features live soundtrack to silents, musical shorts

By OSCAR GOFF

Grrl Haus Cinema, the great Cambridge-founded collective dedicated to work by women, trans, nonbinary and genderqueer filmmakers, returns to **The Brattle Theatre** on Thursday with perhaps its most inventive showcase yet. In **"Experimental Echoes,"** the curators at Grrl Haus have compiled a two-part program exploring the intersection of film and music. In the first portion, Maine electroacoustic composer Annie Dodson takes the stage and performs live scores for a pair of silent experimental films by Hogan Seidel and Malic Amalya.

The program continues with nine additional shorts that draw power from music, dance and rhythmic editing. No art form exists in a vacuum, as these films and performances ably demonstrate.

Few directors in the history of cinema have had a hot streak as intense as the first phase of Jean-Luc Godard's career: In the years between 1960 and 1967, Godard released a staggering 15 feature films that, collectively, altered the course of the form. While the films Godard made during this stretch remain revered and beloved, the sheer volume of this body of work means some are bound to be overlooked.

Released less than a year after Godard's incendiary debut "Breathless" and less than a year before his masterpiece "Vivre Sa Vie," **"A Woman Is a Woman"** (1961), which screens at The Brattle in a new 4K restoration Friday through Monday, was largely dismissed at the time as a trifling effort – which is a shame, because it's one of the director's most infectiously joyous films. If nothing else, it is notable as the film that introduced the world to Godard's most famous muse, the great Anna Karina, who radiates charisma from her very first frames.

The plot is pure sex farce as Karina's Angela, desperate for a baby, must choose between her schlubby boyfriend (Jean-Claude Brialy) and his loutish buddy (Jean-Paul Belmondo).

This Sunday is Mother's Day, and while the holiday is for many a time of celebration, the **Harvard Film Archive** understands motherhood can be messy and complicated. To that end, the HFA presents a weekendlong **Mother's Day Mini-Marathon**, collecting more than half a dozen films that present a warts-and-all look at some of cinema's most memorable matriarchs. Films on display range from the classic Hollywood melodrama of **"Mildred Pierce"** (1945, screening Saturday), in which Joan Crawford plays a divorced working mother driven to wits' end by a cruel world and an ungrateful daughter, to the new-wave essay of **"News From Home"** (1976, screening Sunday), in which filmmaker Chantal Akerman recites actual letters from her own mother over footage of vintage Manhattan. In between are works from masters ranging from John Cassavetes (**"A Woman Under The Influence,"** 1974) and Martin Scorsese (**"Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore,"** 1974) to Pedro Almodóvar (**"All About My Mother,"** 1999) and Bong Joon Ho (**"Mother,"** 2009). By the end of the weekend you'll either want to call your own mother or give her some much-needed space.

The Brattle's series in tribute to the late Val Kilmer continues, including two of the actor's most idiosyncratic films. **"Kiss Kiss Bang Bang"** (2005), which plays Tuesday, is best remembered as a comeback vehicle for Robert Downey Jr., here playing a small-time crook who stumbles first into an audition to play a detective in a movie and then into an actual murder mystery. But Kilmer is just as good as Downey's straight man – so to speak – a hard-boiled yet flamboyantly gay L.A. private eye. "Kiss" is, objectively, a much better film than **"The Island of Dr. Moreau"** (1996), which screens Thursday, but the latter might just be my favorite of Kilmer's career.

For reasons which, I'm sure, have absolutely nothing to do with current world events, the **Somerville Theatre** has launched a season of its recurring repertory series titled **"F**k the Nazis,"** gathering another round of films in which followers of Hitler are righteously vanquished, outsmarted and/or all-around walloped. The series begins, naturally, with one of cinema's all-time great Nazi-punchers in **"Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade"** (1989), which screens on 35 mm Wednesday.

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 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



'The Surfer': Cage hits the waves

Fans of Nicolas Cage behaving off-center in such curios as "Mandy" (2018), "The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent" (2022) or "Pig" (2021), should be all in on this hazing ritual turned grudge match. Cage stars as an unnamed family man (we'll just call him Cage; the credits list him as "The Surfer") who wants to take his teen son (Finn Little) surfing at a remote beach in Australia. Once on the golden sands of surfer paradise, the local hang-10 tribe – trim, hyperfit, middle-aged men – tell Cage and his kid: No surf, not now, not ever. Cage quickly but sheepishly notes that it's a public beach, to which the snappish beach bullies threaten a beatdown. "Before you can surf, you must suffer," says the ringleader (a steely-eyed Julian McMahon). What ensues is Cage living out of his car in the parking lot above the beach (his son is back at some hotel with his mother), trying to suss out the right opportunity to sneak in a run. Adding complexity to the quest at hand, the surf bros have a rocking beach shack that they seemingly never leave and from which they regularly dispatch squads to harass Cage and trash his ride. Days pass, tensions rise and mean-boy pranks get nastier and nastier, as Cage's classic Bimmer becomes a squalid rat's nest of candy wrappers and fly-worthy grunge. "The Surfer" is not quite that kind of psychological horror-thriller; it's more a psychological dark comedy with '70s B-movie bite, though with redundant conflict and retreat in which the stakes don't rise. Ripples that affect Cage's character's offscreen life (money, family, the father's house, etc.) feel like filler, not consequence. Still, Lorcan Finnegan's sun-baked homage and Cage's winning persona carry the never-surrender clash in from the foamy breakers without a wipeout. It's a safe, sure ride that never fully shoots the waves. TOM MEEK

At Kendall Square.

★★½☆



'Havoc': Hardy leads the action

Off the top, there's a lot to like about this amped-up actioner. First, the cast is killer: Tom Hardy ("Inception," "Dunkirk"), Oscar-winner Forrest Whitaker, Timothy Olyphant of "Justified" and Luis Guzmán, whom we haven't seen enough as of late. Secondly, the slick, style-infused crime thriller has aspirations to, of all things, Peckinpah and Woo, which should be no surprise – it's directed by Gareth Evans, the hyperactive eye behind the gonzo Indonesian "Raid" flicks. All that goodness gets lost in the overkill of action that explodes around Hardy's dirty cop on a bloody path to redemption. The film, an opulent, rain-slicked, Gotham-esque spectacle, is set in an unnamed, ambiguous American city where gangs, racial lines and revenge agendas stand out like blazing neon road signs in the jet-black night. In the mix, we have a Chinese triad, a corrupt business owner running for mayor (Whitaker), a massive shipment of smack, an inner sanctum of shoot-first cops and hockey-masked gangbangers in too deep. The triad boss gets offed because of the smack, and his mother (Yann Yann Yeo) comes stateside for payback. Hardy's Walker gets caught in the never-ending crossfire trying to protect one of the gangbangers (Quelin Sepulveda) from the wrath of the triad and other bent cops (led by Olyphant) trying to cover their bloody tracks with more blood. Some of the choreography and camera work are more than impressive, but "Havoc" is style over substance, with a director continually shouting out "did you see what I did there?" Hardy's bristling grit, well used as Mad Max in 2015, gets wasted here; most of what sparkles and pops are the dark sets, acute framings and a fresh-faced Jessie Mei Li as one of the department's only clean cops. TOM MEEK

On Netflix.

★★☆☆

MUSIC

ATTEND

Inaugural Boston Fringe includes a salute of song

By MICHAEL GUTIERREZ

The "first ever" Boston Fringe Festival (May 6-11) has come to, eh … Somerville!

Don't tell the Boston University Fringe Festival, which is actually in Boston and in its 28th season. But why split hairs? The more fringe, the better. And you could hardly pick a fringier spot than The Rockwell theater in Davis Square for new, exciting, edgy and oddball productions outside the mainstream.

Elsewhere in the world, fringe festivals are big business. The famous Edinburgh Fringe Festival lasts almost a month and sells more than 2 million tickets. That's a lot of meat in the seats.

A Somerville Fringe isn't going to have that kind of draw. Certainly not straight out of the gate. But reflect for a moment on the turnout we're getting for Somerville Porchfest. Holy moly, look at the map of participating bands. A tidal wave of music spilling from Alewife Brook Parkway to Washington Street. The theater community probably looks at that and thinks to themselves: "Why not us?"

Good question. Why not?

The inaugural Fringe edition includes a mix of "full-length" shows (45 minutes) and "shorty" shows (25 minutes), running the gamut from tragedy to comedy to Defcon 1 levels of absurdity. For fans of a "wild, clown-fueled adventure," go see "Jackie & Allison Into the Multiverse." If you like your murder mysteries mixed with contemporary dance, try "Facts & Figures." Or how about "Spiritual Advisors," four plays by the Asian American Playwright Collective?

One full-length production caught my eye in particular: "The Wrath of the Selkie," a blend of live music, puppetry and movement arts into a story about the selkie, the seal-woman of Celtic folklore (Thursday and Saturday). I recognized the playwright Growler Graves as a member of Thou Merciless Graves, a local music collective. Apparently, the collective does a lot more than music, because it banded together to produce this rock opera, which, along with being a genre-bending maritime folktale, serves as an allegory for Growler's 18-month battle with breast cancer.

A folktale, a gripping allegory and a 20-foot eel puppet. This is what the fringe is all about.

Hit this

Saturday *Somerville Porchfest (Porches, Somerville)*

The citywide music banger that needs no introduction: Somerville Porchfest. After last year's "Guster Affair," there have been some restrictions added to the day. Certain streets are now off-limits for performances. Ostensibly to improve safety. The powers that be would be fools to tap the brakes too hard, lest the event lose the bottom-up air of spontaneity that makes it great. I'm already starting to get bad vibes about the inaugural Cambridge Porchfest (or "Deckfest") due in July, that, so far, feels like a jamboree for nonprofit admins on their grant allocation steez instead of a day for local music. Prove me wrong.

Sunday *Baroness (The Sinclair, Cambridge)*

Prog metal comes to Harvard Square. Cannonade percussion, aggressive riffs, high-speed solos for miles, all targeted with pinpoint precision. Baroness is built for excitement. The band has been kicking around for 20 years, the quintessential metal lifers. Their latest album "Stone" shows they haven't lost a whit of speed off their fastball.

Tuesday *Mamalarky, Kennedy Mann, Doss (The Rockwell, Somerville)*

I keep waiting for L.A.'s Mamalarky to blow up. Maybe they will, and then you can brag that you saw the indie rockers "way back when" in the cozy confines of The Rockwell, 36 miles below the surface of the Earth. What's the Mamalarky sound like? I've compared it elsewhere to Steely Dan by virtue of their swank and sophistication. Add a little Deerhoof into the mix as well. There are a few too many curlicues crammed into their latest LP "Hex Key," but the gloves come off in live performance. Kennedy Mann and local Doss make this a strong bill top to bottom.

Live at McCarthy's (and Toad)

The McCarthy's-Toad two-headed monster reopened for business a few weeks back. The early returns are good for music lovers. I walked into the Porter Square spot around 7 p.m. on a Monday to discover no less than three acts performing, or preparing to perform, on what is typically the slowest and dreariest night of the week. If this is the kind of energy the establishment brings on a Monday, what are the weekends like?

Immediately upon stepping across the threshold I was greeted with the traditional folk strains of a guitar and bagpipe duo. Or maybe an uilleann pipe. At least I was certain about the brand of the beer sitting in front of the pair as they dutifully churned out mood music during Hour One of a three-hour block of traditional folk, scheduled seven days a week at McCarthy's. It was Guinness.

Upstairs guitar duo Zion Rodman and Christian Colegrove were emceeing an open mic. Each are solo musicians but join forces regularly as musical partners as well as co-organizers of open mics around town. They host the McCarthy's open mic every Monday night and a monthly version at Medford Brewing Co. If the sign-up sheet isn't full enough, Rodman and Colegrove turn the event into their own concert, crafting a kind of folk rock blend full of harmonies.

If you're looking for a vibe shift, head back downstairs and through the second threshold to Toad. Music at the local favorite has returned after a long dormancy. A quartet of Gypsy Jazz musicians lit up the stage. Whereas the traditional folk in the front room provides atmosphere, the open mic interactive fun, the performance at Toad felt like the connoisseur's option. A professional act doing its thing. Pick your poison, they'll all get you better.

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

Baked clams at Bar Enza in Cambridge's Harvard Square.

Unique pastas, seafood soup at Bar Enza 3.0

By TOM MEEK

■ Bar Enza, 1 Bennett St., inside the Charles Hotel, Harvard Square, Cambridge

A coveted space in Harvard Square's Charles Hotel has seen much transition since the nouvelle-fine dining hot spot Rialto departed in 2016. In its absence, the folks behind the wait-around-the-block Giulia opened Benedetto, but it closed early during the pandemic. Opening immediately in its stead was Bar Enza, then headed by Michelin-starred chef Mark Ladner, who cut his teeth in the restaurants of Todd English. In the spring of 2023, Ladner stepped back into management and turned the kitchen over to Tony Susi, another Todd English alumnus who revamped the menu with fantastic, pescatarian-leaning fare including a spicy seafood bucatini, hearty brodetto (seafood stew) and crispy fritto misto (fried calamari).

Last month, Susi stepped off to pursue his own venture, Little Sage in the North End (an ostensible reboot of his former restaurant Sage). In came Boston culinary legend Lydia Shire, the gastronomic genius behind Scampo and first woman to win the highly regarded James Beard Award.

The move makes sense – Scampo and Enza fall under the Lyons Group holdings, which include Summer Shack, the Bleacher Bar and Sonsie. Shire's makeover takes its foot off the fine-Italian pedal some but holds a strong pescatarian presence with some farm-to-table offerings. For the latter there's a Belgian white asparagus with a six-minute egg; the "My Favorite Artichoke Bottom Annunziata," an artichoke heart filled with fresh bufala mozzarella and adorned with Palermo frittedda (a sauté of young artichokes, fava beans and other early spring garden fare); and a deboned young chicken that comes with nicely crisp skin, a butter sauce reduction and spring veggies (roasted parsnip, carrots and baby peas).

Among the larger plates are lamb chops, a pork chop Milanese and a head-on Dover sole that looks delightful and has me hooked to try, despite the eyebrow-raising price of $75.

Naturally there's pasta, but it's unique: lasagna with oxtail meatball; stuffed shells with broccoli rabe and deviled crab; and lumache, pasta shells with spinach pastis butter and baby squid. My standouts were the seafood and antipasto, along with those asparagus spears and artichoke bottoms. Enza's baked clams are outstanding: minced (and meaty) fresh bivalves in a rich garlic butter with "sausage crumbs" (think bacon bits), some ultra light breading and plenty of herbs and vegetable repackaged back into the half-shell for serving. Delicious, flavorful and with a succession of textures, there's not many on the plate and they go down fast – no sharing here. They're almost worth a double order. With the fantastic and always fresh and crisp Enza tricolored salad, they make for a rich meal.

But there's more. The fisherman's soup is a wild and imaginative hybrid of a hearty fish stew and lobster bisque. It's fair if you think that sounds bizarre; it's anything but. The rich brown broth is akin to that of the classic Bermudian fish chowder and has a similarly tangy pucker, but it's not as thick as your classic New England chowder. And in it is a bounty of tender chunks of lobster. It comes with a thin but dense uni fried rice cracker, which needs some time to sop up that bronze, gravylike broth; push it to the side and come back midway through emptying the bowl, when it's soft and soaked through.

Each Enza variation has been an upgrade, and all have had their surprises.

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.

SNACK



Tacos at Taqueria Montecristo

Price: $4

With "taqueria" in the name, I had high hopes for the tacos from Montecristo, and I was not disappointed. At $4 each, I was able to get two tacos, leave a tip and stay within our $10 Snack budget, which was already a win. Then I took a bite, and things got even better. Simply put, these were top-notch tacos. The tortillas were filled with generous portions of meat, topped with red onions and cilantro and served with lime wedges. I tried chicken and beef; in both cases the meat was flavorful with deliciously charred bits and the tortillas were pliable with a nice corn flavor and slight chew. But the real star of the show was Montecristo's salsa verde, in squeezy bottles on the tables for easy application (and reapplication). It took already-great tacos to new heights. Easily some of the best tacos money can buy in Camberville. MADELINE AITKEN

■ Taqueria Montecristo, 146 Broadway, East Somerville

ARTS

BEHOLD

Overlapping lives, overlapping images

By CLAIRE OGDEN

Works by two photographers are woven together in Anthony Greaney's new exhibition, elegantly finding the point where two practices meet.

"Thinking Paw" features Jenna Westra and Josh Brand, New Yorkers who happen to have gotten engaged around the time the show was installed.

While Westra and Brand still make their own solo photographs, the two have been creating collaborative images since 2021. Happy coincidences define most. Each comes out of experiments in the darkroom, where they layer objects on top of the film negatives and occasionally photograms to create works that can never be truly repeated. The results are enigmatic and stunning.

Westra stages and plans most of her photographs, while Brand surrenders to the images and does his manipulation after the fact. Yet both artist's work feels choreographed and cinematic, almost like a dance film.

"Leah and Amelia Rotating" is a highlight, showing Westra's keen eye and her ability to choreograph precisely, then abstract, the bodies of the models she works with. Meanwhile, Westra is Brand's own model. In Brand's "Jenna, Window, Hallway, Dancer," a tender grouping of four images, we see views of Westra's hair but never her face.

That camera-shy quality – Westra's urge to take the focus off herself while making images and even while posing – betrays a curiosity that's endearing and deeply human.

"Thinking Paw" by Jenna Westra and Josh Brand runs through May 17 at Anthony Greaney, 438 Somerville Ave., Ward 2, Somerville. Saturdays and Sundays noon to 6 p.m.



Anthony Greaney

"Thinking Paw," by Jenna Westra and Josh Brand.

LAUGH

Mr. Tampon Man kicks off Sex Week

Sex Week Boston kicks off Sunday, focusing on "education, queer and trans joy, and sexual liberation" throughout the area with a trio of comedy shows. "Mr. Tampon Man's Menstrual Menagerie" kicks off the week at Rooted Armory Cafe, a menses-themed show presented by Roya Hamadani (Pigeon City Sketch) and her flagship sketch character, Mr. Tampon Man. On May 15, keep your eyes on "Bazongas: An Evening of Boob Humor," a product of Half a Mind Comedy taking place at Upstairs at Bow. The week winds down with "Fucking Hilarious" at Union Square's Green Room on May 17, a showcase of local comedy paired with "slutty tarot readings." Tickets for all three shows are available through the event calendar at sexweekbos.com. AMMA MARFO

■ **Sex Week Boston comedy starts with "Mr. Tampon Man's Menstrual Menagerie" from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday at Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Spring Hill, Somerville. $12.50.**

Legal ads

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

Loan Order

FIRST PUBLICATION

City of Cambridge

Agenda Item Number 10
IN CITY COUNCIL
April 28, 2025

ORDERED:

That $15,250,000 is appropriated for the Ozone Generator Replacement; Lead Service Line replacement; and water works construction projects in coordination with DPW street restoration projects, which include repair and or replacement of water infrastructure at Dana Street, Sciarappa Street, Massachusetts Ave 4, Haskell Street and Hillside Avenue, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow $15,250,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on April 28, 2025 and on or after May 19, 2025 the question comes on adoption.

Attest:- Diane P. LeBlanc
City Clerk

ECCE Overlay District Zoning - Public Hearing

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

The Ordinance Committee, comprised of the entire membership of the City Council, will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** on a Zoning Petition by the BMR-320 Charles LLC c/o BioMed Realty, L.P. to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Article 20.000 with the intent to create a new overlay district called the East Cambridge Community Enhancement (ECCE) Overlay District that would 1) allow for increases in height and floor area by special permit to facilitate the conversion of older industrial properties to new structures in a way that will 2) improve the edge of the district adjacent to Ahern Field, improve the pedestrian experience within the zoning district, and/or provide support for community services in East Cambridge.

This public hearing will be hybrid allowing participation in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and remotely via ZOOM. The ZOOM URL to view the meeting is https://cambridgema.zoom.us/s/97895847144 . **If you would like to speak at this Public Hearing, please register to do so using this URL:**

https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/CityCouncil/PublicCommentSignUpForm . You may also email comments to the City Clerk at Cityclerk@cambridgema.gov .

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

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

For the Committee,

Vice Mayor Marc McGovern, Chair

Loan Order

FIRST PUBLICATION

City of Cambridge

Agenda Item Number 11
IN CITY COUNCIL
April 28, 2025

ORDERED:

that $1,600,000 is appropriated for the purpose of providing financing for the design and construction of open space at Wilder Lee Playground and play areas at 359 Broadway, and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow $1,600,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on April 28, 2025 and on or after May 19, 2025 the question comes on adoption.

Attest:- Diane P. LeBlanc
City Clerk

Mushla Marasao et al Zoning Petition - Public Hearing

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

The Ordinance Committee, comprised of the entire membership of the City Council, will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 20, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** on a Zoning Petition by Mushla Marasao, et al. to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Sections 5.28.21, 8.22.1, 8.22.2, and Table 5.1 with the intent to remove gross floor area (GFA) and floor area ratio (FAR) limitations for religious uses, permit conforming additions to nonconforming structures without limitation for religious uses, and permit religious uses with the same dimensional limitations as residential uses except that in a Residence C-1 district permeable open space would not be required, buildings would be permitted up to 6 stories and 74 feet above grade without meeting inclusionary housing requirements, and buildings taller than 35 feet and 3 stories above grade would not be required to notify neighbors and hold a meeting.

This public hearing will be hybrid allowing participation in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and remotely via ZOOM. The ZOOM URL to view the meeting is https://cambridgema.zoom.us/s/97895847144 . **If you would like to speak at this Public Hearing, please register to do so using this URL:**

https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/CityCouncil/PublicCommentSignUpForm . You may also email comments to the City Clerk at Cityclerk@cambridgema.gov .

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

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

For the Committee,

Vice Mayor Marc McGovern, Chair

Loan Order

FIRST PUBLICATION

City of Cambridge

Agenda Item Number 8
IN CITY COUNCIL
April 28, 2025

ORDERED:

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

LEGAL ADS

That $3,000,000 is appropriated, in addition to any amounts previously appropriated, for the purpose of financing the sewer Combined Sewer Overflow Program and for planning and design of a floodwater storage tank including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow $3,000,000 and issue bonds or notes therefore under G.L. c.44 and/or c. 29C or any other enabling authority; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the City unless the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of G.L. c. 29C; that the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to G.L. c. 29C or from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority ("MWRA") and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or a security agreement and/or financial assistance agreement with the Trust or the MWRA and the and the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the projects or for the financing thereof; and that the City Manager or any other authorized City official is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the DEP, to expend all funds available for the projects and to take any other action necessary to carry out the projects.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on April 28, 2025 and on or after May 19, 2025 the question comes on adoption.

Attest:- Diane P. LeBlanc
City Clerk

Loan Order

FIRST PUBLICATION

City of Cambridge

Agenda Item Number 7
IN CITY COUNCIL
April 28, 2025

ORDERED:

That $27,500,000 is appropriated, to be expended in addition to any other amounts previously appropriated, for the purpose of financing the design and construction of surface enhancements and sewer and drainage infrastructure improvements in Central Square including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow $27,500,000 and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor under G.L. c.44 and/or c. 29C or any other enabling authority; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the City unless the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of G.L. c. 29C; that the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to G.L. c. 29C (the "Trust") or from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority ("MWRA") and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or a security agreement and/or financial assistance agreement with the Trust or the MWRA and otherwise to contract with the MWRA and the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the projects or for the financing thereof; and that the City Manager or any other authorized City official is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the DEP, to expend all funds available for the projects and to take any other action necessary to carry out the projects.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on April 28, 2025 and on or after May 19, 2025 the question comes on adoption.

Attest:- Diane P. LeBlanc
City Clerk

Loan Order

FIRST PUBLICATION

City of Cambridge

Agenda Item Number 9
IN CITY COUNCIL
April 28, 2025

ORDERED:

that $7,500,000 is appropriated, to be expended in addition to any amounts previously appropriated, for the purpose of financing the sewer Capital Repairs Program and projects related to climate change preparedness efforts including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow $7,500,000 and issue bonds or notes of the City therefor under G.L. c.44 and/or c. 29C or any other enabling authority; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the City unless the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of G.L. c. 29C; that the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to G.L. c. 29C (the "Trust") or from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority ("MWRA") and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or a security agreement and/or financial assistance agreement with the Trust or the MWRA and otherwise to contract with the MWRA and the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the projects or for the financing thereof; and that the City Manager or any other authorized City official is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the DEP, to expend all funds available for the projects and to take any other action necessary to carry out the projects.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on April 28, 2025 and on or after May 19, 2025 the question comes on adoption.

Attest:- Diane P. LeBlanc
City Clerk

Loan Order

FIRST PUBLICATION

City of Cambridge

Agenda Item Number 4
IN CITY COUNCIL
April 28, 2025

ORDERED:

That $16,500,000 is appropriated for the purpose of financing the repair and/or reconstruction of various City streets and sidewalks and bike facilities; and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow $16,500,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on April 28, 2025 and on or after May 19, 2025 the question comes on adoption.

Attest:- Diane P. LeBlanc
City Clerk

Loan Order

FIRST PUBLICATION

City of Cambridge

Agenda Item Number 6
IN CITY COUNCIL
April 28, 2025

ORDERED:

That $19,986,000 is appropriated, for the purpose of financing school building upgrades, and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow $19,986,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on April 28, 2025 and on or after May 19, 2025 the question comes on adoption.

Attest:- Diane P. LeBlanc
City Clerk

Loan Order

FIRST PUBLICATION

City of Cambridge

Agenda Item Number 5
IN CITY COUNCIL
April 28, 2025

ORDERED:

That $11,100,000 is appropriated, in addition to any amounts previously appropriated, for the purpose of planning and financing building renovations, including but not limited to the following projects in the municipal facilities improvement plan to support significant building improvements and deferred maintenance projects. Proposed projects include but are not limited to upgrades of Public Works facilities, municipal offices, youth centers, branch libraries, fire stations, and deferred maintenance, and to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow $11,100,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on April 28, 2025 and on or after May 19, 2025 the question comes on adoption.

Attest:- Diane P. LeBlanc
City Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION**

The Planning Board of the City of Cambridge will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 20. 205 at 7:30pm., located at Remote participation on Zoom (see details below) on special permit application case PB-409 for the property located at 350 Massachusetts Avenue for which the Applicant is BRE-BMR 350 Massachusetts LLC seeking special permits pursuant to Section 19.20 Project Review for a proposal to Renovate the existing building to convert office use to laboratory use.

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board of the City of Cambridge will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. located at Remote participation on Zoom (see details below) on a Zoning Petition by Mushla Marasao, et al. to amend the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance in Sections 5.28.21, 8.22.1, 8.22.2, and Table 5.1 with the intent to Remove gross floor area (GFA) and floor area ratio (FAR) limitations for religious uses, permit conforming additions to non-conforming structures without limitation for religious uses, and permit religious uses with the same dimensional limitations as residential uses except that in a Residence C-1 district permeable open space would not be required, buildings would be permitted up to 6 stories and 74 feet above grade without meeting inclusionary housing requirements, and buildings taller than 35 feet and 3 stories above grade would not be required to notify neighbors and hold a meeting.

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

Loan Order

FIRST PUBLICATION

City of Cambridge

Agenda Item Number 3
IN CITY COUNCIL
April 28, 2025

ORDERED:

that $7,500,000 is appropriated for the purpose of providing financing for design and construction of open space at Ahern Field and surrounding amenities, and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the City Manager is authorized to borrow $7,500,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on April 28, 2025 and on or after May 19, 2025 the question comes on adoption.

Attest:- Diane P. LeBlanc
City Clerk

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.



Tiny bird, BIG appetite

Golden-crowned kinglets can survive winter if they just keep eating even tinier prey

By JEANINE FARLEY



Tom Murray, above and top

Golden-crowned kinglets are wee birds with a distinctive stripe on their heads. Female birds have an all-yellow stripe while the male birds have a red strip in the center.

Golden-crowned kinglets, once called fiery-crowned wrens, are tiny, tiny birds – almost as small as hummingbirds. Adults weigh about 5 grams, or one-fifth of an ounce – about as much as a stick of gum, a nickel or four raisins. The tiny female lays up to a dozen eggs (although eight or nine is more typical), each of which weighs one-50th of an ounce. When the eggs hatch, each baby is the size of a bumblebee.

As you may have inferred from their name, golden-crowned kinglets have a yellow stripe on the top of the head. In females, the stripe is all yellow. In males, there is a red strip inside the yellow. Does this bird's yellow stripe have any importance? In fact, it does. These diminutive birds select their mate based on the color of the stripe: They prefer partners with brightly colored crowns.

Most golden-crown kinglets are migrants passing through on their way north or south to either their summer breeding grounds in Canada or their winter haunts in the south. A few hardy golden-crowned kinglets reside in Massachusetts pine forests throughout the winter. Despite their diminutive size, these birds are tough. They can survive winter nights that are 40 degrees below zero. During the breeding season, a few of these birds nest in the commonwealth in higher elevations.

According to ornithologist William Brewster, "During the four years (1865–1869) when I was at the Cambridge High School on Fayette Street my daily walks to and from the school led, beyond Harvard Square, through Harvard Street or Broadway – or, more rarely, through Main Street (now Massachusetts Avenue). Those birds seen regularly and commonly in winter" included the "Golden-crowned Kinglet."

There's a trick to the little birds' hardiness, though, and it's in their diet.

Golden-crowned kinglets are carnivores – though because they are so small, insectivore is probably a more accurate term; the prey they devour is minute, including insect eggs and insects including aphids, gnats, lice, beetles, flies, spiders, mites and scale insects. This little perpetual-motion machine needs to eat constantly because of its high metabolism and high body temperature. If it goes without food for even a few hours in winter, it can starve or freeze to death. Therefore, this hyperactive little bird is always foraging from the tops of trees to the bottom, hunting for insects and their eggs. You might spot it hanging upside down to search underneath branches or hopping from branch to branch. It also picks off insects as they fly through the air. Sometimes it is drawn to dripping sap, which attracts ants and other insects.

Ornithologist Edward Howe Forbush once described these birds:

This tiny dainty bird whose long soft plumage and remarkable vigor enable it to withstand the rigors of a New England winter when much larger birds leave us for the south, is not uncommon at that season in the dense pine woods of southern New England. . . . In migration it may be found almost anywhere where trees grow or even in bushes and thickets, in orchards or in sproutlands, but in summer or winter it prefers the cone-bearing trees.

Golden-crowned kinglets build nests up high – as much as 60 feet off the ground in the tops of pine cone-bearing trees. The kinglet pair spend about five days in mid-May building a cup-shaped nest, about 3 inches wide and 1.5 inches deep – the perfect size for their many tiny eggs. The female incubates the eggs for two weeks while the male brings her food.

In 14 days, the chicks hatch. The parents eat or remove the broken eggshells. The chicks are about the size of a bumblebee and almost naked, except for a few tufts of gray down. According to ornithologist Arthur Cleveland Bent, "At the approach of the parent birds, they raise their little, palpitating bodies and open wide their tiny, orange-red mouths for food … At first the young are fed by regurgitating partly digested food; later moths, caterpillars, and other insects furnish their diet."

Both parents provide food for a bit, but then the female starts a second nest, leaving the male to care for the chicks in the first nest. By the time the chicks in the first nest can fly, the female is incubating eggs in the second. The male keeps feeding the newly fledged chicks and the female sitting on the second clutch of eggs. After about 17 days, the newly fledged chicks are completely independent, but dad cannot rest yet, because the second brood is hatching. Golden-crowned kinglets need to raise many chicks because about 87 percent of these birds die each year – mostly in the winter. In fact, a very hard winter can kill the entire population.

Bent wrote in the early 1900s about how tame these little birds appear (hygiene practices seem to have changed greatly since that time):

One morning we found our boat invaded by eight or ten of these birds. It was not long before they found their way into the cabin, attracted there by the large number of flies, and at dinner time they caused no little amusement and some annoyance by perching on the heads of passengers and on the various dishes which covered the table. I caught flies, which they would readily take from my hand with a quick flutter.

Spring is the time of year you might see golden-crown migrants passing through. I know small flocks have been seen in Cambridge and Somerville recently. Keep your eyes peeled for these active little birds.

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.

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.