



WILD THINGS

Why call it an ovenbird? It’s a much better name for a turkey, since it is commonly roasted in one, and this bird is too small for such nonsense.

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THE
WEEK

JUNE
19-26,
2025

FREE | by CAMBRIDGE DAY



Marc Levy
Chabad House on Banks Street in Cambridge’s Riverside neighborhood has outdoor seating that officials said could be a “burden” in winter.

Group can build a five-story plan after settlement

By SUE REINERT

In a stunning reversal that was later revealed to be part of a legal settlement, Cambridge’s zoning board approved a Jewish congregation’s plan to quadruple the indoor space in its religious center on Banks Street after rejecting a much smaller expansion plan last year. The Board of Zoning Appeals voted unanimously June 12 after no discussion and explained the decision by referring to a federal law limiting local zoning restrictions on religious land uses. Some board members had previously contended before rejecting the previous expansion request that they could disregard the federal law.

The board voted after meeting briefly in a closed-door session – at least the third such executive session since last October to discuss a federal lawsuit by the religious group, Lubavitch of Cambridge. Lubavitch filed suit against the board and the city after the zoning board rejected its first expansion plan. The City Council also held a closed-door session on the case June 9.

See CENTER, Page 4

Second-oldest home in Cambridge to sell by historical group

By MARC LEVY

The History Cambridge organization has been based since 1957 in, appropriately, the second-oldest building in the city: the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, built around 1685.

The future of the organization, though, is elsewhere.

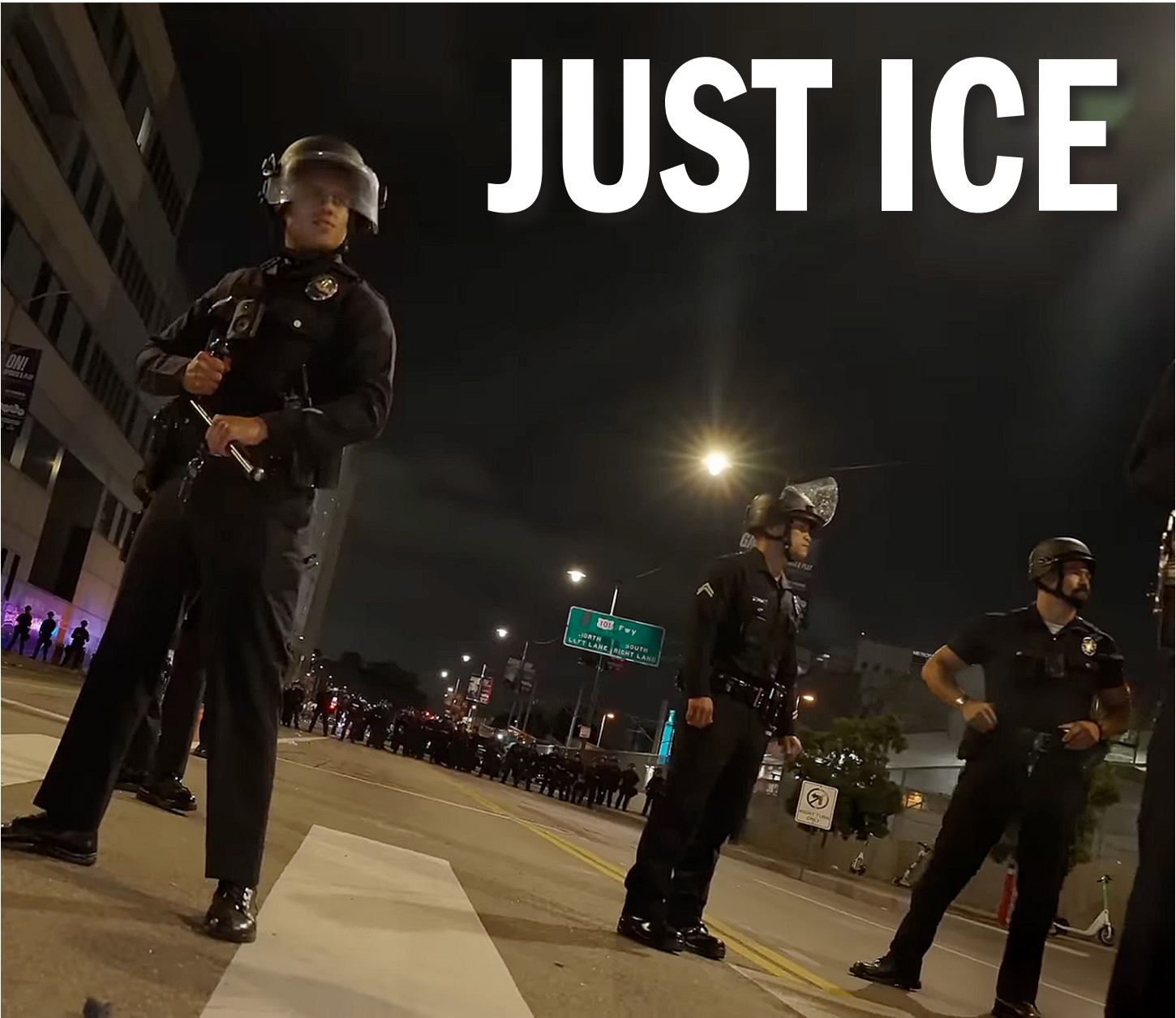
The nonprofit’s board voted Wednesday to sell the house at 159 Brattle St., West Cambridge, and find a headquarters elsewhere, said Marieke Van Damme, executive director of History Cambridge.

Amy Devin, president of the board, said the building was “not suited to the flexible, community-focused work we are committed to. Moving on from 159 Brattle enables us to find a new location that truly supports our mission and the needs of Cambridge today.”

The decision was not made lightly, Van Damme agreed in a call before the vote, calling it “decades in the making.”

It is not clear where the organization will move, and there is no timeline for that determination – or for the sale of the three-story current home, 7,888 square feet on an 18,012-square-foot lot with a desirable address but historical protections that restrain development inside and out.

See HISTORY CAMBRIDGE, Page 3



Police on the streets of Los Angeles on June 9 in defense of federal immigration seizures, as seen in a screen capture from the social media account Channel 5 With Andrew Callaghan.

Agents aren’t required to identify themselves even to police, councillors learn

By SUE REINERT

After a one-week delay to address concerns of the Cambridge police officers union, councillors approved an order asking the city manager to strengthen the welcoming-community ordinance forbidding police to help federal agents enforce immigration law. If the city administration does propose a change in the ordinance, it may not have all the elements the councillors want, the discussion at June 9’s council meeting indicated.

Councillor Paul Toner, who had postponed a vote on the measure from June 2 until June 9 at

the request of the union, said officers were concerned about a clause in the proposed change requiring city police to ask federal agents at immigration enforcement actions for their names and badge numbers. Officers worried that such a request would put them in “confrontation” with the agents, Toner said.

“The Cambridge police have been living under the rules of our sanctuary-city and welcoming-community ordinance,” Toner said. “They’ve been living up to those values, but they did have some concerns, especially in light of the situations we’ve seen across the country, and want to avoid

having something escalated between them and federal agents.”

City solicitor Megan Bayer told councillors that Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers were not required to identify themselves, though “they are legally obligated when it is safe and practicable to do so to say they are an Ice agent or a federal immigration enforcement agent conducting immigration enforcement operation.”

City manager Yi-An Huang signaled a compromise.

See ICE, Page 4

MEETINGS JUNE 19–26

CAMBRIDGE

School leader search and vacant storefronts

By MARC LEVY

Superintendent search feedback

School Committee roundtable, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Friday. Members discuss what they’re hearing from a series of community meetings held to inform their search for a permanent Cambridge Public Schools superintendent. That person will be chosen before the November elections and start work on or before July 1, 2026. Televised and watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

Hearings on vacant storefronts

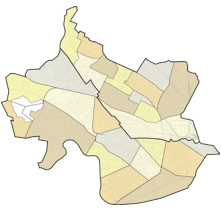
Economic Development & University Relations Committee, 1 to 3 p.m. Monday. This committee run by city councillor Ayesha M. Wilson invites representatives from the 23 long-vacant properties – those empty for more than five years – to speak on the record about their tenancy efforts, short- and long-term plans for the sites and to provide the community with an opportunity to weigh in. The star of the show, or at least one of the episodes of what may be a series, is hoped to be Gerald Chan and his long-closed AMC Loews theater in Harvard Square. The committee meets at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square. Televised and watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

Ahern Field opinions pop-up

City of Cambridge, 4 to 6 p.m. Monday. People who spend time at Ahern Field are invited to come by the space at 259 Charles St., East Cambridge, and tell city staff where they spend the most time in it and what parts they think need improvements, which will help plan updates. There will be free popcorn at this first of several such events about the green space.

Acting superintendent evaluation

School Committee special meeting, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Members discuss and adopt a composite evaluation for interim superintendent David Murphy. The committee meets in the Dr. Henrietta S. Attles Meeting Room at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 459 Broadway, Mid-Cambridge. Televised and watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.



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

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

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

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

SOMERVILLE

A bridge to casino, LGBTQ immigrants

By JEFF SHWOM

City offices close on Juneteenth

City of Somerville, Thursday. The city observes Juneteenth, a federal holiday commemorating the day enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, were finally told of their freedom after the Civil War – and considered by many as the end of slavery in the United States. All city offices close, most officials are off and trash pickup is delayed by a day.

Budget review wrapping up

Finance Committee, 6 p.m. Tuesday. The committee, in its seventh scheduled meeting this June, pushes to finalize its approval of next year’s budget before the final City Council meeting of the fiscal year on Thursday. Normally a five-person committee, this meeting features all 11 councilors to review the mayor’s \$380.1 million budget proposal, which includes a 7.4 percent increase in school funding. Watchable via videoconferencing.

Connecting Somerville to Everett

Massachusetts Department of Transportation, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Officials from design and engineering firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin and the state’s transportation department show the design of a proposed bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the Mystic River near Assembly Row. The bridge would connect Draw Seven Park to the Gateway Park trail and the Encore Resort’s public boardwalk in Everett – connecting people with the local casino. In the auditorium at the central library, 79 Highland Ave., Central Hill.

Rights for LGBTQ+ immigrants

SomerViva, 6 p.m. Wednesday. The city’s office of immigrant affairs holds a “Know Your Rights” workshop to tell residents about what rights LGBTQ+ immigrants have and the current laws in the community, sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union and the city’s public health department. The event is in spoken English, with Spanish and Portuguese interpretation available. Watchable via videoconferencing.

THE WEEK

by CAMBRIDGE DAY

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Mission

The Week by Cambridge Day is published by a nonpartisan, nonprofit media organization, Cambridge News Inc. Our mission is to provide our readers with impartial, informative reporting, and to be an outlet for civic engagement and discourse on public policy, politics, government and other matters of citywide concern.

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“YOUR PROFILE SAID
YOU WERE FOUR FEET TALL.”

Petrova released on bail from fed detention, indictment still possible

By JOHN HAWKINSON

A probable-cause hearing Wednesday in Boston federal court was continued until next week without changing things for Kseniia Petrova: She remains free on bail since a 10-minute hearing in her criminal smuggling case on June 12.

Government prosecutors dropped their request then that she be detained before trial, so magistrate judge Judith G. Dein ordered Petrova's pretrial release on the condition that she not travel beyond New England.

Petrova, a Russian-born computational biomedical researcher in Marc Kirschner's Harvard medical school lab, was detained in February by customs officials over a failure to declare microscope slides and other samples of clawed xenopus frog embryos at Logan Airport as she returned from France. Customs officials canceled her J1 visa over the issue – illegally, Petrova's lawyers say – and initially offered to let her return to France but instead stated they would deport her to Russia, leading her to express fear because of her public support for Ukraine.

Officials took her into immigration custody and moved her to Vermont – where her attorneys filed a habeas corpus petition seeking her release – and



John Hawkinson

Harvard medical researcher Kseniia Petrova outside federal court in Boston on June 12, moments after a judge ordered her freed. She is with Greg Romanovsky, her immigration attorney, left, and criminal attorney Dan Marx.

ultimately to Louisiana. The Vermont case had two hearings in federal court: on May 14, denying the government's motion to dismiss her habeas case; and on May 28, granting her temporary release from immigration custody.

But just after the first hearing, federal prosecutors in Boston unsealed a criminal smuggling charge against Petrova that had been filed on May 12. She was arrested, moving

her from immigration detention to criminal detention. For reasons that are unexplained, it took the U.S. Marshals from May 15 to June 11 to move her from Louisiana to Oklahoma to Massachusetts, first promising her arrival by June 4 and delaying it yet again until June 11 – keeping her in transit for 11 days.

Petrova's lawyers complained about the delays. She "would be entitled to a

detention hearing within five days of arrest, had she been arrested" in Massachusetts, they said in a request to expedite her transfer. Instead, it was 29 days without a detention hearing.

Petrova arrived June 11 and was held at the Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls, Rhode Island, and met with her attorneys there.

Detention hearing

The June 12 hearing was quick. The small courtroom was packed – about 30 people – with Petrova's supporters and co-workers, as well as media. Petrova sat at counsel table in a bright orange jumpsuit among lawyers for the criminal and immigration cases.

Assistant U.S. attorney Nadine Pellegrini, who had filed the criminal complaint against Petrova on May 12, told the judge that "the government had previously moved for detention, but after conversation with counsel, the government believes release would be appropriate on conditions."

The primary condition was that she not travel outside Massachusetts, which was expanded to encompass New England at the request of her lawyers, who noted her ongoing case in Vermont.

William Fick, Petrova's lead criminal attorney, told the judge that he

wanted a "probable cause" hearing in her case.

Relatedly, because the smuggling charge is a federal felony charge, it ordinarily requires a grand jury indictment within 30 days of arrest, which was Friday. A grand jury is sitting and has subpoenaed people close to Petrova. No grand jury indictment has been made public in her case, nor has any extension of the time been disclosed.

One of the conditions of her release is that she not discuss the charges with William Trim, a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard with whom she lives. Trim was supposed to appear before the grand jury Friday, sources said.

After her own hearing June 12, Petrova was processed by U.S. marshals and the court's probation department and released in street clothes.

Gregory Romanovsky, Petrova's immigration lawyer, said she had received offers to work in other countries and that she was not yet sure if she wanted to stay in the United States. Fick declined to discuss her criminal case.

When she emerged from the courthouse, Petrova wore a maroon a T-shirt emblazoned "hakuna matata." (It means "no worries," popularized by a song in Disney's "The Lion King.") She thanked her friends and colleagues in a brief speech.

Superintendent search process called haphazard by head of union

By MEG RICHARDS

The outgoing president of the Cambridge Educators Association has marks for the search for a permanent school district superintendent: needs improvement.

"This was very last-minute, like they haven't really planned these things out," said Dan Monahan, leader since 2016 of a labor group with roughly 1,500 teachers, administrators, clerks, substitutes and paraprofessionals. "There have been a lot of starts and stops and confusion on the School Committee level, and so hence with the public."

Forums are a good start to engaging the community, but there has been a lack of clarity on search timelines and what will be done with information from forums, he said. "They don't have a plan," Monahan said. "And, if they do, then I don't know what it is, and it would be helpful if they shared that more publicly."

Monahan won't see the search through to its end, as he retires this summer. High school history teacher Chris Montero takes over leadership at the association July 1, he said.

The district and School Committee were contacted June 10 with a chance to respond to Monahan's remarks, but a district spokesperson referred questions to a School Committee executive secretary, who did not respond. District Human Resources officials also did not respond.

The deadline for superintendent applications was June 6, but at a forum earlier that week, district representatives said the application portal wouldn't close then, and that a national search was ongoing as well.

Monahan on June 3 noted that the timing of the district's forums was less than ideal, specifically for educators such as himself; while he has encouraged members of the CEA to attend,



Marc Levy

Cambridge Educators Association president Dan Monahan speaks at a March 19, 2024, meeting of the School Committee.

he hasn't been able to make a meeting himself because this is a busy time for teachers. After Monahan spoke, the district added a staff forum to be held online.

Forums were first announced May 27 by the district: Four for dates between May 29 and June 11, all in-person only. Later it was announced that the final forum would have an online option – but it seemed that referred not to June 11 forum but to another down the road that had yet to be revealed: In addition to the staff forum, the district added a student forum and an online forum Monday for the community.

Monahan has a good opinion of interim superintendent David Murphy. "He's doing well. He's inherited a very difficult situation," Monahan said. "He did a good job at the beginning on how to best move forward given the constraints he has as interim superintendent."

The closing of the Kennedy-Longfellow elementary school, home to a disproportionate percentage of high-need students, was suggested by Murphy as one of his first acts as interim superintendent. The last day of school is June 24.

"I really respect that he made a hard decision around that," while the problems leading to the decision have been on the committee side, Monahan said. "He's been clear that this is the result of a systemic failure, not the result of the teachers in that building."

History Cambridge plans to sell its historic home

From Page 1

No agent has been engaged for a sale, and the board is looking for representation from outside the city, "because everybody in Cambridge is related to each other in some way," Van Damme said.

It's not clear what price a sale will bring; 159 Brattle was assessed at \$7.4 million this year. An 1803 home at 153 Brattle St. sold for \$10.6 million in 2011 at a far higher assessment but similar specs: 2.5 stories, or 6,097 square feet of living space on a 22,505-square-foot lot.

"It's a unique property, right?" Van Damme said. "We don't know. It feels almost unprecedented."

The organization wasn't founded in the house, but created by a bunch of engaged amateurs in 1905 as the Cambridge Historical Society, a name that lasted until 2021. It got the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House some

52 years later in a bequest from the will of Frances White Emerson – along with a caretaker who lived there for the next 20 years.

The house has never been a perfect fit for the organization, either for staff or public programming. "The organization had been thinking about the house and our relationship with our house since we received it. There was a report then about 'Should we even accept this house?' Because it will be, quote, a millstone, unquote – 'It might be a millstone around our neck.'"

It's "hard to work in a historic structure," Van Damme said.

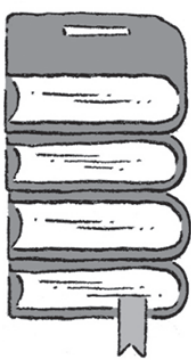
Over the past couple of years the organization has focused its work on specific neighborhoods: North Cambridge last year, East Cambridge this year. For a while in 2024, it leased space on Massachusetts Avenue and held events, and the staff of History Cambridge marveled at how it felt to have a base away from the quiet of

the Colonial-era homes on Tory Row. "It was accessible. It was on a major thoroughfare where there was public transportation, in a neighborhood with high density. We met people we never met before. People came back a few times. We met some dogs," Van Damme said. "It felt so alive and active. It was a place for people to meet and interact, when third spaces are disappearing rapidly from our city."

Replicating that accessibility will be key toward finding a next home, she said. "We've talked about Central Square because you want to have a place in Cambridge that ticks all those boxes," Van Damme said. "You want to have it in a spot that doesn't feel like it's only for that neighborhood, and Central Square feels like that. Sometimes Inman square feels like that to me."

A longer version of this story is online at [cambridgeday.com](https://www.cambridgeday.com).

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Cambridge Housing Authority settles lawsuit over Putnam delay



The Cambridge Housing Authority's Putnam School Apartments development at 86 Otis St., East Cambridge, seen Oct. 25.

By SUE REINERT

The Cambridge Housing Authority and B.C. Construction, which renovated the authority's historic Putnam School in East Cambridge, have settled their legal battle, authority executive director Michael Johnston said May 28. The authority will pay the builder \$1.5 million; B.C. Construction had sought \$1.4 million owed for work performed plus about \$2.2 million for costs the contractor said it incurred because of lengthy delays, Johnston said.

Johnston told authority commissioners that the settlement terms were "favorable," but the authority had also claimed it was due almost \$2 million for costs caused by the delay. In the dispute, each side asserted the other was at fault for a project that was completed 397 days late. The work

was supposed to reach "substantial completion" by Feb. 10, 2023, but didn't get to that point until March 13, 2024, according to the lawsuit.

B.C. Construction sought \$1.4 million within five business days when it originally filed suit July 3, asserting that the authority's refusal to pay bills threatened its existence.

Kevin Polansky, an attorney for B.C. Construction, didn't respond to an email seeking comment.

Putnam School, built in 1890, had not been redeveloped since CHA acquired it in 1983. The project modernized 24 apartments for low-income seniors and created nine units for 10 disabled tenants. Originally nine disabled tenants had lived in three apartments. The work included a new heating and cooling system, elevator and appliances; the original contract in October 2021

was for \$12.1 million, but it had increased to at least \$13.6 million by September 2023.

When B.C. Construction filed suit in Middlesex Superior Court on July 3, the company asked for a preliminary injunction ordering CHA to pay the \$1.4 million in back payments within five days. Six weeks later at a hearing on the injunction, the request shrank to \$237,000. Judge William F. Bloomer refused to grant the injunction.

After that ruling on Sept. 18, 2024, only one more filing was made in 2024: the construction company's answer to CHA's claim for almost \$2 million in costs from the delay, last October. Seven months later, B.C. Construction submitted an amended complaint on April 25 with no objection from CHA.

The two sides reported the settlement about three weeks later, on May 16.

Center expansion is approved

From Page 1

On Friday it became clear that the zoning board decision was part of a settlement in the federal case; a \$540,000 payment was also revealed Wednesday after a council committee meeting.

The settlement agreement also may require Cambridge to approve a zoning amendment requested by Lubavitch that essentially gives religious organizations the same freedom from zoning restrictions that housing developers won with the city's widely praised multifamily housing ordinance. The ordinance allows housing up to four stories, and higher in some cases, in any district in the city, except open space.

It isn't known whether the agreement will include financial penalties.

"Pleased to announce" a settlement

Asked to comment on the June 12 zoning board decision, Lubavitch rabbi Hirschy Zarchi emailed a statement from Lubavitch and its attorney. "Although this has been a complicated chapter, we are looking forward to the future with excitement and anticipation. The Harvard Chabad Center for Jewish Life will be a great benefit to all in the Cambridge community. We are excited to build an inclusive Jewish space where everyone, including our neighbors, can enjoy the beauty and warmth of Jewish life and community," Zarchi said.

Lubavitch is also known as Harvard Chabad because of its close ties to Harvard University, although it is not part of the university. Zarchi is a Jewish chaplain at Harvard. Though Lubavitch is an Orthodox Jewish denomination, it emphasizes outreach and says it welcomes any Jew, including people who are not Orthodox.

The city also issued a statement Friday saying it was "pleased to announce" a settlement. "We recognize that this resolution may not reflect the preferences of all residents. However, we have concluded that the laws involved mandate the authorization of a new building for the use by the Chabad."

"We anticipate that the new facility will serve the worship needs of its congregation and positively contribute to the broader Cambridge community. The city remains committed to supporting a diverse and inclusive community that respects its legal obligations and the rights of its residents, neighborhoods and institutions," the statement said.

Still concerns about size

Alan Joslin, a representative of the neighborhood group that opposed both of the Lubavitch expansion plans, said the organization, the Kerry Corner Neighborhood Associa-

tion, has not decided whether to take legal action to appeal the decision. At the meeting June 12, members of the group reiterated their concerns about the size of the proposed center, saying their calculations showed it had a capacity to serve more than 1,600 people, a density that would overwhelm the residential neighborhood.

Lubavitch has contended that it would never need to accommodate that many people because its religious procedures call for scheduling services, meals and other activities separately, not simultaneously. The group sought to expand originally because it didn't have room indoors to serve food to congregants after religious services and had to feed people in a tent outdoors, even in winter. The first expansion was designed to serve 250 people, then the current attendance at Lubavitch events, according to testimony.

Zoning board chair Jim Monteverde referred to the outdoor meals June 12 in his motion to approve the larger expansion, saying that the lack of indoor space for meals and need to cancel events was a "substantial burden" to Lubavitch.

"After review, the board finds that applying the city of Cambridge's zoning regulations to Lubavitch of Cambridge would substantially burden Lubovitch of Cambridge," Monteverde's motion said. The "substantially burden" language echoed the federal law called the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. Lubavitch has relied upon the act to press its case.

The law, abbreviated as Rluipa, says local land use rules can't "substantially burden" an organization or individual's religious practice unless a community has a "compelling interest" to apply the rules and the regulations are the least restrictive way to accomplish that. Localities also can't discriminate against religious groups or treat them differently than similar nonreligious organizations.

Building permit sought

The agreement paves the way for Lubavitch to start the project by obtaining a building permit, "which is proceeding," a lawyer for the group said. Plans call for a 90-foot-high, five-story structure along Banks Street in the Riverside neighborhood near Harvard Square. One building on the Lubavitch site will be demolished and another will be moved closer to Banks, with the five-story edifice connecting the two remaining three-story existing buildings.

The fourth and fifth floors will contain three housing units for the rabbi and his family or Lubavitch staff, according to the plans filed with the zoning board. Lubavitch's previous, small-



Marc Levy

An expansion for Chabad House on Banks Street has been agreed to.

er expansion plan didn't increase the existing three-story building height. The facade of the new five-story structure will be set back after the third floor.

Lubavitch attorney Yehudah Buchweitz of the New York City law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges said in an interview the city and Lubavitch have agreed to the "main terms" of a settlement but "there are a number of things that still have to happen over the coming months" for the agreement to be final. Though he didn't specify what has to happen, he did say the city has agreed to hold the meetings necessary to approve Lubavitch's proposed zoning ordinance amendment.

Focused elsewhere

At the first ordinance committee meeting that considered the amendment, councillors were told the deadline for approval is Aug. 18.

Committee members, who consist of all the city councillors, focused largely then on another development that could confine them in regulating not only religious uses but educational buildings. The new multifamily ordinance unintentionally eliminated an exemption Cambridge held from a state law that forbids zoning discrimination against religious, agricultural and educational land uses. Cambridge wanted the exemption in 1979 to prevent Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from expanding into residential areas and taking away housing.

The state law appears to be less restrictive than Rluipa; it allows zoning regulation of building height, open space and some other zoning elements.

At the Ordinance Committee meeting, city solicitor Megan Bayer promised councillors a legal opinion on both Rluipa and the state law known as the Dover amendment.

The city's exemption had applied only in residential districts where the minimum lot size was 1,200 square feet per housing unit; the multifamily housing ordinance eliminated minimum lot sizes and therefore killed the city's exemption.

Ice agents don't need to give ID, even to police, councillors learn

From Page 1

Huang said that as city officials work to fashion any changes, "the question will be, how we ... understand the importance of the welcoming-community ordinance and the guidance that we're providing for local law enforcement, the importance for them not to be involved in civil immigration activities, but also the importance for us not to put them in a position where our local ordinances are in conflict with either federal regulations or our broader obligations."

Ice generally informs local police "of their presence," Huang said.

Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler, lead sponsor of the order seeking an amendment, reiterated the need for police to ask Ice agents for identification. "We keep talking about Ice doing these abductions, when in reality, we have no idea who is doing a lot of these abduc-

prevent a breach of the peace during a federal operation, such as requests to establish traffic perimeters, control traffic or provide police escort."

The discussion played out as National Guard members activated by president Donald Trump – despite the objection of California governor Gavin Newsom – helped Ice agents battle protesters in Los Angeles trying to block deportations. Los Angeles police also participated and arrested protesters.

Vice mayor Marc McGovern alluded to the Los Angeles situation when he asked to add his name to the list of three original sponsors of the policy order: Sobrinho-Wheeler and councillors Sumbul Siddiqui and Patty Nolan. "I'm sick over what we're seeing in L.A. and what's happening and where things are going," McGovern said. "It's really disgusting that this administration is doing this. So I won't belabor it, but I would like to be added as a co-sponsor."

Councillor Ayesha M. Wilson also asked to join the list of sponsors.

Nolan continued the emotional tone, saying that "as I understand from the police, if someone comes up, we can't even legally ask for a warrant, because they're in the public way. And it is really scary. What this does is at least try to do everything we possibly can to ensure that we're documenting and that our officers are there to provide safety for our residents."

"We're all standing here. I know we're kind of shaking," Nolan said. "We talk about a lot of other issues on this floor, but this is really something that goes to the core of people feeling safe in the city."

Mayor E. Denise Simmons registered the lone objection to the order, voting "present." Simmons agreed that Cambridge "must indeed be vocal and forceful in pushing back against federal immigration enforcement," but said she worried about requiring Cambridge police to document Ice actions and obtain identification information.

She said she had seen "some of the aggressive behavior in other cities" and cited the situation in Los Angeles. "I just worry about setting not only our citizens but our police officers in harm's way," Simmons said.

Bayer said city officials will work with police department leadership and the union to come up with a proposal in response to the council's request. Huang said the city administration is "very happy for the council to pass this and we can work together on appropriate language."



Federal agents in Los Angeles on June 9 in a screen capture from the social media account Channel 5 With Andrew Callaghan.

tions," Sobrinho-Wheeler said. "We don't know it was Ice. We don't know if it's a different federal department. We don't know if it was federal contractors, but the least we can expect and ask our city employees to help identify these folks, if they are actually Ice agents and document that info of who is doing these abductions – because they have faces covered. They have no identification."

There was no controversy about the rest of the proposed amendment, which makes it clear that city police may act to maintain "public safety" during an immigration enforcement action but can't "assist or facilitate the work of Ice, especially given that those actions may be unlawful." The current ordinance forbids cooperation with Ice but has an exception allowing police to respond "to a request to assist with support services deemed necessary to ensure officer safety or to



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June 26

EVENTS AHEAD JUNE 19–26

5 to 9 p.m. June 26
Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy St., near Harvard Square, Cambridge (and the last Thursday of every month)

Harvard Art Museums at Night

Free. During this recurring event, wander exhibits, make art, catch spotlight tours, browse the shop, enjoy sounds from DJ C-Zone and buy refreshments from Jack’s Abby. Wander down to see the “Edvard Munch: Technically Speaking” exhibition, which closes Friday, celebrate the launch of the Harvard Art Museums: In Your Hands publication and the return of Vincent van Gogh’s “Self-Portrait Dedicated to Paul Gauguin,” which had been on loan to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

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

6:30 p.m. June 22

Barnyard Bumps & Grinds

\$30 and 21-plus. A whimsically farm-themed medley of burlesque, draglesque, and pole-lesque “from sultry sheep to seductive swine, and maybe even a pole-dancing goat.”

7 p.m. June 26

U.S. Girls performs

\$34. The Toronto art rocker brings her mix of, as Pitchfork describes it, ’60s soul, ’70s funk, gauzy psychedelia, post-punk and synth-rock and wide-ranging topics from political paranoia to the value of FaceTime as a communications medium.

Crystal Ballroom, 55 Davis Square, Somerville

9 p.m. June 20

Hole Show presents “Bugabook Creek is a Gay Bar”

\$33, but masks required and 21-plus. This queer art and dance party boasts of having “self-aware animatronic animals on go-go duty, a full-service spanking booth, moose juice, boot blacking, vendors, mutual aid and more.”

8 p.m. June 21

“Filthy Formal & Trash Talent Show” John Waters Tribute

\$39. A dance party and variety show promises “prom, drag, music, art and comedy” as well as a poetry, burlesque, taste-free puppetry and an “excuse to wear your most vile, stupid and repulsive formal fashions” as an accompaniment to ongoing screenings of the auteur’s films at the theater downstairs. Enjoy signature cocktails such as “the sickeningly sweet Little Chrissy” and learn The Roach and other demented dance steps.

7 p.m. June 6-22
Nathan Tufts/Powderhouse Park, College Avenue and Broadway, Somerville

Shakespeare in the park: “The Tempest”

Free, with a suggested donation of \$10. Bring blankets or chairs to enjoy the story of Prospero, seeking revenge after being exiled to a remote island with his daughter. It plays weekends.

The Comedy Studio, 5 John F. Kennedy St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

5 p.m. June 21

Gauri B comedy

\$21. Though she gets plenty of attention on social media, Gauri B is also a bit famous for her crowd work – and be warned that this show will be short on both yet still get be more or less guaranteed laughs in delves into “politics, society and everyday madness.”

7 p.m. June 23

FutureDrama

\$12. The Nova Comedy Collective explores misgivings and existential dread about the future in a tongue-in-cheek way and using interviews, improv and sketch to tackle issues related to technology, society, and what lies ahead. Each show centers around a theme such as data privacy, AI in the workplace or the future of marketing and uses comedy to speculate about their impact.

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

7 p.m. June 25

Poets Tessa Bolsover, Spencer Lee-Lenfield and James Shea

\$5 to \$10, but register.

7 p.m. June 26

The Long Poem, a reading and discussion

\$5 to \$10, but register. Elizabeth T. Gray and Daniel Tobin are featured.

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

7 p.m. June 23

Kevin Sack reads from “Mother Emanuel”

Free. In a book subtitled “Two Centuries of Race, Resistance, and Forgiveness in One Charleston Church,” the journalist looks at the racist murder of a South Carolina church leader and eight congregants in 2015 that was somehow forgiven by the victims’ families. Boston Globe editorial page editor Jim Dao joins.

7 p.m. June 24

Madeleine Thien and Jonas Hassen Khemiri read from the novels “The Book of Records” and “The Sisters ”

Free. In Thien’s work, time collides at a strange meeting place of Bento, a Jewish scholar in 17th-century Amsterdam, Blucher, a philosopher in 1930s Germany fleeing Nazi persecution and Jupiter, a poet of Tang Dynasty China. Khemiri, meanwhile, has a saga following three sisters – one of whom disappears, leading to a shocking revelation and the end of a curse looming over their family for decades.Poet Lewis Hyde joins.

7 p.m. June 25

John Sanbonmatsu reads from “The Omnivore’s Deception”

Free. In a book subtitled “What We Get Wrong about Meat, Animals, and Ourselves,” the philosopher takes on Michael Pollan’s “The Omnivore’s Dilemma” and works by Temple Grandin, Barbara Kingsolver to say no, there’s no such thing as humane meat or an argument for eating animals. Frances Moore Lappé, author of “Diet for a Small Planet,” joins.

11 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 21
Riverbend Park (Memorial Drive between JFK Street and Western Avenue) along the banks of the Charles River in Cambridge

Cambridge Arts River Festival

Free. Six Stages of music, theater, dance and poetry plus a Mermaid Promenade; celebration of 250 years of milestones, innovations and firsts; interactive art making; buskers; international foods; and an arts and crafts market at an event first held in the early 1970s.

7:30 p.m. June 26-29
Arrow Street Arts, 2 Arrow St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

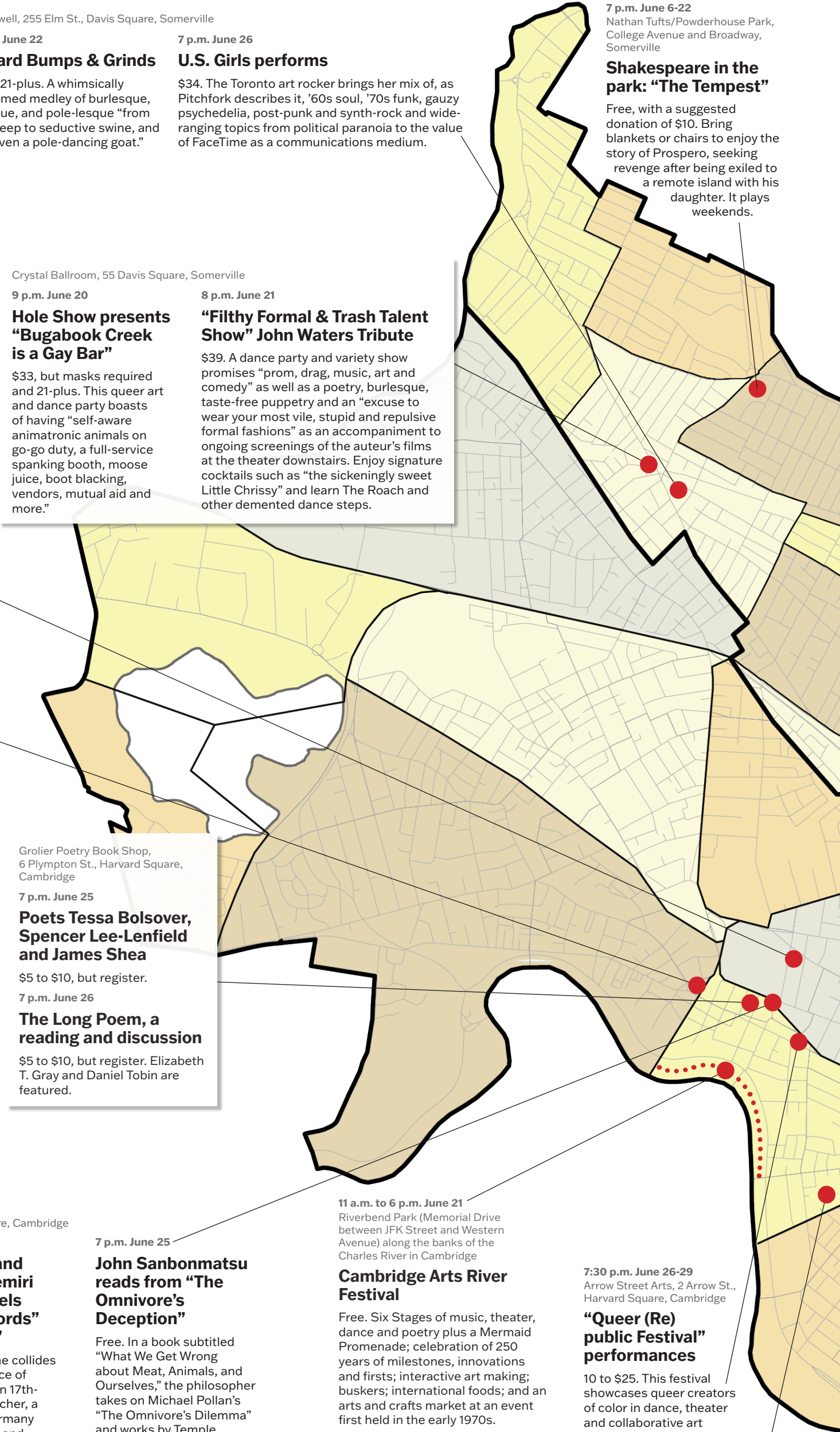
“Queer (Re) public Festival” performances

10 to \$25. This festival showcases queer creators of color in dance, theater and collaborative art making, including Theater of Union’s jazz performance “Remembrance.”

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 21
Hoyt Field (Gilmore and Montague streets off Western Avenue), Riverside, Cambridge

Hoops 'N' Health basketball tournament and family fair

Free. Games and activities including free lunch, kids activities, live music and community resources around all-day basketball tournament rescheduled from June 14.



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

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

Trum Field, 541 Broadway, Magoun Square, Somerville (at the Cedar Street corner)
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. June 25

Seventh annual “Reading Frederick Douglass Together”

Free. A reading of Douglass’ famous address, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” with scholar and musician John Hughes; reader signups are welcome, and a conversation follows.

5:30 to 10 p.m. June 25 (rain date: June 27)

Somerville Fourth of July Celebration

Free. DJ Desy spins followed by live music and food vendors from Italian Wizard, Dos Manos Kitchen, Premiere on Broadway, Public Tavern and fried dough and lemonade and at around 9 p.m. ... fireworks.

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

6:30 to 10 p.m. June 21

Boston League of Wicked Wrestlers’ “Blowwby Dick: Thar They Bloww”

\$27.50. The theatre of wrestling with a piratical theme (“our rowdy roster of queer buccaneers has been cast adrift into a world of scalawags, sea curses and sapphic swashbucklers ... Booty will be plundered! Alliances will be betrayed! Someone will fall dramatically off the crow’s nest”). Not sure pirates have to do with Moby-Dick and whale hunting, but you can just go with it.

6:30 to 9:30 p.m. June 24

The Moth story slam

\$17.50. This monthly open-mic storytelling competition is open to anyone who can share a five-minute tale on the night’s theme – this time, “Go Your Own Way,” about taking the road less traveled, marching to the beat of your own drum, forging your own path, daring decisions, bold outfits, that sort of thing.

1 to 3 p.m. June 22

Blessing of the Bay Boathouse, 32 Shore Drive, Ten Hill, Somerville

“Voices in the Wind” history celebration

Free. Song, dance and storytelling commemorate Blessing of the Bay, a ship built by Massachusetts’ first governor that gives this spot its name and look at the intertwined histories of the Europeans, Africans brought here through slavery at Ten Hills Farm and the Indigenous peoples affected by colonization. Performers including the Morning Star Singers, an Indigenous drum group, Anna-Celestrya Carr, an Indigenous dancer, and storyteller Aimee Ledwell.

7 to 8:30 p.m. June 19 (continues July 24 and Aug. 21)

Great Lawn at Assembly Row, 399 Revolution Drive, Somerville

Comedy Studio presents “Laughs on the Lawn”

Free. The first of three events this summer featuring headliners Emily Ruskowski, Al Park, AJ Hapenny and Eli Levy.

7 to 8 p.m. June 19

Aeronaut Brewing, 14 Tyler St., near Union Square in Ward 2, Somerville

“From King’s Men to Continentals: War & Slavery in Revolutionary Massachusetts, 1763-1783”

\$16. Discover the stories from among the more than 2,000 Black and Native Americans from Massachusetts who fought in the Revolutionary War in this Somerville Museum series.

7 to 10 p.m. June 19

Side Quest Books & Games, 1 Bow Market Way, Union Square, Somerville

Witchcraft Cinema: “Labyrinth”

\$13. Watch the 1986 musical fantasy film directed by Jim Henson with George Lucas as executive producer while crafting and sipping a themed drink. Popcorn and nonalcoholic drinks are provided, and other outside food from Bow Market vendors is welcome.

10 p.m. to midnight June 25

Lilypad, 1353 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge

The Lilypad Variety Show

\$5. Enjoy new talent performing music, art, poetry, comedy and dance.

5 to 8 p.m. June 21 (rain date: June 22)

Union Square Plaza, Somerville

Big Gay Dance Party

Free. An outdoor dance party with a Halloween in June theme to celebrate Pride month. Why not? Come dressed and dance to tunes by DJ Live, see drag performances by Amanda Playwith and Lily Rose Valore, get photographs from Megan Senturk and check out the LGBTQ+ resources tables and vendors.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 21

The Foundry, 101 Rogers St., East Cambridge

Japanese mahjong

Free. Players will be organized into skill-based groups and given all necessary materials to play, so no experience or equipment is necessary – but players can bring extra game sets and snacks to share.

6 to 8 p.m. June 20

Kendall/MIT Open Space at 292 Main St., Kendall Square, Cambridge

Family movie night: “Toy Story”

Free. Get another look at the beloved 1995 film that made the reputation of animation company Pixar before next year’s “Toy Story 5.”

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 19

Starting at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square

Cambridge Juneteenth parade

Free. The parade ends at Riverside Press Park, 2 Blackstone St., Riverside, with music and other performances, food, games, arts and crafts, a day of events commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

8 pm. June 21-22

The Dance Complex, 536 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, Cambridge

“My Body My Dance: Reimagining Duncan for the 21st Century”

\$28.50. The New Duncan Dance Project reimagines Isadora Duncan’s work for today while preserving the legacy of the “mother of modern dance.”

7 to 9 p.m. June 26

Jill Brown-Rhone Park, near Central Square, Cambridge

Mardi Gras in June

Free. The band Legless Lizard bring the New Orleans-style tunes to an outdoor dance concert.

2 to 5 p.m. June 21

Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, 71 Cherry St., The Port, Cambridge

Juneteenth community celebration

Free. A block party with art and games, a DJ and free lunch honoring seniors (which is why they eat first from 2 to 3 p.m.) and the history of Juneteenth, marking the formal end of U.S. slavery.

FILM AHEAD JUNE 19–26

LOCAL FOCUS



David Cronenberg’s “Scanners” screens at The Brattle Theatre on Saturday as part of a series dedicated to the body-horror director.

Cronenberg Summer at The Brattle borrows a bit from Charli XCX

By OSCAR GOFF

The world of cinephilia found an unlikely champion late last year when pop singer Charli XCX’s account on the movie-logging platform Letterboxd was leaked to the public, revealing the “Brat Summer” superstar to be a surprisingly erudite and voracious movie watcher. Never one to shy away from the spotlight, Ms. XCX doubled down during her appearance at this year’s Coachella, embracing her newfound fan base with backdrops featuring the names of her favorite filmmakers, including “Ari Aster Summer,” “Celine Song Summer” and, perhaps most incongruously, “Cronenberg Summer.” To be sure, the films of David Cronenberg, the Canadian filmmaker who made his name on cerebral sci-fi and graphic body horror, aren’t most people’s idea of “summer fun” – and yet, in a year as strange as 2025, “Cronenberg Summer” sounds a whole lot more inviting than what’s going on in the real world.

To this end, **The Brattle Theatre** has thrown down the gauntlet with a Cronenberg Summer of its own, programming a full week of the director’s most memorable and outrageous works. The series kicks off on Friday with a double feature of Cronenberg’s earliest hits, “**Rabid**” (1977), starring adult superstar Marilyn Chambers as a woman afflicted with a ravenous, parasitic armpit, and the killer-kid creepfest “**The Brood**” (1979). “**Videodrome**” (1982), which screens Saturday, is a heady mix of cyberpunk, techno-eroticism and Marshall McLuhan-esque media theory; it’s paired with “**Scanners**” (1981), a film that is “heady” in a very different sense. Sunday brings the two films that arguably brought Cronenberg the closest he’s ever come to the critical and commercial mainstream – his Jeff Goldblum-starring remake of “**The Fly**” (1986) and “**Dead Ringers**” (1988), with a career-best performance by Jeremy Irons as a pair of malevolent twin gynecologists, and “**Naked Lunch**” (1992), his adaptation of the nigh-unadaptable novel by William S. Burroughs.

Though most closely associated with the horror boom of the 1980s, Cronenberg has worked consistently up to the present, and while his run of relatively “straight” pictures (including “A History of Violence” [2005] and “Eastern Promises” [2007]) are not

present here, The Brattle rejoins the director for his late-career return to form. Tuesday brings “**Crimes of the Future**” (2022), a lightly autobiographical (and surprisingly funny) sci-fi oddity starring Viggo Mortensen as an aging performance artist whose medium is bespoke bodily organs. The series closes Wednesday and Thursday with a two-night run of Cronenberg’s latest, “**The Shrouds**” (2025), a strikingly elegiac (yet appropriately icky) parable clearly inspired by his wife’s recent passing. It really might be a Cronenberg Summer – though the director’s definition of “beach body” might differ drastically from yours.

If you prefer your transgressive auteurs in a more lighthearted vein, the **Somerville Theatre** has you covered with a tribute to Baltimore’s legendary “Pope of Puke,” John Waters. On Thursday, the Somerville screens “**Female Trouble**” (1974), arguably the greatest of Waters’ early underground films, starring Divine at the peak of her powers as teen delinquent turned international criminal Dawn Davenport. Friday brings a double feature of two of the director’s more palatable works: “**Hairspray**” (1988), Waters’ unlikely breakthrough into mainstream family entertainment, and “**Pecker**” (1998), his underseen entry in the ’90s indie-quirk cycle. It all leads to Sunday’s Filthy Formal at the Crystal Ballroom, an interactive show/party/twisted school dance presented by Identical Cousins featuring signature cocktails, drag and burlesque performances and a pencil-your-own-mustache photo booth. It’s enough to make our favorite filth-elder proud and a reminder that Pride Month is and remains a safe haven for gleeful freaks.

This Waters tribute segues perfectly into Summer Camp, the Somerville’s new monthly screening series dedicated to the most outrageously campy cult classics in the history of film. The series kicks off next Wednesday with “**Beyond the Valley of the Dolls**” (1970), one of the wildest and most subversive studio films ever made.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM CLIPS



‘Echo Valley’: Child trouble

A fairly taut if wildly implausible home-invasion thriller in the vein of “The Strangers” (2008) or last year’s “Speak No Evil” that uses some stellar performances to bolster a thin premise. Kate Garretson (a game Julianne Moore) lives on a horse farm in the bucolic Pennsylvania dell of the title. She’s grieving from the recent loss of her wife, who was thrown from a horse and broke her neck, and starving for money to keep the farm and her daughter Claire (Sydney Sweeney) clean. Her well-off ex-husband and father of Claire (Kyle MacLachlan, in a thankless micropart) won’t give her another dime. It’s hard to tell if it’s bitterness, tough love or just wanting nothing more to do with it. The push comes when Claire shows up with her junkie boyfriend, Ryan (Edmund Donovan), and their mousy yet menacing dealer, Jackie (Domhnall Gleeson of “Ex Machina,” unrecognizable and excellent here). Basically, Ryan owes Jackie \$10,000 and Claire believes mom can make it right. Kate refuses (and doesn’t have the money anyway), and Claire attacks her and tries to kidnap the prized dog of the house as ransom – then returns days later, shaken, telling Kate she’s killed Ryan accidentally in a lovers’ quarrel and needs help cleaning up the mess. Mom being mom, and not wanting to see her baby go to jail, acts as decisively, only to have Jackie then show up looking for \$100,000 to keep his mouth shut about the disposal. The film becomes a game of psychological chess, with Jackie shrewdly isolating and manipulating Kate by shooting her up with heroin and taking away her electronic devices. The subsequent plot twists are fairly well done, and Fiona Shaw shows up, a great addition to the cast as Kate’s loyal friend. “Echo Valley” is a tense yet forgettable journey in the darkness that surrounds addiction. **TOM MEEK**

At Kendall Square and on Apple TV+.



‘Cleaner’: Toweringly familiar

Knowing that this is a crime thriller, one might be led by the title to think of Jean Reno in “La Femme Nikita” (1990) or Harvey Keitel’s relentless assassin from the remake “Point of No Return” (1993), but no, this title refers to a literal cleaner – a window cleaner. Joey (Daisy Ridley, “The Last Jedi”) has no fear of heights (the opening scene of her as a young girl sitting on the windowsill of an apartment tower will put a pit in your stomach) and as a result labors around London’s financial district as a window washer. Inside one such spire of glass Joey is tethered to, an eco-terrorist group has taken a Mc-Corporation’s board hostage and rigged them with explosives, lest their demands and their kangaroo court shenanigans to expose the evils of corporate avarice not go according to plan. Before you can say “Die Hard” (1988), ex-soldier Joey’s the fly in the ointment thwarting the terrorists’ plans at nearly every turn while the phalanx of cops below sit by inert and looking ever skyward. Further complicating matters is Joey’s brother, Michael (Matthew Tuck), who suffers debilitating panic attacks, quickly caught up in the terrorist plot. Directed by Martin Campbell, who helmed the Bond films “GoldenEye” (1995) and “Casino Royale” (2006), the action is pretty well-choreographed, and Ridley is more than likable as Joey as well as being a match for Tom Cruise in the stunt arena. But the plot and character are now tropes, and have been done better before. Clive Owen drops in briefly for a paycheck as one of the leaders of the baddies alongside Taz Skylar, posturing and flourishing philosophical mumbo-jumbo about Earth being infected with a human virus. They’ve got nothing on Hans Gruber. **TOM MEEK**

On Max.



MUSIC

ATTEND

Candidate vibe check

By **MICHAEL GUTIERREZ**

Election season is upon us. As voters start sizing up candidates, we’ll all have plenty of questions we want to hear the candidates address. For the sake of this column, I’ll be thinking about how some of their platforms and policies affect the local music scene.

To be honest, though, we voters are not always interested in specific answers to specific questions, however discerning our political antennae may be. Sometimes we’re just looking for a “vibe check.”

We shouldn’t oversell the importance of “vibes” with political candidates, nor should we dismiss them. For example, when it comes to music and politics, the endless carousel of recording artists who have sent Donald Trump cease and desist letters to stop him from using their music at campaign events is a definite vibe. A bad vibe that doesn’t so much speak to any particular policy as it spotlights the bottomless Abyss of Disapproval into which the president has been tossed by musicians that so many Americans, rightly or wrongly, look up to.

I started thinking about vibes in the context of local elections when I heard about Willie Fest. Willie Burnley Jr., Somerville city councilor at large and a candidate in the Somerville mayoral race, is teaming up with artists to organize a series of music concerts as campaign fundraisers. That’s a good vibe.

I got curious about the other candidates in the Somerville mayoral race. Did you know that Jake Wilson, another current councilor at large, held a part-time job as a record store clerk in high school, had a radio show in college and worked at Elektra Records in the late ’90s? That’s a good vibe.

I reached out to incumbent mayor Katjana Ballantyne for a vibe check and I haven’t heard back. The Ballantyne website ballyhoos her stewardship of the local arts. She’s steered the growth of new arts space, including the latest sweeteners from the Somernova development. And her administration presented a master plan for the Armory that preserves it as a publicly owned community arts space. That’s a good vibe.

Hit this

Friday *Mohini Dey (Regattabar, Cambridge)*

Bassist supreme Mohini Dey has been gigging professionally since she was 9 years old. She’s got the stuff. Expect up-tempo, bottom end trills aplenty. She’s joined by Mark Hart-such on saxophone and Gino Banks on drums to form a trio as tight as a barrel full of radioactive waste getting dumped off the Farallon Islands. The trio is scheduled for two sessions, one at 7:30 p.m. and the other at 9:30 p.m. Why are jazz, blues and folk musicians always tapped for two sets in a single night when you rarely see it in rock? Wrong answers only in the comments, please.

Tuesday *Colleen Green, Rozwell Kid, Headband (The Rockwell, Somerville)*

A night of indie music in Davis Square’s favorite bat cave. Colleen Green is celebrating the 10th anniversary of her rocking, riffing, ripping album “I Want to Grow Up.” Green crafts a mean pop hook, with enough grime to call it “garage” and enough bubblegum to make it “pop.” Slack-

rawkers Rozwell Kid join her on a coast-to-coast tour through the hot season. Local buzzard rockers Headband will open with a set full of good trills, chicken scratch, boot gaze and other descriptors they invented at their Bandcamp page.

Live: *Ghosts and Shadows, Spirit Hotel, Past Life Crisis at The Jungle*

Every party around town Saturday night was a Pride/“No Kings” postparty, officially or not. So it was at The Jungle, where three rock bands were shaking off the wet of a drizzly Saturday and tuning up for the early show, 4 to 7 p.m. The opener, Past Life Crisis, a quartet with rock opera flair, wished everyone a Happy Pride and got down to business.

Early shows are a blessing for out-of-town bands, which might otherwise be scared off gigs that involve a late-night trip home along dark highways. Especially for bands whose members have a few more miles on the odometer, who are no longer “made out of rubber,” as Steve Albini used to say about 20-somethings, who feel that extra drink (or two) and lost hours of sleep like a sledgehammer through a plate glass window in the morning.

What is true for bands is true for audiences too. If you grabbed a pre-show libation in the neighborhood, you might have overheard a guy from Woburn having a loud, brusque, performative telephone conversation with his wife. After he hung up, he turned to his two buddies at the bar and complained that “the old lady” was giving him a hard time about “enjoying rock ’n’ roll with the boys.”

Strong Tim Robinson energy with this one – I half expected him to order a sloppy steak.

Now, Woburn isn’t on the far side of the moon. In fact, it’s barely a 20-minute drive between The Wu and Union Square, thanks to I-93. Every minute matters, though, when you want to lay into multiple rounds of Crispy Boys before “the old lady” spoils the fun and you have to clock back into work on Monday morning. An early Sunday show is just the ticket.

The trio made the trip to The Jungle in support of their friend’s band Spirit Hotel, an alt-rock quartet playing the second slot. An extra rack of guitars at stage right promised a gazy, hazy set. The rhythm section delivered a medium-tempo grind while the guitars droned and the lead singer floated smoky, sultry vocals in the breeze. Shades of The Jesus and Mary Chain with hints of twang and blues.

While the music rattled around the hollows of the old police garage, the trio were already plotting their next rock ’n’ roll adventure. Bigger, longer, uncut. A Labor Day excursion to East Rutherford, New Jersey, for an Oasis show.

Mr. Sloppy Steaks said aloud what was on everyone’s mind: “No chicks?” The other two waved him off, wordlessly. “Right,” he concluded, “No reason to muddy the waters.”

Before closer Ghosts & Shadows played a single note, the trio hit the trail. If this was an old Western, the three caballeros would’ve flipped the barkeep a silver dollar, hopped onto their mounts and rode off into the setting sun in search of a new adventure.

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

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

FOOD

WHAT WE’RE HAVING



Tom Meek

The Athena burger at Daddy Jones in Somerville’s Magoun Square combines herb and feta with lamb, complemented by cheese and fig jam. Don’t sleep on the sweet potato fries.

Lamb burgers and octopi at Daddy Jones bar

By **TOM MEEK**

Saunter into Magoun Square’s Daddy Jones for a speakeasy-styled cocktail bar with a hipster vibe, one with the inviting feel of Semolina Kitchen and Avenue Kitchen & Bar but with bites you won’t find anywhere nearby. It’s essential Greek food with some nouvelle spins, but founded in 2012 (and named after a character in a children’s book), Daddy Jones has been serving Mediterranean fare embellished with olives and feta well before Saloniki opened two locales this side of the river or Eat Greek arrived in Davis Square.

The long, dark bar is adorned with tchotchkes and the TVs in the lounge are more likely to be playing Adult Swim or an offbeat movie such as “Mickey 17” instead of sports. There are a few booths and tables in the cozy dining area; take a jaunt up the stairs and out the back, and voila, there’s an inviting back deck with a bit of a cruise ship quality to it. Julie McCoy won’t be serving you cocktails, but the staff at Daddy Jones is wildly friendly and accommodating.

Artisanal cocktails are the thing here, and while elsewhere the talk might be of mixology, those behind the bar at Daddy’s aren’t that pretentious. Drinks have Greek or “Daddy” wordplay in the names, like the Daddy Wallbanger or the the Dirty Eleni – a take on a Dirty Shirley in which your spirits get a refreshing elevation of lime and ginger ale perfect for summer. I had Daddy’s spin on an Old Fashioned that infused rye with black tea, and it was good sipping served up with care.

For food, Daddy’s has the essential Greek salad (no lettuce, just cukes, tomatoes, feta and olives), spanakopita, gyros, souvlaki and a meze plate with house tzatziki, smoked eggplant and red pepper feta.

On the appetizer slate are wings, falafel fritters, Greek soups and octopus – tender tentacle rounds served warmed and marinating in a crock

■ **Daddy Jones Bar & Restaurant, 525 Medford St., Magoun Square, Somerville**

of olive oil and vinegar with a side of thick, yeasty Greek bread. You could think of it as more akin to tinned fish than your more traditional braised or grilled octopi. On Wednesday nights, Daddy Jones offers big and plump \$1 oysters.

Daddy has a honey Buffalo fried chicken sandwich and slings burgers – double patties on English muffins. I went in for the Athena, an herb and feta lamb burger with cheese and fig jam. It’s a plump two-hander to be sure, lean and juicy but not filling for such a big bun filler, and the herb and feta accents don’t overwhelm the other ingredients. If I had one minor rue, it was that I got it cooked medium and should have gone medium rare.

The burger comes with fries, but do yourself a favor: Pay the slight up-charge and get the sweet potato fries, which are practically tempurlike in texture and come dusted with honey and feta, candidates for best sweet potato fries in town and a reason in their own right to make a trip.

Daddy Jones also serves brunch on the weekend, weaving in eggy additions (including a falafel Benedict) with the burger, pita and sando offerings. If you take a trek to the loo the art on the wall is of Batman, Catwoman and Spiderman on the can, spandex bottoms around their ankles, reading material in hand. It’s a cheeky tweak emblematic of the spirit at Daddy Jones.

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



Donut Villa Diner coconut doughnut

Price: \$3

At Donut Villa Diner, doughnuts are the name of the game, and it’s not just serving them straight up. You can get a cheeseburger on one, a breakfast sandwich on one, even eggs Benedict on mini versions. In other words, if you’re looking for inventive combinations, you’ll find them, but I can’t say I’m particularly drawn to the idea of eggs on a doughnut, so I tried one of the pastries – a coconut cake. It was covered amply in coconut shreds, which I appreciated, and they were affixed with a glaze that actually made them stay on, which I extra appreciated. The doughnut itself had that perfectly tender crumbly, cake texture and was just the right amount of sweet. It was slightly dry, as if it could have been taken out of the oven just a few minutes sooner, but overall, this was a solid treat and I would happily return. MADELEINE AITKEN

■ **Donut Villa Diner, 20 Prospect St., Central Square, Cambridge**

ARTS

A composer brings ‘Nocturnes’ for our time to East Cambridge

By LILY ROBINSON

Evening-themed lullabies, ballads and elegies come to Cambridge’s Multicultural Arts Center in July with “Nocturnes,” organized by Somerville singer and composer Shira Lacharoen.

A nocturne can be quiet, eerie and contemplative, if not brooding, and reflect the turmoil of emotions and questions evoked by our current moment. “We live in times right now there can be a lot of darkness,” and her work explores those shadows, Lacharoen said.

“Just because something feels sorrowful in some way, doesn’t mean that it can’t also be uplifting,” Lacharoen said.

These nocturnes will be deepened by their presentation by six artists sharing a stage for the first time. In addition to Lacharoen, the audience will hear from actor Fady Demian, cellist Lauren Roberts, pianists Sakurako Kanemitsu and Sophy Gao, and singer Chloe Gardner.

“I’m really excited to see how our different energies and different points of view, different perspectives will meld and merge,” Lacharoen said. “It could make for a really memorable evening.”

Work for the show came together

■ **“Nocturnes,” from 7 to 9 p.m. July 5 at the Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., East Cambridge. \$20. La Saison Bakery drinks and desserts will be available.**

over several years, and its themes have inspired Lacharoen for even longer. She grew up listening to Chopin’s “Nocturnes,” which go on a rising and falling journey through enchanting dreamscapes and shifting shadows.

The July program reflects Lacharoen’s own artistic development; over the time the songs were written, she said, she has found herself as a performer. “Growing up, I was probably scared to share my voice with people,” she said, and overcoming that took time and effort. “It’s more than being nervous to go on stage. It took work to say, can I tell things that are not necessarily what you’re seeing of me now? Can you dig into a different place and say something that you haven’t said to people before?”

Lacharoen’s “Nocturnes” began to take shape in late December when she approached Najee Brown, artistic director at the Multicultural Arts Center, for a performance against the backdrop



Jason Pramas

Singer and composer Shira Lacharoen leads “Nocturnes” on July 5 in East Cambridge.

of its high ceilings and intricate vintage balconies. Brown provided support but gave her freedom in developing the idea and assembling the cast, and Lacharoen drew on years of exposure to Boston artists as a performer, enthusiast and as a reporter covering arts and culture. (Lacharoen freelanced for Cambridge Day in 2021-2022.)

The program includes 14 songs, including a short ballet. Roberts accompanies her for seven songs; one will be a duet with Gardner.

The collaborations transformed her work, Lacharoen said. “Something kind of magical happens when you have these songs in your head that you’ve been playing by yourself or do-

ing independently, and then once you get in a room with someone else and they make it all come to life through the collaboration. I think that feels really genuine and amazing,” she said. “Sometimes the person you’re working with will see things about the song that you didn’t necessarily see.”

Her song “Can’t Make This Up” grabs listeners with an upbeat cello intro before diving into a narrative of nostalgia and yearning. “It’s sort of capturing these precious golden moments of life,” Lacharoen said. But the song’s refrain invites listeners to question what they hear, drawing them deeper into the storyline. Upbeat, clever, and inviting of fantasy, it’s a piece that would prime an adventurous plot as part of a larger story arc.

In contrast, the ballad “Me and You Alike” is a stark moment of realization as the narrator sheds a layer of fancifulness. Lacharoen said this piece is her most honest. As part of a musical, she said, it would happen toward the end, “where everything that could possibly have gone wrong has gone wrong. And yet, this is a character saying that there’s something that they’re holding on to.”

READ



All She Wrote Books via social media

All She Wrote Books owner Christina Pascucci-Ciampa, left, brings drag and other entertainment to a June 28 book fair.

All She Wrote Books fair will see out Pride

By MADELEINE AITKEN

All She Wrote Books hosts its second annual book fair June 28, seeing out Pride month with a free daytime event open to all ages from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a ticketed 18-plus after party from 8 to 10 p.m.

All She Wrote Books owner Christina Pascucci-Ciampa organized the first event last June with inspiration from the Scholastic book fairs she grew up with. This is “the gayest Scholastic book fair of your dreams,” Pascucci-Ciampa said.

“Last year’s event was extremely successful,” Pascucci-Ciampa said. With 300 attendees, “we sold out of tickets for the 18-plus event at night and we had an amazing showing in the daytime as well, and a lot of positive feedback from folks who came. It made a lot of sense to bring it back.”

This year’s event follows a similar format. Hosted at Connexion in East Somerville, the daytime portion features family-friendly programming

and is open to the public. Books, goodies and All She Wrote Books merchandise will be on sale, with a coloring book station for all ages and a drag storytime for children at 10:30 a.m.

Lavender Education, an adult education group focused on LGBTQ+ history, will be there, as will the ACLU of Massachusetts, the Boston Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth, Fenway Health and the City of Somerville LGBTQ+ Services.

New this year is a queer comics draw-off with the Boston Comic Arts Foundation featuring local cartoonists Jackie Musto, Jade LFT Peters and Betsey Swardlick, who will also be selling their books.

“There will be three cartoonists, three easels, and three markers – whose art will be the rainbowest?” Pascucci-Ciampa said.

After 8 p.m., attendees must be over 18 to enter and have a ticket, which are available for purchase online. That portion of the event features vendors

such as Crafty Queer Studio, Popwink, Gold Fox Art and Kestrop Studio. Ritcey East, a restaurant in Watertown, again provides ’90s-inspired food to match the nostalgia of the Scholastic book fairs that inspired the event.

Last year’s burlesque performance will be replaced with drag performances every 15 to 30 minutes. “That gives people more time to look around but still be entertained at the same time,” Pascucci-Ciampa said.

“For so long, queer histories were about sadness, and of course there are still so many struggles, especially now, but the queer community also has so much beauty and joy. The idea is to shine a light on that and give folks the fuel to continue to do the fight,” Pascucci-Ciampa said.

■ **The All She Wrote Pride Book Fair is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (free, all ages) and 8 to 10 p.m. (\$10 and for those 18-plus) at Connexion, 149 Broadway, East Somerville.**

LAUGH

A guide for millennial nostalgia

There are few folks I’d rather go along with for a Flashback Friday than Charles McBee (Comedy Central, “Live at Gotham”). As the co-host of the “Are We Old?” podcast and a “professional millennial,” he spends a lot of time diving into the culture of the ’80s and ’90s for folks who miss the era of scented erasers, Easy-Bake ovens and Reebok pumps. His new hour of comedy, “You Had to Be There,” allows for a snuggle deep into this



McBee

sleeping bag of an era with a longer nostalgia-tinged set. Those who grew up in this golden age of pop culture – can you tell we’re about the same age? – will feel at home with his observations, but even those born afterward will find a kinship. McBee comes from New York to talk about it all with an enthusiasm and warmth that will draw anyone in. Despite the name of the hour, even if you weren’t there, you’ll feel right at home.

AMMA MARFO

■ **“Charles McBee: You Had to Be There” at 7 p.m. June 27 at The Rockwell, 255 Elm St., Davis Square, Somerville. \$20 to \$25.**

MOVE

Troupe updates Isadora Duncan

The New Duncan Dance Project reimagines Isadora Duncan’s work for today while preserving the legacy of the “mother of modern dance” – in her 1891-1913 heyday, one of the first to push back against the norms and restraints of classical ballet. “Some of the choreography in our repertoire is her choreography. Other parts have been modified for our bodies today,” project co-director Sandy Zarotney Keldson said. In the upcoming “My Body My Dance,” the group presents Duncan’s work within the context of current events. “Duncan was very vocal about her beliefs, specifically about bodily autonomy and women’s rights. When we were conceptualizing this concert we chose dances that connected to those beliefs,” co-director Kelli Edwards said. “With bodily autonomy being stripped away and funding for the arts being cut left, right and center, we believe



Julie Cordeiro

Kelli Edwards of The New Duncan Dance Project.

it is so important to share this work.” Edwards said the nine project dancers, of varying ages, personify the question Duncan sought to answer: “What are we allowed to do with our body?”

RACHEL HACKAM

■ **“My Body My Dance: Reimagining Duncan for the 21st Century” at 8 pm. Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday at The Dance Complex, 536 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, Cambridge. \$28.50.**

■ Send letters to forpublication@cambridgeday.com with the name, address, phone number and relevant affiliations of the writer or writers

OPINIONS

Changed hours at CRLS are an educator hardship violating a labor agreement

It’s time to respect educators – and the contract we negotiated.

Educators do their best work when the systems around them are reliable, collaborative and grounded in mutual respect. That’s why we bargain in good faith – to create agreements we can all count on.

Yet, for years the Cambridge Public Schools district has failed to honor this basic commitment.

The district changed the start time at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in 2020, disregarding the established bargaining process and violating the clear terms of our contract. Years later, after more than a year of negotiations, educators and the district reached a new agreement outlining the terms and conditions of our work through August 2026. A key provision of this contract reaffirmed the official

Educators have lost second jobs relied on to make ends meet; others face higher costs for child care.

CRLS student start and end times: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Last school year, Cambridge educators approached district leadership to begin discussions on restoring the agreed-upon CRLS start time for the 2024–2025 school year. Despite the contract’s clear and unambiguous language, district administrators stated explicitly they would not engage in planning to bring the start time into

compliance. In doing so, they disregarded the terms of the agreement and unilaterally violated the negotiated schedule. This not only constitutes a breach of contract, but undermines the trust and good faith that educators invested in the bargaining process. By refusing to uphold their commitment, district leaders break the contract we fought hard to secure – and violate the trust of those who serve this community every day.

This is not just disappointing. It’s a deliberate violation of a binding agreement. Instead of engaging in transparent, evidence-based conversations, district leadership is spending public resources to defend this breach in contract via the long and expensive process of legal arbitration – a wasteful and avoidable escalation.

The district’s failure to abide by

the school start time in the current agreed-upon contract has had a financial impact on many educators, who have lost the ability to maintain second jobs they rely on to make ends meet; others now face higher costs for child and family care.

The difference of one half hour doesn’t sound like much, but when combined with extended school hours and worsening traffic, it makes it increasingly difficult for educators to pick up their own children on time or make shifts at second jobs.

We want a partner in the district, not an adversary. Educators are ready to collaborate. We care deeply about our students and want to help shape thoughtful, data-based policies that work for everyone. We cannot do that while the district disregards our legal agreements.

Interim superintendent Dave Murphy and the School Committee still have a choice. They can honor the contract and show they value partnership with educators – or continue down a path of conflict, delay and distrust.

The path forward is simple: respect the contract. Respect educators.

The Cambridge Educators Association urges the district to collaborate and work toward a resolution before forcing our community into arbitration.

Devan Hannigan and Allison Wade

Allison Wade is a school counselor and social worker who has worked in at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School for 18 years. Devan Hannigan is a school psychologist who has worked in Cambridge Public Schools for 19 years.

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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board of the City of Cambridge will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** Opened on May 20, 2025 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 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 hearing will be on Zoom Webinar. Go to www.cambridgema.gov/planningboard to view petition documents, send written comments before the hearing, or learn how to join the hearing online or by phone. Contact the Community Development Department at cddzoning@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-4600 with questions. Written comments received by 12:00 P.M. on the Friday before the meeting will be considered by Board Members in advance of the meeting. Comments received later will be entered into the record.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Massachusetts
BOARD OF ZONING APPEAL
831 Mass Avenue, Cambridge, MA. (617) 349-6100
The Board of Zoning Appeal will hold a Virtual Public Meeting, THURSDAY – JUNE 26, 2025. Members of the public can

participate or view the meeting remotely using the Zoom Webinar link: <https://cambridgema.zoom.us/j/85299551558> Or join by phone: Dial +1 929 436 2866 or +1 301 715 8592 - Webinar ID: 852 9955 1558 6:15 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-1167668 605 CONCORD AVENUE Business A Zone/Alewife Overlay (AOD-5)/Parkway Overlay ABODEZ ACORN CONCORD LLC - C/O SARAH L. RHATIGAN, ESQ. Special Permit: To open a veterinary surgical clinic in the ground floor retail space of this multi-family apartment building. Art. 4.000, Sec. 4.35.L (Animal Services Facility). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit). 6:30 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-1163946 200 MAIN STREET Residence C-3B Zone/PUD-5 CAMBRIDGE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – C/O CROWN CASTLE FIBER - BRANDI SPEZZANO Special Permit: Wireless antenna equipment housed atop streetlight to increase wireless coverage in the area. Art. 4.000, Sec. 4.32.G.1 & Sec. 4.40 (Footnote 49) (Telecommunication Facility). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit). 6:45 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-1166529 300 MT. AUBURN STREET – UNIT 1 Residence C-3 Zone MOUNT AUBURN HOSPITAL – C/O T-MOBILE NORTHEAST LLC – ADAM BRAILLARD, ESQ. Special Permit: To modify its existing Wireless Telecommunications Facility by replacing six (6) panel antennas currently on the existing building with six (6) new like kind panel antennas, together with supporting equipment. The Applicants’ proposal complies with Section 6409 of the Spectrum Act as the collocation of antennas is not a substantial change to the existing base station. Moreover, the Applicants proposal complies with Section 4.32 and 10.4 of the Cambridge Zoning Code. Art. 4.000, Sec. 4.32.G.1 & Sec. 4.40 (Footnote 49) (Telecommunication Facility). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40 (Special Permit). 6409 (2012 Middle Class Tax Relief Act).

7:00 P.M. CASE NO. BZA-1167197 1654 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE Multi-Use / Residence C-2 Zone JOHN KURT MILLER, TR. – C/O CELLCO PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS – ELLEN FREYMAN, AGENT Special Permit: To modify the existing Beta sector chimney mount, specifically, to remove two (2) existing Beta and Gamma CDMA Antennas from existing mast pipes, relocate three (3) existing NR Antennas, and install three (3) new MT6413-77A Antennas with integrated Remote Radio Heads on existing mounting pipes, one (1) new combiner, as well as additional hardware per RFDS located inside of existing equipment room. All new equipment will have 3M wrap to match the proposed MT6413-77A Antennas and painted to match the chimney color, hardware and jumpers. No additional changes are proposed for the modification. Art. 4.000, Sec. 4.32.G.1 & Sec. 4.40 (Footnote 49) (Telecommunication Facility). Art. 10.000, Sec. 10.40-10.46 (Special Permit). 6409 (Federal Middle Class Tax Relief Act (Spectrum Act). TO VIEW BZA CASE APPLICATIONS, PLANS & SUBMISSIONS, GO TO: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/inspection/zoning.aspx> at top of page, click “Calendar” > Click hearing date > Click “Board of Zoning Appeal Agenda.” Any information filed after the agenda has been posted can be viewed at the Inspectional Services Department located at 831 Mass Avenue, Cambridge by appointment only. Copies of this petition are also on file in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, Cambridge, MA. Interested persons may provide comments to the Board of Zoning Appeal by participating during the hearing and/or may provide written comments for the Board’s consideration by mailing or delivering them to the attention of the Secretary, Board of Zoning Appeal, 831 Mass Avenue, 02139 or by emailing them to mpacheco@cambridgema.gov. Comments must be submitted prior to the Hearing and include the Case Number. Continued cases are not re-advertised but are posted on the office board at the City Clerk’s Office in City Hall & on

the same BZA Web Page 48 hours prior to hearing.

Ordinance 2025-11 First Publication

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five

AN ORDINANCE

In amendment to the Ordinance entitled “Cambridge Municipal Code.”

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Cambridge that the Municipal Code of the City of Cambridge be amended as follows:

Section 3.24.070(B)(3), entitled “Fresh Pond Golf Course Pro Shop Fund” be amended by adding language so that the subsection reads as follows:

3. Purpose and Expenditures. During each fiscal year, the Assistant City Manager for Human Services or his/her designee within DHSP may, as approved by the City Manager, incur liabilities against and spend monies from the Fresh Pond Golf Course Pro Shop Fund as needed: (i) to purchase golf and office supplies for the Fresh Pond Golf Course Pro Shop as required for its operation, and (ii) to purchase equipment, supplies, and services necessary for the care, maintenance, and improvement of the golf course, parking lot, and facilities of the Fresh Pond Golf Course and the Fresh Pond Golf Course Pro Shop.

Salaries and wages of employees shall be paid from the annual budget appropriation of DHSP and shall not be paid from this revolving fund.

Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on June 9, 2025 and on or after June 30, 2025 the question comes on passage to be ordained.

Attest: Paula M. Crane, Interim City Clerk

Ordinance 2025-10 First Publication

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-10 – FIRST PUBLICATION
CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five
AN ORDINANCE

That the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Cambridge be amended 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.

Passed to a second reading, as amended, at the City Council meeting held on June 9, 2025 and on or after June 30, 2025 the question comes on passage to be ordained.

Attest:- Paula M. Crane
Interim City Clerk

NOTE: Pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 32A, Tercentenary Edition, the ordinance as aforesaid which exceeds in length eight octavo pages of ordinary book print may be summarized for publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the city with the further provision that said Ordinance may be examined and obtained at the City Clerk’s Office during office hours and that any objection to its invalidity by reason of any defect in the procedure of adoption may only be made within ninety days after the posting or the second publication.

How the ovenbird got its name

The turkey is more deserving of the term, surely; this bird is too small for baking.



Ovenbirds sport a yellowish stripe on the middle of their heads.
Tom Murray

ByJEANINE FARLEY

The ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) is an olive-colored warbler with the habits of a thrush. It prefers to spend its time rustling through the leaves on the ground rather than flying near the treetops chasing insects with the other warblers. It wanders along on the forest floor, scattering leaves to look for beetles, ants, spiders, snails, worms, ticks and caterpillars. Not surprisingly, this bird’s preferred habitat is woods thickly carpeted with dead leaves.

About the size of a sparrow, an ovenbird has a distinctive call. Males sing loudly and relentlessly during breeding season to claim a territory and to attract a mate. Many birders say the call sounds like “teacher, teacher, teach-

er.” I think the call sounds more like “teach, teach, teach, teach,” but maybe my ears are old.

Why call it an ovenbird? In my mind, a turkey could reasonably be called an ovenbird, since it is commonly roasted in an oven; this bird is too small for such nonsense. No, the name comes from the shape of its nest. A female ovenbird weaves a nest on the ground in a small depression. She covers the nest with a domelike lid of grasses, sticks and leaves. The birds enter and exit the nest through a small opening on the side. Early colonists thought the nest looked like a bread oven, also called a beehive oven because its domed shape reminded them of a beehive.

According to the Cambridge Chronicle of Aug. 10, 1901: “In May

the golden-crowned thrush builds a nest of leaves and grasses on the ground, shaped like the snow huts of the esquimaux [Eskimo], or an old-fashioned oven – hence his other name of oven-bird.” (People do not call this bird a golden-crowned thrush anymore because scientists have determined that it is not a thrush – but it does have a golden crown.)

Because female ovenbirds build a nest on the ground, they must be careful with its placement. Chipmunks prey on young ovenbirds, so the female avoids building a nest anywhere near a location where she hears chipmunk calls.

Because ovenbird nests are not in trees, chicks do not need to learn to fly before they can leave. They have figured out how to exit by only eight days old.

Soon they flutter about on the forest floor. In a few more days, they are able to fly. The parents feed the chicks for four more weeks, and then the youngsters are independent, hunting among the leaves on the forest floor.

Ornithologist William Brewster once described ovenbird habits:

The mixed flocks of small, insectivorous birds which roam our upland woods during the month of August seldom fail to include Oven-birds ... They are among its least conspicuous members, for they spend most of their time on or very near the ground, rambling about among the woodland plants, often beneath the shelter of dense undergrowth. Apparently they pay no heed to the movements of the throng of Warblers, Vireos and Titmice

which are actively foraging among the upper branches of the trees, but whenever the flock moves on, the Oven-birds are sure to follow. Thus, although they do not often actually mingle with the other birds – at least with the more arboreal ones – they nevertheless keep them close company.

Ovenbirds arrive in our area from their overwintering grounds in the Caribbean in April or May. Look for them in wooded areas. By late August some early migrants will be heading south, but others will wait until October to leave our community.

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.



Brian Rusnica

About half of all eastern cottontail rabbits have a thin white dot on the forehead.

Greg H. asks: I grew up in Somerville. In the 1980s and 1990s, there were zero rabbits around here. None ... From 2009-2013, I lived in Vietnam, where I worked as a teacher. When I came back, around the end of 2013, rabbits were everywhere. And they have been everywhere ever since. Do you know if the rabbits that are all around the city are native to the area? Were they reintroduced?

Jeanine answers: First, let me speak to the easy part: The rabbits you see are eastern cottontails. They

are not native to our region of North America. People introduced them to our area in the late 1800s, and they are now the most common rabbit in Massachusetts.

Our native is the New England cottontail, which prefer foods that grow in young forests: goldenrod, chickweed, wild strawberries, buttercups and so on. Dense old forests prevent these foods from growing, though. New England cottontails are becoming scarcer due to maturing forests and development of our remaining forests.

Eastern cottontails, on the other hand, are very adaptable and willingly move into open spaces such as parks and backyards. Over time, they have increased their range, and they outcompete New England cottontails in shared ranges.

Rabbit populations can fluctuate wildly from year to year. Harsh winters and heavy spring storms can kill many; favorable weather and abundant food can lead to explosive growth. But since rabbits are the fast food of the animal world, an increase in the population leads to

higher reproduction among predators. This in turn leads to a decline in rabbit populations.

The fact that you didn’t see eastern cottontails before but you see them now may indicate that eastern cottontails have expanded their range into your neighborhood and others, where they once were absent. (Feral cats were once more common in our urban areas than they are today, and the presence of these cats may have discouraged the rabbit settlements of the past.)

Wild Things is taking questions

Do you have questions about birds, bugs, bees, butterflies or other wildlife? Send email to wildthings@cambridgeday.com to let us know what you’re wondering about and we will find out the answer.