



WILD THINGS

A baby bird needs help.
What can you do with
confidence you're not making
things worse, considering many
don't last into adulthood?

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THE WEEK
JULY 3-10, 2025
FREE | by CAMBRIDGE DAY

Billionaire Chan
among no-show
property owners

By GANDHARVIKA GOPAL

The billionaire owner of the long-closed AMC Loews theater in Harvard Square did not attend a City Council hearing June 23 on Cambridge's longest-empty storefronts, despite specific calls for his appearance.
A meeting order by vice mayor Marc McGovern urged Gerald Chan to "answer questions and present his plan" for his vacant space, which has been empty for nearly 13 years; Chan has owned it for 10. The order was amended to include all 10 owners of the city's 23 properties empty for five or more years.

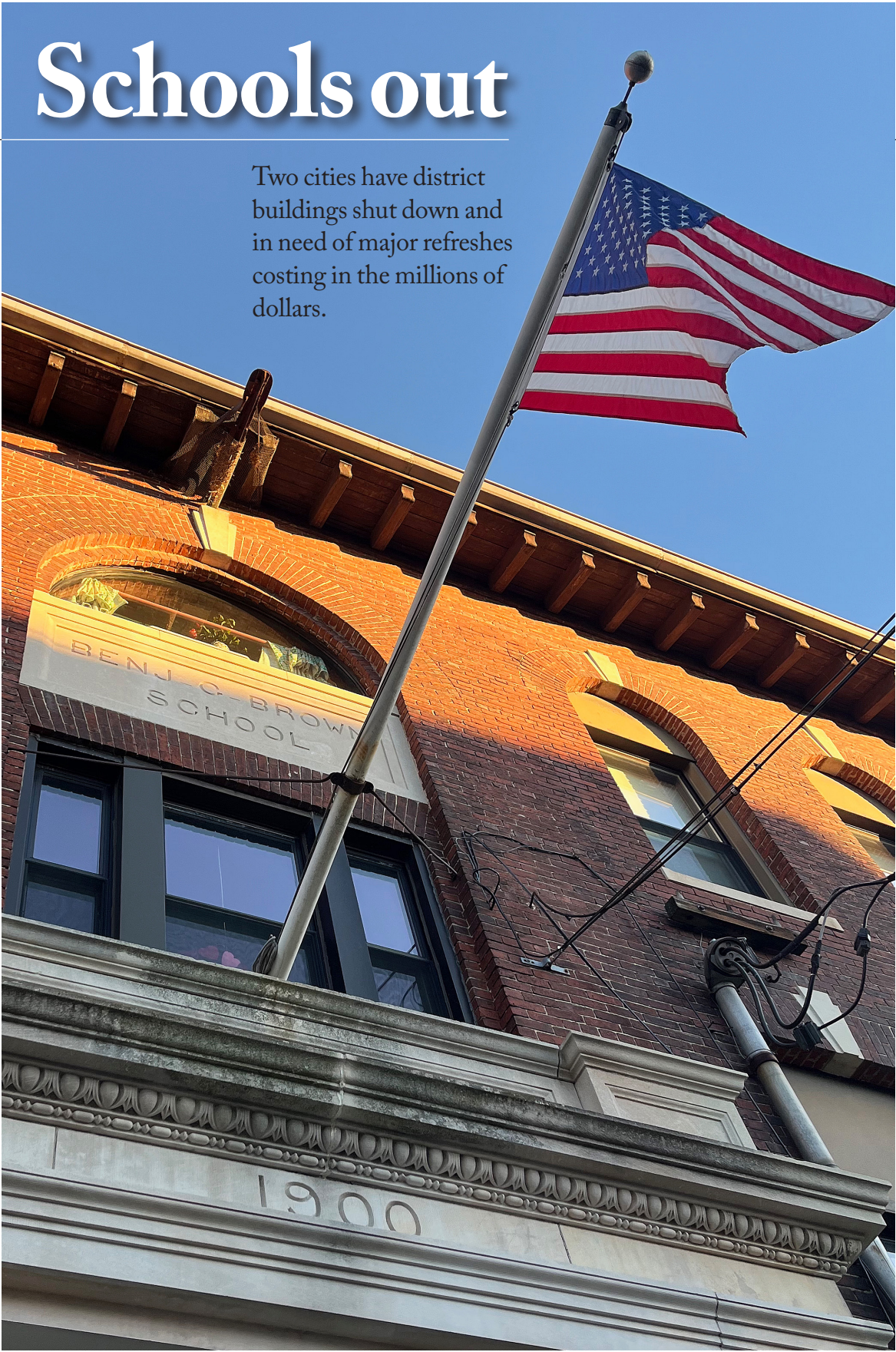
See PROPERTY, Page 3

Somerville plan
keeps shocking
with 2031 date,
student numbers

By MEG RICHARDS

The timeline for school construction in Somerville continues to be the source of fiery back-and-forth around the group tasked with deciding the future of two campuses, which has faced setbacks from the schedules of the many involved and revisions to overlapping processes.
The state's School Building Authority earmarked funding last year for school construction in Somerville, where the Winter Hill Community Innovation elementary school closed in June 2023 over safety concerns and the aging Benjamin G. Brown School school has long been in need of renovation or replacement.
A Construction Advisory Group was appointed last fall to decide whether and where to rebuild Winter Hill and leave the Brown school as is, or to build a new school that could combine the two. The group will give its recommendation to mayor Katjana Ballantyne in October, who will make a decision based on that recommendation by January.
Matthew Daniels, a parent of a Winter Hill child who serves on the CAG, said at its June 10 meeting that people remained "shocked" a construction timeline given in 2023 as five to seven years was amended to 2031 – meaning those hoping to see a building open in 2028 had another three years to wait.
This development was reported in December, but a recent Winter Hill project coffee hour was when some residents learned of it.
Ryan Williams, a Brown school parent who serves on the CAG, said the new school building estimate of 925 students – a possibility up from the original 600 – was another surprise for many.

See SOMERVILLE, Page 4



Schools out

Two cities have district
buildings shut down and
in need of major refreshes
costing in the millions of
dollars.

Cambridge K-Lo
will educate again
as soon as 2026
after \$17M work

By MEG RICHARDS

A nearly \$17 million plan was unveiled June 23 for a new school to replace the Kennedy-Longfellow School as soon as the 2026-2027 school year, though it may be the year that follows.
The East Cambridge campus was always "going to continue to be a CPS school," interim superintendent David Murphy said at the top of the meeting, referring to the Cambridge Public Schools district.
Nearly 50 community members attended the first community meeting for what's called the 158 Spring St. Capital

The school is an
unusually flexible
asset given its size and
fields, which are ideal
for play and sports.

Improvement Project – the night before the Kennedy-Longfellow School saw off its last classes of students.
In the coming months, a feasibility analysis will determine various "possible scenarios" for the space's future, Murphy said, emphasizing that the timeline and aspects of the proposal are tentative. "These types of strategic decisions only come around so often," he said.
Murphy broke down the process into an operational timeline for the facility itself and a "decisional" one for programming that will take place in the building. On how resources will be allocated, there will be "three conversations."

Danielle Howe

Plans for the Benjamin G. Brown School in Somerville are in flux with those for the Winter Hill school.

See K-LO, Page 4

ALMANAC

FOURTH OF JULY IN CAMBRIDGE

Offices, libraries and senior centers close Friday for Independence Day, and payments aren't required at parking meters and parking meter pay stations. The offices at Cambridge Cemetery are closed, though gates are open 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. There is no curbside collection of trash, recycling, compost and yard waste for the day, but it will be collected Saturday. Street cleaning will also be suspended (but was done Monday).

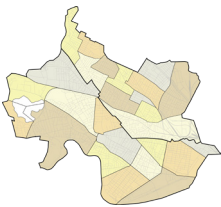
There's a reason Cambridge doesn't bother with its own fireworks: There's no better place to watch **Boston's Fourth of July** than on the banks of the Charles River here. Some 200,000 people do it annually, cramming a closed-to-traffic Memorial Drive. Some arrive hours ahead to claim the best spots.

When
Boston's concert starts at 7 p.m. and ends at 9:40 p.m., with a fireworks display from then to 10:10 p.m. It's audible from Cambridge, and of course the fireworks can be seen.

Who
Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Orchestra invite musical guests including LeAnn Rimes; "Hamilton" star Leslie Odum Jr.; and Boston's Bell Biv Devoe. The Soldiers' Chorus of the U.S. Army Field Band and the Boston Children's Chorus join.

What
In past years, things banned for fireworks watchers have included: coolers on wheels, backpacks glass containers, cans, premixed beverages, grilling, drones and personal fireworks, which police remind are illegal and dangerous, causing 979 fires and explosions in Massachusetts in the past 10 years.

Remember
The Pops' performance is also on WHDH-TV and WBZ-AM beginning at 7 p.m. and nationally on The CW Network from 9 to 10 p.m.



SOMERVILLE

A free Fourth of July celebration took place from 5:30 to 10 p.m. June 25 at Trum Field, 541 Broadway, Magoun Square.

On Friday, municipal offices are closed and trash and recycling pickup are delayed by one day.

The bridges of Cambridge

Text by MARC LEVY | Image by ALICIA SILVESTRI

There are nine bridges between Cambridge and Boston over the Charles River. (Interstate 93 is barely in Cambridge, and access to it is through Somerville and Charlestown; it crosses the Charles at the iconic Leonard P. Zakim Bridge.) Looking at them from west to east:

The Eliot Bridge connects Soldiers Field Road in Boston with West Cambridge, sometimes known as Area 10, and near the Cambridge Boat Club, Buckingham Browne and Nichols private school and the start of Memorial Drive.

The Anderson Memorial Bridge is where North Harvard Street becomes JFK Street and connects Allston and Harvard's campus there with Harvard Square, John F. Kennedy Park and the Weld Boathouse.

The John M. Weeks Footbridge connects the Harvard campuses of Allston (by Soldiers Field Park) and Cambridge (between Dunster and Leverett houses, with access to the park stretching along the Charles River and the Dr. Paul Dudley White Bike Path).

The Western Avenue Bridge connects Allston by Soldiers Field Park and Cambridge, leading directly from Central Square in the River-side neighborhood. (Car traffic heads toward Boston and Allston, not toward Cambridge.)

Monsignor O'Brien Highway connects Boston's North End (including North Station and the TD Garden) with East Cambridge and NorthPoint, including the Cambridge-side Galleria mall. It passes the Museum of Science, which is split between Boston and Cambridge across the river.

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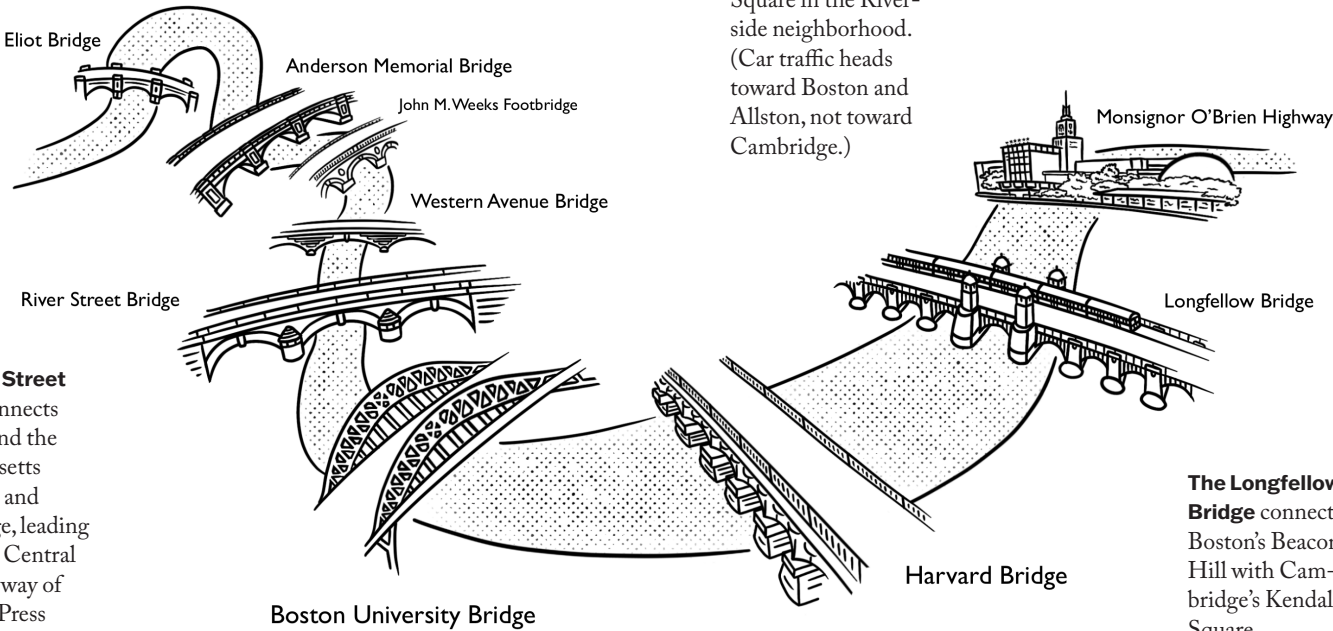
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The River Street Bridge connects Allston (and the Massachusetts Turnpike) and Cambridge, leading directly to Central Square by way of Riverside Press Park. (Car traffic heads away from Boston and Allston, toward Cambridge.) River Street is the border between the Riverside and Cambridgeport neighborhoods.

The Boston University Bridge connects Boston at the start of the Charles River Esplanade and Boston University Sailing Pavilion, as well as Boston University's campus and the Massachusetts Turnpike, with Cambridge at Magazine Beach, providing access to Kendall Square and the Cambridgeport neighborhood.

The unfortunately named **Harvard Bridge** (considering Harvard isn't convenient on either side) brings Massachusetts Avenue from Boston's Back Bay to Lafayette Square and Central Square by way of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (and a section of town sometimes referred to as Area II) with access to its Kresge Auditorium and the famous Infinite Hallway.

The Longfellow Bridge connects Boston's Beacon Hill with Cambridge's Kendall Square.

Property owners and city officials say filling spaces brings challenges

From Page 1

“I was told, ‘Don’t scapegoat anyone, don’t shame anybody, reach out and talk and be polite,’” McGovern said. “I did all that, and they’re still not here. So at what point do we stop being polite?”

The council’s powers to subpoena witnesses was discussed after a March 11 committee meeting on the topic, councillors said afterward, but they opted to try invitations first. Harvard University was another property owner who declined the invitation.

Messages were left Monday with representatives for Chan and his Mayhaw real estate investment firm asking about the nonappearance as well as about plans for 10 Church St. In April, a manager for the firm said staff was working “diligently” on “a new plan to develop the site in an innovative way that will energize both Church Street and Harvard Square.”

There was no reply from either Mayhaw or Chan’s legal representative.

City officials and residents are concerned with the effect on a neighborhood and streetscape resulting from long-term vacant properties. With few legal actions available, the council hoped to engage with owners and enhance resources for small businesses.

“This conversation is not to be a light one,” said councillor Ayesha Wilson, chair of the Economic Development and University Relations Committee. “It’s really one to help to inform the council and the community around the vacancies and what more could we be doing to help support businesses for opening.”

City director of economic opportunity and development Pardis Saffari said property owners face challenges that can make leasing spaces difficult. That might mean bringing buildings up to code – which means finding a contractor and construction materials amid spiraling prices – even before finding a leasing agent and considering candidates to use the space.

“For most of our vacancies, it is not for a lack of trying on the property owners. These things take a lot of time,” said Allyson Allen, Cambridge’s senior economic development manager.

McGovern was skeptical, saying incentives and programs for property owners work only if they’re willing to engage with the city. “[With] the people who want to keep it vacant until they get the perfect deal, or because of the tax write-off, or they don’t really care, it doesn’t work,” he said, “because if they were interested in filling their space, they would have figured it out.”

Three owners share updates

Patricia Birchem, owner of a commercial space at 86 Kirkland St., anticipates renovations for a cannabis dispensary to begin in August at the second of her split storefronts. The dispensary was controversial when it was proposed to the neighborhood, with concerns from Kirkland Village residents about its proximity to a nearby nursery.

David Notter owns the vacant 117 First St. site in East Cambridge, which is part of a larger development. He told the committee nearly 97 percent of its retail property has been leased, and he is working toward 100 percent leasing. “In the meantime, it’s not an eyesore,” Notter said. “Unless you’re looking for it, it’s actually difficult to see that there is a vacant space in the building.”

Tan Prompoy of 1906 Massachusetts Ave., Porter Square, which has been vacant since the Rod Dee Thai restaurant closed in April 2019, spoke to challenges in leasing his space. He’s experienced delays in bringing the building up to code and has struggled with increased construction costs. In the meantime, there’s been trespassing and an encampment of unhoused people at the rear parking lot of the space. The owners were aware of drug use, fence cutting and property damage since the restaurant closed.

The owner called on the city for more collaboration with police and patrols of the property in an effort to address “root causes compassionately.”



Marc Levy

The former location of Rod Dee Thai in Cambridge’s Porter Square remains empty Monday after more than five years.



Marc Levy

Cambridge director of economic opportunity and development Pardis Saffari at a meeting July 19, 2018, about the problem of long-empty storefronts.

“We are not here to criminalize homelessness, but the current situation is creating a safety hazard for both tenant and property,” he said.

Workers at Rod Dee Thai in 2019 said they felt they were being forced out. Another Thai restaurant called Ricen was approved for the space in June 2023. A sign for the never-opened Ricen was recently removed from the building facade.

Concerns from residents

Residents said they see increased homelessness and drug use at other vacant properties too. “They’re being lackadaisical about this,” Central Square resident Al May said of property owners, “and they’re making this community look very unacceptable because of what’s going on.”

David Aurelio, who lives between Harvard and Porter squares, noted the vibrancy of retail neighborhoods such as Brookline and said that in Cambridge there was “no excuse for sidewalk retail to be empty like this” for so many years. “It is hurting the City of Cambridge, and this is eventually going to catch up to us.”

Resident Theodora Francis challenged the council to better address the issue. “After this meeting, what will you do to these businesses that have not bothered to show up?” she asked. “There really needs to be a serious address to this problem.”

Some residents pushed the city to take properties by eminent domain – which was threatened against Chan for the site eight years ago. McGovern noted the tricky legal and financial processes involved, and the risk of lengthy court cases that might follow. The city is still in litigation over the taking of Central Square land called Vail Court for housing in 2016. Councillors were brought into a closed-door session as recently as June 2 for a briefing on Vail Court litigation by the city solicitor.

Other options are few. “We are sort of at our limits,” councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler said. “The difficulty of this conversation is, at least part of it, that we don’t have more powers on the municipal level.”

The city solicitor added that much of what the city can do is set by state law and would likely involve bringing a criminal complaint to district court or imposing a fine – but that has a cap of \$300 a day, and Chan is a billionaire. Fines would have to be imposed uniformly, and the process lacks nuance in dealing with local businesses.

“We wouldn’t have the ability to say, ‘This one’s a real estate trust, this one’s a local family trust’ and determine who to enforce based on what the business is or what the ownership is,” she said.

Future efforts

Economic Opportunity and Development staffers said they would keep providing resources to local businesses and property owners, including workshops, education materials and data collection. City councillors recommended streamlining the process for bringing buildings up to code and making inspection processes faster.

“It’s not to say the city staff isn’t working really hard, but often we are not working smart and we’re not working with the urgency that we need,” councillor Patty Nolan said.

Councillors emphasized the need for property owners to work with the city, or they will consider harsher responses. “You’re kind of leaving us with no choice but to think about what are the heavier things that we can do,” Wilson said. “What are the next steps that we can do, recognizing that some of those next steps may be costly, some of those next steps may be even a bigger challenge.”

No endorsing in Somerville Ward 7 race

By SYDNEY WISE

The Ward 7 Democratic Committee isn’t endorsing a candidate for the Somerville City Council’s open Ward 7 seat after a vote failed to produce the 60 percent majority required by group bylaws.

The committee voted after hosting candidates Michael Murray, Wilbert Pineda and Emily Hardt for a Zoom forum on June 18. Each seeks the seat held by councilor Judy Pineda-Neufeld, who stepped down Monday without finishing out her term.

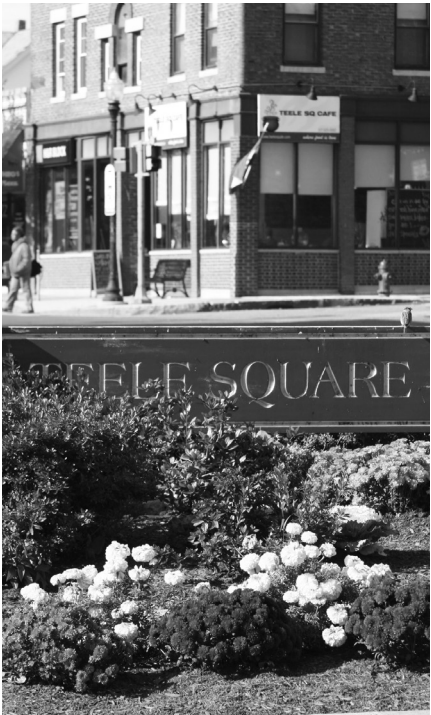
Thirty-five members of the committee cast votes through an online ballot. Pineda and Hardt each got 45.7 percent of the vote, while Murray got 2.9.

“While Ward 7 Dems stopped short of endorsing in the Ward 7 councilor race, it’s clear which two candidates are favored to advance from the preliminary election Sept. 16,” said the committee’s Ward 7 chair, Justin Klekota, in an email. Klekota is himself running for councilor at large.

Pineda and Hardt were included in the email with comments welcoming the news. “I am grateful to the Ward 7 Democratic Committee members for their votes of confidence in me. From my conversations with Ward 7 voters, I know that people want leaders who will stand up for our values, community and quality of life. I can’t wait to put my experience as an educator, nonprofit leader and union organizer to work to get results for the residents of Somerville and Ward 7,” Hardt said.

“Ward 7 is ready. The next generation is stepping up. I’m fired up, grateful and just getting started. Every voice matters. Let’s continue building this future together,” Pineda said.

Murray’s focus in the race is developing a fenced-in parcel called The Pit that’s been empty since a 2011 fire, and it was a topic he addressed during the forum. “It may have been awkward of me to bring up that the owner of The



Tim Sackton via Flickr

Representation for Somerville’s Ward 7, including Teele Square and its infamous undeveloped “Pit,” is up for grabs in the coming election.

Pit, Binoj Pradhan, is a member of the Ward 7 Democratic Committee hosting the candidate forum, and that Mr. Pradhan has been a major donor to Somerville elected officials who are also on the committee,” Murray said. “The whole thing is a little too cozy for productivity and contributes to why we’ve had a dirt pit in Teele Square for 13 years and counting.”

All three candidates remain on the ballot for the Sept. 16 primary, which will narrow the race to two candidates. The committee has offered to host a debate for these candidates before the general election Nov. 4.

METRO

Grand jury indicts Harvard’s Petrova on felony charges

By JOHN HAWKINSON

A federal grand jury handed up a five-page indictment on June 25 charging Kseniia Petrova with three felony crimes: concealment of a material fact; false statement; and smuggling.

Petrova is a Harvard computational biology researcher who was charged and arrested through a criminal complaint (written by prosecutors and without a grand jury) in May for bringing frog embryos-in-formaldehyde through Logan Airport in February, then held in immigration detention until May. She is a Russian citizen who fears being returned to her home country.

Petrova appeared for a probable cause hearing last June 18 in federal court.

The grand jury indictment, which is legally necessary for her prosecution to continue, adds two crimes beyond the smuggling charge in the May criminal complaint.

For the concealment of a material fact charge, the indictment says “she imported and brought into the United States multiple fixed and embedded frog embryos, which are required to be declared” – but without declaring the items to a Customs and Border Protection agent.

She “knowingly and willfully falsified, concealed, and covered up by trick, scheme, and device, a material fact,” the indictment says.

For the false statement charge, the indictment says that “when asked by a CBP agricultural specialist if she had any biological material in her possession, she stated no.”

And for the smuggling charge, the indictment says that she “fraudulently and knowingly imported and brought into the United States, merchandise” defined as “goods, wares and chattel of every description,” including multiple fixed and embedded frog embryos, contrary to law” requiring that certain materials “brought into the United States by any individual must be declared to a CBP officer at the port of first arrival.”

At the probable cause hearing, the false statement and smuggling issues were discussed.

Defense attorney William Fick addressed the issue of the “No” answer to questions about biological materials at the June 18 hearing:

“The officer at secondary inaccurately tells Miss Petrova that she falsely answered a question at primary when in fact that did not occur,” Fick said. “And so the assumption embedded in this question asked at secondary – that the officer got Miss Petrova to agree to – is wrong.”

Fick also addressed the smuggling charge last week: “The smuggling statute only covers merchandise that hasn’t been invoiced. It’s not any object in the world that hasn’t been declared. Those are different words.”

Because the grand jury indictment was handed up, the briefing ordered by the magistrate judge



Cora Anderson

Kseniia Petrova, right, in a photo shared by friend Cora Anderson, left, who set up crowdfunding to help with Petrova’s legal expenses.

last week (due June 25 and Wednesday) will no longer be expected to occur in that form; instead those issues will likely be raised during the course of the criminal case.

Fick declined to comment on the indictment.

K-Lo is due for \$17M upgrades on way back to use for education

From Page 1

One is about “the future of the K-Lo: a conversation to determine the building’s future, about programming and about the fields and outdoor resources surrounding the school. Of a projected \$16 million to 17 million, there will be \$10 million going into “enhancing building infrastructure” to extend the lifespan of the building, with the rest going toward the fields and outdoor resources and “how to best utilize them.”

A recommendation to the School Committee to close the 51-year-old, K-5 school at 158 Spring St., East Cambridge, was first presented by Murphy at a Dec. 10 meeting with K-Lo community members. Before that came meetings where he showed how a disproportionate number of number of high-needs students were housed at the K-Lo, accompanied by low test scores – and alluded to a necessary change.

A major point of the June 23 presentation was making clear the district’s goal for this project, which is to “put more students in a better position to succeed” with a particular focus on higher-need students – including but

“We are not building a new school.”

David Murphy,
interim superintendent

not limited to students with disabilities, students who are learning English as a second language and students from low-income households.

Much of the discussion was about the “asset” the school represents, Murphy said, pointing to its rare “flexibility” given its size and the fields surrounding it, which are ideal for play and sports.

There were several areas for improvement noted in the presentation, broken down into categories of aesthetics, operations and facilities for the students. Murphy said that operational areas of improvement – such as plumbing, electrical systems and HVAC – will be prioritized.

“We are not building a new school,” Murphy said. “We know that this building has enough things wrong with it that, based on the financial limitations of this capital improvement



Marc Levy

The Kennedy-Longfellow School in East Cambridge.

project, we’re going to have to prioritize these operational pieces first.”

Next steps include the completion of a feasibility study – specifically, identifying challenges and opportu-

nities within the facility – and holding additional public engagement sessions to inform the community about aspects of the initiative and its objectives, he said.

By next fall, the district hopes to appoint a construction manager and begin considering “multiple scenarios for strategic use” of the space. The school can fit 650 students, but the number of students placed there will be decided by programming needs, Murphy said.

One parent felt \$10 million was low for building improvements given the investment in other buildings nearby such as housing projects and labs.

“This is a Cambridge community investment,” Murphy said. “Ultimately, you as a community at large are well served by the investments that were made ... and it’s also true that the nature of the finance system that we are living under is such that there is not going to be another investment of that magnitude in the short term.”

No state School Building Authority money is helping with the project because of its relatively swift timeline – nor does it fall within the “types of projects the MSBA does funding for,” Murphy said.

No decisions have been made about what school will be at Spring Street next, but there is a “distinct possibility” it will be home to another existing CPS school.

Dates have not been set for the next community meetings coming over the summer and into the fall to share proposals and “engage public thinking,” Murphy said. “There’s a lot more to do.”

“It’s okay to disagree, it’s okay to have lively debate. We should also not lose sight of how fortunate we are to be having this conversation,” Murphy said.

Somerville school building plan keeps shocking in size and target date

From Page 1

“To hear 900 was not something that anyone was really familiar with outside of this group,” he said.

There have been a lot of questions about what more information the mayor needs to make a decision on the schools, Williams said.

When the meeting was opened to feedback from community members, that was the focus for one Winter Hill parent.

“An issue that we’re stuck on is that the mayor may not make a decision until January, and if the CAG is presented with their data and is coming to a recommendation in October, it’s not clear to us as the school community why it should take many, many months for the mayor to look at that recommendation – which I imagine would be one piece of paper – and come to her conclusion,” she said. “The fact that we’ve waited for two years to just have any sense of certainty about what is going to happen has been very difficult.”

Mayoral chief of staff Nikki Spencer responded, saying the mayor has

heard that feedback “loud and clear,” and is “willing to give the CAG more time” to make a decision on its recommendation.

“I don’t think you’re understanding my point,” the parent replied. “I don’t want the CAG to have more time, I want the mayor to have less time,” she said, explaining that she doesn’t see why the mayor couldn’t come to a decision by November if the CAG makes its recommendation by October. “You know, it’s not going to be that difficult for her, because she’s had two years to think about what all the options are.”

Spencer acknowledged that constituents expressed “frustration” to her at the coffee hour, but she’s also heard concern that the working group needed time for its own process.

The work can be affected by the lives of people involved. The group’s June 10 meeting was held online-only when Stacie Smith, of the Consensus Building Initiative, who is charged with leading the group, experienced a scheduling conflict. That drew repeated concerns from city councilor Kristen Strezo for “making

people sit on a two-and-a-half-hour Zoom call.” During it, a consultant described the difficulties in finalizing a survey because it was hard to get people together as groups to give opinions. And Rich Raiche, director of infrastructure and asset management for the city, was not able to attend due to a family emergency, so updates on the Brown school were moved to the July meeting.

Though reports from coffee hours held for Brown and Winter Hill communities were expected, Raiche’s absence meant city director of communications Denise Taylor could talk only about the Winter Hill event she attended.

She reported “pretty strong turnout” and parents “still anxious to have clarity” with “concerns about where their children will be going to school.”

It was at the Winter Hill meeting that many people learned of the 2031 timeline for school construction, Daniels said, and “people were disappointed there wasn’t more concrete information at the event. [It was] the first communication they’d heard in 18 months.” The city and mayor tend

“not to answer questions directly,” Daniels said.

Also at this meeting, Amara Anosike, chief of staff at Somerville Public schools, presented on topics such as diversity, school location and size, asking members of the CAG to consider these factors when asked their opinion on a final project. If the Brown and Winter Hill schools were combined, many students would have to travel much farther distance in dense traffic to get to school, outside researchers told the district.

Marta Pastrian, a Brown school parent, said people were “very clear that they don’t understand the idea of combining the schools,” which affected the ability to walk to drop off or pick up students and would result in a scale that would no longer feel like a community school.

The next CAG meeting is scheduled for July 14, when a revised survey will be presented with simplified language and with questions regarding broader city priorities moved to an optional section to prioritize feedback on the Brown and Winter Hill schools specifically.

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

BUSINESS & MONEY

TEN FAVORITE BITES (AND SIPS!) FROM SUMMERTIME BENEFITS

Cambridge Taste

By MADISON LUCCHESI

Cambridge Taste returned to University Park in Central Square for its 19th annual food festival June 25, giving festivalgoers two hours of unlimited food and drink samples from 44 vendors.

Vendors donate their time, staff and food to the event, using sponsor-provided kitchen supplies so the proceeds of ticket – \$72 each – can go to benefit local charities. This year’s benefi-

ciaries were Cambridge Camping, Tutoring Plus and the Barron Scholarship Fund. The event has raised more than \$350,000 since its launch.

With ample seating in the park and buckets of free water bottles, attendees could relax in the shade on an 82-degree evening and listen to the DJ as they scoped out their next bite.

Here are the 10 best thing I tried:



Mestizo Modern Mexican *Barbacoa taco*

After a multiday heat wave, a nice taco was exactly what I needed to feel and taste the joys of summer. Served on a warm corn tortilla, the juicy, flavorful barbacoa paired well with pickled cabbage, avocado and cilantro. The Mestizo team passed out business cards inviting festivalgoers to its all-you-can-eat taco nights in Kendall Square every Sunday after 4.



Cambridge School of Culinary Arts *Blood orange hibiscus iced tea “sangria”*

On a hot summer day, this is exactly what I’ll need (and thankfully, CSCA gave out coupons for another drink at its Porter Square cafe). Made with Mem Tea products, the nonalcoholic sangria blended blood orange and hibiscus beautifully. The refreshing berry drink was served over ample amounts of ice and garnished with a smashed blueberry.



Cambridge School of Culinary Arts *White chocolate raspberry macarons*

Macarons are a hard pastry to make, but not for these chefs. While the white chocolate cookie pieces presented a firm bite into a soft pastry, the star of the dessert was the delectably light and refreshing raspberry filling. I’m not usually a fan of macarons, but I’ll be dreaming about these until I get my hands on another one.



The Smoke Shop BBQ *Cornbread*

The Smoke Shop BBQ’s cornbread was light, not too dense, and all-around perfect. While I didn’t love the pulled pork it was paired with, I can only imagine how delicious the cornbread would be warm and buttered at the restaurant.



Just Salad *Crispy chicken poblano salad*

An amazing palate cleanser between a lot of heavy bites. With grated cotija cheese, lime, avocado and roasted corn, the salad looked appealing – and the smoky poblano dressing tasted even better, with just enough kick to brighten up a common concoction of ingredients. I’ll be using my Cambridge Taste coupon code to get a full serving at its North Point location.



Russell House Tavern *Griddle corn cake with salmon pate*

Russell House Tavern served a dish not on its regular menu: griddle corn cakes topped with salmon pate. The corn cake was small, resembling in every way a pancake, with bits of corn throughout. The salmon pate livened the dish with its smooth, smoky flavoring, reminiscent of an afternoon tea finger sandwich.



Gufo *Snap pea Caesar*

After reading about this dish, the one Madeleine Aitken was dreaming about at the Taste of Somerville, I was eager to get my hands on it at my first Cambridge Taste. Gufo’s snap pea Caesar is a dish of sliced snap peas coated in a creamy Caesar dressing with crispy breadcrumbs on top. The balance between the few, simple ingredients maintained the power of the snap pea and married it well with the classic Caesar elements.



Sumiao Hunan Kitchen *Spicy crunchy cucumbers*

Exactly as its name says: crunchy upon the first few bites, spicy when the chili oil hits. The dish is served as an appetizer at the Kendall Square restaurant, which was named Boston Magazine’s Best Chinese Restaurant of the year.



Paperback Tavern *Chasing Summer mocktail*

This mocktail from a Hyatt Regency hotel eatery in Area II featured pineapple and lychee blended in a lemonade. While the lychee flavoring was lost, the pineapple lemonade was cravable. I went back for a second cup and then a third.



Iggy’s Bread *Sourdough bread*

As a huge bread lover, my eyes were drawn to the gigantic wheels of sourdough from across the festival. The rolls taken from them came buttered with a crisp crust and delicate, soft inside. The owners of Iggy’s Bread run the Imagine cafe at 358 Huron Ave. – named a best bakery-cafe of the year by Boston Magazine, and I’ll be checking it out next.

Taste of Somerville

By MADELEINE AITKEN

More than 50 restaurants took part as the Somerville Chamber of Commerce hosted its 27th annual Taste of Somerville on June 11. To date, the food festival has raised about \$1 million for Somerville nonprofits; proceeds from this year’s event, held for the first time at Boynton Yards near Union Square, went to the Somerville Homeless Coalition.

For \$65, visitors – generally between 900 and 1,200 of them – get to spend three hours trying unlimited food and drink samples. bites. It’s a pretty good deal.

The event featured live music, lawn games and plenty of seating, an impressive showing of “community” in every sense of the word.

Here are 10 of the best things I tried:



Forge Baking Co. & Ice Cream Bar *Pear sorbet*

Wednesday was a warm day, and when Taste of Somerville started at 5 p.m., the sun was still high in the sky. Upon walking in, I saw Forge was serving ice cream and made a beeline for its table. Pear sorbet sounded like a perfectly light, refreshing treat, and it was. The pear flavor was pronounced without being overpowering, and the sorbet was just the right consistency.



The Neighborhood Restaurant & Bakery *Cornbread*

The Neighborhood is known for its cream of wheat, which it was serving at the festival and was very good, but what I loved perhaps even more was its cornbread. It was incredibly moist and soft, with a distinctive corn taste. Sweet and savory, this bite melted in my mouth and was among the best cornbreads I have ever had.



Gufo *Snap pea Caesar*

I tried this at Taste of Cambridge last year and have not stopped thinking about it since. I was thrilled to see Gufo had a table at Taste of Somerville and was again serving this salad. The fresh crunch of the snap peas offset the creaminess of the dressing, with thin slices of watermelon radish adding a nice zestiness and a topping of toasted breadcrumbs bringing it all together.



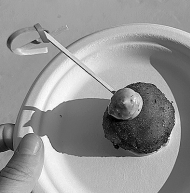
Lone Star Taco Bar *Spicy black bean tostada*

Like Gufo, Lone Star was at Taste of Cambridge last year – a benefit of being on the border, I suppose – but with a different menu item. This year’s tostada was made up of a flavorful black bean puree atop a crispy tortilla and topped with avocado tomatillo salsa and queso fresco. I would have loved a thicker spread of the puree, but this was a really tasty bite with nice crunch.



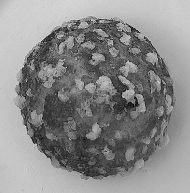
Lotus XPress *Orange chicken*

Served with vegetable lo mein, Lotus Xpress’ orange chicken was everything you want from the dish. The chunks of meat were lightly battered, so they were simultaneously crispy and juicy, and the orange sauce was sweet and tangy with just the right amount of orange flavor. It didn’t feel overly heavy and was a great complement to the noodles.



Vera’s *Crispy pea risotto arancini with herb aioli*

In addition to a lovely mocktail, Vera’s was serving a rich and delicious arancini. The rice balls were crispy on the outside and full of creamy risotto with large peas; an herb aioli added a vibrant, fresh punchiness. It certainly would have been better freshly fried, but the fact that it was still that enjoyable seemed like a testament to its quality.



Café Saint-Germain *Chouquette*

Choquettes, or petits choux, are small spheres of choux pastry that have been sugared and baked, I learned from the kind person staffing Café Saint-Germain’s table. What a delightful little treat! These were incredibly light and airy, with a delicately sweet and slightly eggy flavor and a subtly crunchy exterior from the pearl sugar. I could have easily eaten 10 of these.



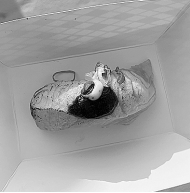
Los Amigos Taqueria *Al pastor taco*

Los Amigos’ al pastor taco was served on a soft corn tortilla and topped with a green salsa and pico de gallo. The meat was incredibly flavorful, and the salsa provided a nice herby freshness. I always appreciate an al pastor that has pineapple chunks you can actually see and taste, and this one was heavy with them.



Aeronaut Brewing Co. *Lemonatti*

My feelings on beer are generally pretty tepid, so it’s always a win when I find one I genuinely enjoy. The Lemonatti from Aeronaut, one of three beers it served at the festival, was crisp and refreshing with a tart, lemony flavor. Reminiscent of a shandy, this was a perfect sip on a summer night.



Ebi Sushi *Torched salmon nigiri*

Watching the chef construct these was watching an artist at work. He shaped the rice expertly, added a dab of eel sauce to affix the salmon to the top and seared it lightly with a small blowtorch before topping it with more sauce, a touch of truffle mayonnaise and scallions. The result was delicious, with the salmon surface slightly crisped and the sauces adding extra bite.

EVENTS AHEAD JULY 3-10

Noon to 1 p.m. July 9
Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy St., near Harvard Square, Cambridge

Exhibition Tour: “Edvard Munch: Technically Speaking”

Free. An in-depth tour of Norwegian artist Edvard Munch’s exhibit “Technically Speaking,” available for viewing through July 27.

1 to 4 p.m. July 7
Cambridge Common, 1500 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge

250th anniversary of the U.S. Army

Free. (Rescheduled from June 14.) A city-run, family-friendly event to recognize “this significant milestone in American history” and honor the service and sacrifice of Army personnel, past, present and future. The event includes a bounce house; an obstacle course to “test your Army skills” and 90-gallon dunk tank to “test your accuracy and aim”; petting zoo with a pony; caricature artist and face painting; food and music from Monkeys with Crayons and the Uncle Sam Jazz Band. Organized by the city of Cambridge and Office of the Mayor in partnership with the Cambridge Veterans Services Office.

Longfellow House and the Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site, 105 Brattle St., West Cambridge

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 5

“Headquarters of a Revolution: The 250th Anniversary of Washington’s Arrival in Cambridge”

Free. This special event includes historian talks, family activities, living historians portraying George Washington (John Koopman), Martha Washington (Sandy Spector) an William Lee (Quinton Castle) and story walks.

3 p.m. July 6

Poetry reading: Robert Pinsky

Free. The New England Poetry Club sponsors this reading with the U.S. poet laureate reading from his recent book, “Proverbs of Limbo.”

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

5:30 to 7 p.m. July 3

Rijah performs

Free. This Jersey girl brings light jazz, a husky voice and picaresque tunes as part of the Berklee College of Music’s Summer in the City concert series, and you can’t help but appreciate the effort to work “petrichor” in any set of lyrics.

3 p.m. July 6

BCM Fest

Free to \$28. A twice-annual homegrown celebration of music, song and dance from Irish, Scottish, Cape Breton, Quebecois and other Celtic communities. The event includes a free outdoor show on Palmer Street from 3 to 5 p.m., with evening shows beginning 7 p.m. for which tickets are \$25 to \$28.

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 3
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., in the Baldwin neighborhood near Harvard Square, Cambridge

“Emeralds” exhibit

\$15 (including access to the attached Peabody Museum). A new, intimate collection of stunning crystals, gemstones and jewelry.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. July 8
Fresh Pond Apartments, 364 Rindge Ave., Cambridge

Cambridge Book Bike

Free. The Book Bike visits 10 parks over the summer to give away free books and run activities for Cambridge children of all ages. This program is in conjunction with the city’s Summer Food program.

Noon to 12:45 p.m. July 10
Houghton Library, at Quincy and Harvard streets in Harvard Yard, Cambridge

“All Stars: The Sensational History of Athletics as Entertainment” exhibit

Free, but register. Curators Matthew Wittmann and Karintha Lowe of the Harvard Theatre Collection discuss their exhibition of the wild period before athletes went professional, when boundaries between sport, theater, and spectacle were blurred. The curators will point out highlights from the materials on display during a guided tour.

1 to 2:30 p.m. July 5
Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn St., West Cambridge

Discover Mount Auburn Introductory Walking Tour

Free, but registration required. This 1.5-mile walking tour will focus on stories of history, monuments, and the lives of those buried at this National Historic Landmark.

7 to 9 p.m. July 10
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 56 Brattle St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

A Night in Spain: Music and Food

\$30. Tapas, sangria and live music and dance, Spain without leaving Cambridge.

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

7 p.m. July 7

Christopher Shaw Myers reads from “Robert Shaw: An Actor’s Life on the Set of Jaws and Beyond”

Free. Christopher Shaw Myers, nephew of actor Robert Shaw (best known for his portrayal of Quint, the shark hunter in Steven Spielberg’s blockbuster film “Jaws”), discusses his book recounting the stories his uncle regaled him of “Jaws,” just in time for the movie’s 50th anniversary.

7 p.m. July 8

Peter Swanson reads from “Kill Your Darlings”

Free. New York Times bestselling author of “Eight Perfect Murders” and “The Kind Worth Killing” and winner of the New England Society Book Award discusses his new thriller “Kill Your Darlings” – a very literary mystery in which the marriage of a published poet and teacher of English literature is unfolded backward (shades of Pinter’s “Betrayal”) to a horrible act committed decades earlier.

7 p.m. July 9

Molly Beer reads from “Angelica: For Love and Country in a Time of Revolution ”

Free. Nonfiction writer Molly Beer discusses her new book, a view of revolution through the life of Angelica Schuyler Church, Alexander Hamilton’s “saucy” sister-in-law, who was at the heart of salons in Paris and somehow also in the middle of all the big events of early U.S. history – and switching identities as needed. At one point, writes the bookstore, “She was Madame Church, wife of a privateer turned merchant banker, whose London house was a refuge for veterans of the American war fleeing the guillotine in France. Across nationalities, languages and cultures, across the divides of war, grievance and geography, Angelica wove a web of soft-power connections that spanned the War for Independence, the postwar years of tenuous peace and the turbulent politics and rival ideologies that threatened to tear apart the nascent United States.” Close enough to the Fourth of July to count.

7 p.m. July 10
Porter Square Books, 1815 Massachusetts Ave., Porter Square, Cambridge

Mary Jo Bang reads from “Paradiso”

Free. Poet Mary Jo Bang’s translation of “Paradiso” completes a reworking of Dante’s 14th century masterpiece with language and references recognizable to readers in the 21st century without, apparently.. losing meaning or majesty. “Bang has recognized that the ‘Comedy’ is a living poem,” author Shane McCrae says. “Having translated it into a language alive to the very moment in which it is meant to be read, Bang has done the impossible: she has revitalized that which is eternal.”

7 to 8 p.m. July 9
Grolier Poetry Book Shop, 6 Plympton St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

Poets Jiwon Choi, Frances Donovan and Gloria A. Monaghan

\$5 to \$10, but register. With an introduction by Eileen Cleary and Mark Pawlak.

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

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

7 p.m. July 5
Somerville Theatre's Crystal Ballroom, 55 Davis Square
Taylor Swift trivia night and dance party

\$20 to \$31. Individuals and groups answer questions about Taylor Swift and compete in an “Eras” costume contest. Don’t forget to bring your friendship bracelets to trade!

8:30 p.m. July 7
The Rockwell, 255 Elm St., Davis Square, Somerville

New Material Comedy Night

Free. Hosted by Andrew Della Volpe, comedians try out their new material with audience suggestions and experimental comedy.

6:30 to 9 p.m. July 9
Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Spring Hill, Somerville

Somerville Poetry Workshop

Flexible pricing. Each session begin with two city poets or summer poems; classes end with 20-minute readings by visiting poets. Topics will include form, line, structure and generative writing.

6 to 8:30 p.m. July 10
Top of the Artisan West Parking Garage at Assembly Row, 355 Artisan Way, Assembly Square, Somerville

“Bar Stars 2025”

\$40. Watch bartenders make their restaurants’ signature drinks to compete for your vote. Restaurants include Cocolee, Earls Kitchen + Bar, Fuji at Assembly, Legal Sea Foods, Lucky Strike, Outback Steakhouse, Parla XXI, Posto, Ruth’s Chris Steakhouse, Salt + Stone, The Lawn Bar, The Row Hotel, The Smoke Shop BBQ, Toca Chida and Tony C’s.

8:30 p.m. July 10
Great Lawn at Assembly Row, 399 Revolution Drive, Somerville

Movies on The Lawn: “Paddington in Peru!”

Free. The second of three monthly events welcomes families and friends to bring blankets to this outdoor movie. This 2024 film follows Paddington and the Brown family as they visit Aunt Lucy in Peru and takes them on a journey through the Amazon rainforest and to the mountain peaks of Peru.

6 p.m. July 10
Bow Market, 1 Bow Market Way, Union Square, Somerville

Kintsugi workshop for beginners

\$125. Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with natural lacquer and gold powder. Class time is three hours long and you will be provided with all the materials you need – including broken pottery.

7, 9 and 11 p.m. July 4-5
Goofs Comedy Club, 432 McGrath Highway, East Somerville

Brian Parise comedy

\$25. Emmy-winning stand-up and writer Brian Parise (“Last Week Tonight” and “Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj”) handles color commentary for the Fourth of July and its aftermath.

7 to 9 p.m. July 5
Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., East Cambridge

“Nocturnes” concert

\$20. The concert features singer and composer Shira Laucharoen, who will present original musical-theater inspired works as well as classic Broadway selections.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. July 10
Donnelly Field (Berkshire and York streets), East Cambridge

Cambridge Book Bike

Free. The Book Bike visits 10 parks over the summer to give away free books and run activities for Cambridge children of all ages. This program is in conjunction with the city’s Summer Food program.

2 to 5 p.m. July 5
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 9 p.m. July 10
The MIT Museum, 314 Main St., Kendall Square, Cambridge

After Dark Series: Tangible

\$10 to \$20 and 21-plus. Hands-on play such as designing your own musical instrument or using flexible mesh structures for interactive, expressive creations. Craft your own DIY stress ball. Get live demonstrations of work by Hiroshi Ishii, including a shapeshifting tabletop that changes based on hand movements above it and an interface that lets you become digital, then interact digitally with the physical world – like an online avatar that can push a button, play with a ball or maybe even remove a tumor from a world away.

10 p.m. to midnight July 9
Lilypad, 1353 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge

The Lilypad Variety Show

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

5 to 7 p.m. July 9
Cambridge Main Library, 449 Broadway, Mid-Cambridge

Summer Art Nights: acrylic painting

Free, but register. Printmaker and painter Brooke Lambert teaches the techniques of acrylic painting. The library will provide all materials.

4:45 to 8 p.m. July 8
Nature Center at Magazine Beach, 668 Memorial Drive, Cambridgeport

Summer nights paddling

Free, but register and 12-plus. This guided ecotour by kayak welcomes paddlers of all abilities. Gear is provided, and the program begins with beginner paddler instruction.

4 to 5 p.m. July 5
Lamplighter Brewing, 284 Broadway, The Port, Cambridge

Lamplighter’s “Beer School” tour and tasting

\$34, but 21-plus. For this monthly event, each ticket includes one 6-ounce welcome beer and a flight of samples, a guided tasting and behind-the-scenes brewery tour, a beer school “quiz” (with an answer key) and a Lamplighter Beer School diploma.

LOCAL FOCUS



Melinda Dillon and Richard Dreyfuss in “Close Encounters of the Third Kind,” which screens Friday at The Brattle Theatre.

‘The Spawn of Jaws’: Get a close encounter with era’s blockbusters

By OSCAR GOFF

To local cinephiles, the Fourth of July weekend usually means fireworks, barbecues and **The Brattle Theatre’s** annual screenings of “**Jaws**” (1975). This year is a little different: Since the Brattle already screened Spielberg’s man-vs.-fish epic as part of “Reunion Week” series, The Brattle’s programmers are taking a slightly different tack with a series celebrating the film’s incalculable influence. With “**The Spawn of Jaws: Blockbusters and Wannabe Blockbusters**,” The Brattle brings to the screen some of the most iconic (and, in some cases, infamous) spectacles to appear in the great shark’s wake. Spielberg is well-represented, with “**Close Encounters of the Third Kind**” (1977, screening Friday), “**Raiders of the Lost Ark**” (1981, Thursday through Saturday), “**Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade**” (1989, in a double feature with “**Raiders**” on Saturday) and “**E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial**” (1982, screening with the Spielberg-produced “**Poltergeist**” Saturday and Sunday). Thursday brings a nigh-irresistible double feature of Ridley Scott’s “**Alien**” and James Cameron’s beefed-up sequel “**Aliens**” (1986).

But some of the most intriguing selections of the series are the also-rans. Take, for example, David Lynch’s original 1984 adaptation of “**Dune**,” which screens on 35 mm Saturday and again on Tuesday, written off at the time as a “Star Wars” knockoff but now a fascinating watch in light of its director’s ensuing career. Monday brings a double feature of two of the most bonkers genre films of the 1980s, John Carpenter’s gleefully pulpy “**Big Trouble in Little China**” (1986) and the deadpan-comic “**The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the Eighth Dimension**” (1984), which plays a little like if Thomas Pynchon tried his hand at a superhero screenplay. Then there’s the infamous “**Howard the Duck**” (1986), the jaw-dropping bomb that has the distinction of being the first big-screen adaptation of a Marvel comic book; it screens on Wednesday in an ironic double feature with the decade’s biggest superhero movie, Tim Burton’s “**Batman**” (1989).

This week marks the long-awaited reopening of the **Harvard Film Archive**, and the revered institution is coming out swinging with a massive retrospective of a true titan of world cinema.

Though perhaps less well-known on these shores as such contemporaries as Kurosawa or Ozu, Mikio Naruse was no less a master, specializing in humanist, often devastating melodramas highlighting the burdens placed upon women in Japanese society. Beginning Saturday and running until the beginning of November, “**Floating Clouds ... the Cinema of Naruse Mikio**” collects prints of 45 of the director’s works, several making New England debuts. The series kicks off, naturally, with “**Floating Clouds**” (1955, screening Saturday and Sunday), which casts Naruse’s muse, the incredible Hideko Takamine, as a woman desperately trying to rekindle an affair with a married man in postwar Tokyo. Takamine is perhaps even more unforgettable in “**Yearning**” (1964, screening Sunday), in which her final moments are frequently cited as one of the greatest close-ups ever filmed. The first week of the series is rounded out with “**Sudden Rain**” (1956, on Saturday) and “**Sound of the Mountain**” (1954, on Monday), both of which find Naruse working with frequent Ozu leading lady Setsuko Hara.

In today’s climate of endless IP extensions disguised as entertainment, the word “remake” gets an (often deserved) bad rap. There are plenty of exceptions. These are the films making up the **Somerville Theatre’s** new weekly series “**The Great Remakes**,” in which classics of yesteryear are paired in double features with their latter-day updates. The series kicks off Monday with what may be the sterling example of the phenomenon. 1951’s “**The Thing from Another World**” is often held up as a classic of atomic-age creature-feature science fiction, thanks to its chilly antarctic setting and the involvement of producer Howard Hawks. It was a favorite of horror maestro John Carpenter, who drew from the original film and its source material (the novella “Who Goes There?” by John W. Campbell) to create his own vision of “**The Thing**” (1982). Carpenter’s version has since outshone its predecessor thanks to its eye-popping special effects by Rob Bottin, but both films are worth your while.

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



‘The Alto Knights’: Mafia-light

Lots of pedigree in this inspired-by-true-events gangster tale about the infamous Genovese family that controlled much of New York and New Jersey in the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s. It’s helmed by Barry Levinson (“Rain Man,” “Bugsy”) with a script by Nicholas Pileggi (“Goodfellas,” “Casino”) and starring one of moviedom’s most made men, Robert De Niro (“Taxi Driver,” “Goodfellas”). What more could you want? More De Niro? Done: He plays two parts in the film, Frank Costello and Vito Genovese, who as young men became best friends doing dirty deeds for Lucky Luciano – a friendship that would sour years later when Genovese orders a hit on Costello to take control of the business. Costello survives, and from there, much of what goes on in “Alto Knights” is more about affairs at home than lurking in mafia lairs and sanctioning hits, shown largely in rewinds and leaps ahead. It falls in line with the “Godfather” films or even “The Many Saints of Newark” (2021), but isn’t quite on par. The production values are high, the era-recreating sets impressive and De Niro is at his mobster best since “Casino” and “Goodfellas” – “The Irishman” (2019) being another high point. In the roles of the wives, Kathrine Narducci (“The Irishman”) and Debra Messing (“Will & Grace”) match Lorraine Bracco and Edie Falco of “The Sopranos,” especially Narducci’s Anna Genovese in court. The title refers to a social club Vito Genovese hung out at. The supporting cast filling out the myriad small parts is excellent. The film overall, however, has a wispy, ephemeral sheen, especially when it comes to reflecting upon the pantheon of cinematic mob markers.

TOM MEEK

On Max.



‘Delicious’: Just empty calories

Eating the rich and critiques of commercial consumerism have long made their way into cinematic fare, often with devilish bite – from “Parasite” and “Snowpiercer” to George Romero’s iconic meat mall shamble, “Dawn of the Dead” (1978) and, closer to now, the sadistically witty “Saltburn” (2023). “Delicious” aspires to be in that conversation, but in execution, the tale of rich Germans lounging around a French resort town and getting too chummy with the help is a discombobulated, vainglorious hand wave of hotly argued social issues that doesn’t really say anything. Directed by Nele Mueller-Stöfen and shot with allure by Frank Griebbe, the film looks great in framing and posture and begins with a kick: The German family arrives in Provence amid riots. The waitstaff at the resort – most from poor immigrant areas of southern Spain – despise their clientele and often urinate in the wine and Perrier bottles, then put them back in the fridge, later stealing phones, underwear and more. Class and race lines are drawn, but not sharply. The fam is there because wife Esther (Valerie Pachner) comes from money and has taken the reins of the family-owned villa. One night after dinner at the resort’s ritzy restaurant, they have a minor auto mishap with Theodora (Carla Díaz), a young woman who works at the resort. She loses her job and moves in as the house aide and cook and in the process becomes a confidant to the young daughter (Naila Schuberth), sexual fantasy for older son (Joep Paddenburg), relationship advice pal to pa John (Fahri Yardim) and party playmate to Esther. There are whole sections of plot that never tie up or make sense. It plays like pastiche, but one that’s hard to look away from, the darker, humorless B-side of “White Lotus” on a lo-fi budget.

TOM MEEK

On Netflix.



ATTEND

Crater-sized ‘gap year’

By MICHAEL GUTIERREZ

The ink was barely dry on a recent column about Someday Fest helping to fill the void left by no Nice festival (and no Rumble!) this year, when Boston Calling posted via social media that it was taking a “gap year” in 2026. The situation had gone from bad to worse, the absence of the area’s major fest leaving us with an asteroid-sized crater in the middle of the music calendar.

In troubled times, insight into causes of distress can ease our suffering. But no such insight was proffered by Boston Calling. We were left to read the tea leaves, poking through the verbiage of a trifling social media post to understand why an event that makes fans’ hearts go pitter-pat and produces millions of dollars in revenue suddenly evaporated into thin air.

Credit mayor Michelle Wu for shedding some light on the matter during an interview with Mike Macklin on WBZ NewsRadio. Wu highlighted a few items of concerns that festival organizers had confided to her. The concerns included a potential “strain on hotel rooms and events and sponsorships” during a season in which the World Cup was coming to town and Boston was celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

The key item here is likely sponsorships. Ticket revenue alone does not make the engine purr. If Boston Calling faces too much competition for sponsorship money, the festival can’t get off the ground – at least not the type of festival in terms of scale and profitability that the organizers envision. That’s a shitty reality to face, and an unglamorous message to communicate to fans, so instead we’re all fed a cute phrase: “gap year.”

Let’s hope Boston Calling does, indeed, return in 2027: well-tanned, more thoughtful, full of a renewed sense of self and ready to hit the ground running. Whatever a “gap year” is supposed to do. Festivals are a business – but they also become an annual rite of passage for the young and young at heart, who’d be heartbroken if the Ferris wheel ride was coming to a stop.

Hit this

Sunday Summer BCMFest (*Club Passim, Cambridge*)

The Boston Celtic Music Festival makes a special summer appearance at Harvard Square’s musical den of equity, Club Passim. There are plenty of trad folk acts on the bill, just like the annual January edition, but will there be folk dancing too? The one-day event is split into two parts. The first part is free and outdoors, featuring the music of Forsyth and the Clare Fraser Trio. If people want to shake a leg, there’s plenty of square footage on Palmer Street. The second part is indoors, closing out the evening with a mix of trad musicians playing Irish and Scottish tunes of yore.

Tuesday Dolphin Hyperspace, *Evan Marien (Lizard Lounge, Cambridge)*

Years ago a subgenre called “seapunk” launched itself as a gag, signifying nothing in particular besides a loose, pastel-colored, Tumblr-influenced aesthetic of aquatic-themed shitposting. The movement, such as it was, might have peaked with Ri-

hanna’s performance of “Diamonds” on “SNL” in 2012. Bad habits die hard, though. Los Angeles’ Dolphin Hyperspace might be propagating a variant we can call “seajazz.” Electro-inspired adventurism that seems equally moved by the nu-lounge re-appropriation of young acts such as Domi & JD Beck. Progressive jazz bassist and inventor of the hexatonic method Evan Marien will be wearing his swim trunks.

July 10 Wavves, Beach Goons, chokecherry (*The Sinclair, Cambridge*)

If you were listening to indie rock in the late Aughts or early Teens, there was no escaping the omnipresent hype tsunami of So Cal slack rawk darling Nathan Williams and his band Wavves. He was the prime mover of his own cosmos of pot, beach bonfires and detention hall doodles. He teamed up with Bethany Cosentino of Best Coast to form a premiere “it couple” of the era, a Beyoncé & Jay-Z meets Kurt and Courtney, with a dash of Thurston and Kim. Williams looked ready to take over the world as his major label partner Warner Bros. cheered him on. Ultimately, though, the tide went out and Wavves receded into an act of more modest proportions. Maybe there wasn’t enough room for musical growth with reformed surf punk to justify the hype. Wavves has more than enough juice to fill The Sinclair along with fellow Cali crusaders Beach Goons and chokecherry.

Live: Colleen Green at The Rockwell

Colleen Green’s breakthrough album “I Want to Grow Up” turns 10 this year. In honor of the occasion, the indie rocker wore a birthday hat – one of those pointy, colorful cardboard numbers with a thin elastic chin strap – onstage at Davis Square’s favorite black box theatre.

Rozwell Kid, which also served as Green’s backing band, and Headband opened in support.

Green played the birthday album through, start to finish. In 2015 the release represented a leap forward for the artist creatively and professionally. It was her first album recorded in a studio with all (or at least some) of the bells and whistles, capturing her minimalist pop-punk style and blasé wit in high relief. Critics hailed a stoner chic icon in ascendance. The twist was that Green’s major motivation within the narrative of the album is to pull back from immature excess and, like the title says, “grow up.”

Reading through the old reviews, Ben Ratliff at The New York Times wrote an eyebrow-raising blurb. He praised the songs as having a “basic air of competence.” A basic air of competence! Hard to take that as anything but a backhanded compliment. Sure, he followed it up with “toughness” and “self-reliance,” but the snipery had already been sniped. It’s the Gray Lady, though, so you take what you can get.

All the critical handwringing is more or less in the past. Green’s last full-length album, 2021’s “Cool,” pleased audiences who were already fans but otherwise did not equal the splash of “I Want to Grow Up.” If she’s now embarking on anniversary tours, we’re firmly within her nostalgia era.

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

WHAT WE’RE HAVING



Tom Meek

Sushi doughnuts at One Bite in Cambridge’s Inman Square.

Sushi doughnuts at One Bite

By TOM MEEK

The identity of the eatery that was formerly the long-lived Midwest Grill in Inman Square seems to have settled – for now. As of late last year, the locale is One Bite, a pleasantly kitschy nouvelle sushi spot with Chinese influences. This follows Midwest shuttering during Covid, emerging from the shutdown as a Korean barbecue joint, reverting a short time afterward to Brazilian cuisine as JP’s Restaurant, then flipping back briefly to the Midwest moniker – or something like that.

Midwest Grill, in the area at two locations for nearly 30 years, was famous for its all-you-could eat meat skewers. Friendly servers would bring by endless offerings of lean barbecued beef, grilled chicken hearts, smoked sausages and so on. Now, it’s sushi galore, sake and milk tea pudding.

One Bite has a festive Hello Kitty vibe to it, adorned with fluorescent neon and beaming red panda countenances all around the main dining room, with a back bar that screams izakaya in style with an array of flatscreens playing poppy rap songs from around the globe – the common thread seeming to be a bottle of Cristal and a woman in high heels and a bikini to serve it.

Your full nigiri and maki slate is all there, including a special slate with local flair: There’s a Boston Celtics maki (spicy salmon, avocado and shrimp) and Red Sox maki (tempura shrimp, avocado and pepper tuna). Beyond that you can get a sushi taco, sushi doughnut, temari (rice balls wrapped in thin strips of fish) or the One Bite Special Mini Bowl.

For all practical purposes, the taco is similar to maki (lazily wrapped), the doughnut and temari are like nigiri on steroids, and the bite bowls are mini donburis.

Never having done the doughnut and with scant temari experience, these are what I ordered: an eel and avocado doughnut and a hamachi (yellowfin tuna) temari.

Both were bigger than I thought

■ **One Bite, 1124 Cambridge St., Inman Square, Cambridge**

and came adorned with a tempura crunch and an aioli drizzle. The fish was fresh and served at the right temp (cooler than room temperature, but not cold; the eel was cooked), but I could have skipped the aioli (I tend to like my sushi dairy free unless it’s a raw quail egg accent) and I did not make my way through the ample amount of moist, sticky rice.

On the Chinese side of the menu I had shrimp and pineapple fried rice, which came in a carved-out pineapple boat. It too was a hefty portion, a tad dry and a little light on the shrimp and mango, but a pleasing fill-up.

The Chinese slate also offers an array of stone hot pots (lamb belly, chicken and mushrooms, and fish and bean sauce among them) and skewers reminiscent of yakitori. If you’re missing Midwest’s chicken hearts, know you can get chicken gizzards – it should do. Also intriguing on the appetizer menu is the beef wrapped in a scallion pancake.

One Bite has a full bar and a slate of rich milk tea pudding, which is dessert through a straw, and other traditional street beverage offerings. In daytime, it offers pretty much what amounts to a lunchbox with fried rice, stir-fried beans, Taiwanese popcorn shrimp and salt-and-pepper shrimp among the choices.

Like Midwest, One Bite is a dining experience – a place you can pop in for a nosh on the go, but more so a destination to bring the posse to celebrate with sushi and shareables.

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



Magnificent cinnamon chip muffin

Price: \$3.50
Magnificent Muffin & Bagel Shoppe, known affectionately as “Mag Muff,” occupies a small, unassuming storefront in Teele Square. The specialty here are muffins cut in half and toasted in butter on the grill, and they really are magnificent. Of several flavors to choose from, I tried the cinnamon chip. It was soft and tender, with a perfectly crumbly interior that was not the least bit dry, but the griddled-in-butter part is what made it so good. The toasting added just the slightest crust to the edges and a touch of saltiness that balanced the sweetness of the muffin. After enjoying this, it’s hard to imagine eating a room temperature muffin again, and at the price it’s a great option for an inexpensive breakfast or snack on the go, beating out some tempting bagel sandwiches. Mag Muff is cash-only (and lacks its own website), but there’s an adjacent ATM, and it now accepts Venmo. MADELEINE AITKEN

■ **Magnificent Muffin & Bagel Shoppe, 1118 Broadway, Teele Square, Somerville**

ARTS

‘This Must Be The Place’ shows life through the lens of loss



Photographer Diana Carbone’s “This Must Be The Place,” on exhibit at the Lunder Gallery in Cambridge’s Porter Square, resulted from six months of isolation after a loved one’s death.

Claire Ogden

By CLAIRE OGDEN

For six months after her grandfather’s death, photographer Diana Carbone isolated herself from loved ones. The season of reflection and art making birthed a stunning photo book and exhibition.

In Carbone’s “This Must Be the Place,” a solo show on view at the Lunder Art Center, the Lesley University graduate conjures a time capsule of grief and life after loss. She’s got a keen eye for light and can craft visual stories from the most everyday subjects.

The works have a muted palette with an occasional and judicious pop of color. In the portrait “Supervising Yard Work in Plymouth,” an elderly woman peers at a spot off-canvas. Installed to the left, a vertical photo shows a patch of vines in the deepest of greens. On another wall, a woman shields her face from a sun beam, squinting. She’s framed by a shot of melting ice on her left and a sun-dappled box of red raspberries on the right. Carbone manages to immerse you in the sensory delights, the banality and the pain of her grief-stricken routines all at once.

The show’s centerpiece is the “Papa Jim Collection,” a vitrine display case

of family photos. It’s deeply personal, but still manages to invite you in. Viewers are easily able to see themselves in ephemera ranging from wedding photos to vacation snapshots.

Near the gallery’s exit, copies of the accompanying book show the simple yet skillful ways Carbone combined family memories with her recent photography. Those lush raspberries are pasted on top of an image of her grandfather smirking, but one of his eyes is covered. An image from 2024, “Our Bathroom at 4pm,” is atop an old wedding photo, hauntingly covering the groom’s face.

Every image is understated, but they add up to something incredible. You leave the exhibit feeling a deep sense of nostalgia that, like grief, can never be described. “This Must Be the Place” captures all the bittersweet commonplaceness of death, pain and the will to go on living.

The gallery is open to the public on weekends and by appointment during the week.

■ “This Must Be the Place” is on view through Aug. 3 at Lesley University’s Lunder Arts Center, 1801 Massachusetts Ave., Porter Square, Cambridge.

LAUGH

Fourth of July offers the freedom to choose comedy over fireworks

After a summer of soggy weekends, it looks like the weather will genuinely lookup Friday (in temperature and sunshine) for America’s birthday. But for the indoor kids who’d like to take cover and laugh, the Cambridge-Somerville comedy clubs have got you. On the Fourth, The Comedy Studio hosts a Comedy Gold show featuring favorites such as Tooky Kavanagh and Courtney Reynolds. Meanwhile, at Goofs, the weekend’s run of detention features Emmy-winning stand-up and writer Brian Parise. With “Last Week

Tonight” and “Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj” among his credits, he’ll no doubt have something to say about our political climate. (He used his Instagram to help defeat Andrew Cuomo’s run for New York mayor. “The truth is, Cuomo’s a scumbag,” Parisi said in June of sexual assault allegations. “From now on, New Yorkers should only listen to Italians who are honest about their nipples.”) So yes, enjoy your hot dogs and bomb pops during the day, but come nightfall there are options for laughs.

AMMA MARFO



■ Friday’s Comedy Gold: 4th of July Edition at 8 p.m. Friday at The Comedy Studio, 5 John F. Kennedy St., Harvard Square, Cambridge. \$15.

■ Detention featuring Brian Parise at 7, 9 and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Goofs Comedy Club, 432 McGrath Highway, East Somerville. \$25.

Tucker Mitchell

Dance is about to go quiet for July and August

Our June was filled with dance, but considering dancers rehearse for months for a single performance it’s unsurprising that some months see fewer shows – and for July and August, Cambridge-Somerville stages go largely dark. (Theaters also take a two-month summer hiatus.) We asked around to find why the next two months are so reliably quiet, talking with four local heads of companies and longtime dancer-choreographers, and none knew exactly why. The most probable reason, though, is dancer availability: Many go on vacation over the coming months, with some headed to the famed Jacob’s Pillow center in Becket for the festival running through the same months things are all but silent here. Others split their time between the studio and beach, preparing mentally and physically for the upcoming season after an adrenaline-filled spring of shows. “Our company was founded in June of 2024, so having our first show around the one-year date made sense,” Exceptional Dance director Lindsay Gibbons said. The summer is not a total dead zone, either. For some, it’s a great time to debut works in progress. Alexandria Nunweiler has a piece premiering at the July 19 Art-Beat festival in Somerville’s Davis Square. Because it’s part of a larger show, “it’ll be nice to see it on stage in a lower-pressure setting before putting the entire show together,” Nunweiler said. “I just had a show at the beginning of June, so I’m looking forward to things slowing down a little.”

RACHEL HACKAM

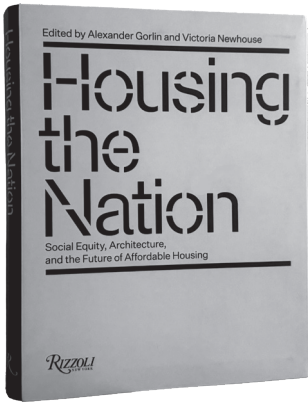
READ

Portfolio of great housing projects offers inspiration against obstacles

By MARC LEVY

Affordable housing is a necessary obsession in our cities, and the entire first section of “Housing the Nation: Social Equity, Architecture and the Future of Affordable Housing” reminds why it should be – that economically the nation is headed for disaster – while making it just as clear in the next sections that there are no great answers immediately available. There are examples and explanations aplenty of problems and pain points in this handsome anthology, including the complexity of compiling enough money for housing projects and the equally labyrinthine task of getting people into those homes, which will soon enough expire as affordable and turn market-rate (or too often just decay). Yet the problem isn’t just the housing fitting a legislated technical category of “affordable” as defined by percentage of average median income; that percentage keeps rising and the stock of housing nationwide keeps going down.

In the middle section come points of view, including a chapter by a for-profit developer who explains well the difficulties built in to the inclusionary model, in which renters paying full fare help subsidize affordable units. It would be this chapter 60 Ellery St. developer Mike Tokatlyan might have wanted to show project neighbors June 6 in saying “When someone doesn’t understand the cost involved, he just attacks the developers as being greedy. Please break it down for me on paper and show me how it would be possible to build [every unit as] affordable.” Solutions seem literally far off, in that the book pines for the social housing being put up in Europe (meaning it’s built as a public good without the complication of profitability, and the affordability of the homes never expires), but this is just as distant politically as geographically for the United States.



The book ends with some optimism in a discussion of mass timber, a carbon-friendly wood product that has plenty of pluses and is proposed for use at 2072 Massachusetts Ave., an all-affordable project with 73 apartments over 12 stories. The lighter, prefab products make for shortened construction, fewer trucks and less noise, with entire projects “literally put together with long screws using electric screw guns, so there’s no heavy drilling,” said Simon Mance, of the project’s Korb Architecture firm. (Some residents have raised concerns about the chemicals used to bind the wood, but there have been no reported problems at Milwaukee’s 25-story high-end Ascent building, which was made with mass timber and opened in 2022; developers there are looking at projects that go even higher.) The 2024 book, edited by architect Alexander Gorlin and architect historian Victoria Newhouse, has even more optimism to offer in a final section, a portfolio of affordable-housing projects from around the country. All the optimism is implied, though, in that seeing what is possible doesn’t make it so.

■ A copy of “Housing the Nation” is listed as available at Porter Square Books and can be ordered there and at Harvard Book Store. \$35.

ARTS

Images from 2025’s Cambridge Dance Party

The Cambridge Dance Party was 6 to 11 p.m. Friday, drawing more than 30,000 joyous people to the streets around City Hall. The annual free and open-air event is called by more than one resident “the best day of the year in Cambridge” (in this case, it was Ari Ofsevit saying it on Bluesky, in response to impressive overhead crowd photos from the city’s account).

This year’s event was a dual party: 25 years for the event itself and 250 years for the community and its history, with a look “forward to the ongoing evolution of the city”; the theme of the party was “Revolutionary Reunion 250.” The Dance Party is organized by the City Manager’s Office, Cambridge Arts and Central Square Business Improvement District.



City of Cambridge



Taylor Coester



Taylor Coester

The streets around City Hall are thronged for Friday’s Dance Party, above at right.



Taylor Coester

The Dance Party includes a multitude of styles and tones. Dragon Collins breakdances during it.



The open-air party had room for friends to dance in a circle, top, and for couples’ dances, above.

Haoran, 6, and brothers Micah, 5, and Kaleb, 8, from left, enjoy popsicles in a break early in the dance.

Taylor Coester

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.

LEGAL NOTICE

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting will be held on **Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM** to consider the following matters under M.G.L. Ch. 40C and Ch. 2.78 of the Code of the City of Cambridge:

This meeting will be held online. The public may participate via Zoom (<https://zoom.us/>) from a phone, tablet or computer. To join the meeting, register at <https://tinyurl.com/CHC-jul2025> or call (301)715-8592. **Webinar ID#: 844 2047 5000.** Meeting materials at <https://tinyurl.com/CHistComm>. Written comments received by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting will be considered by commissioners in advance of meeting. Comments received later will be entered into the record. Email: histcomm@cambridgema.gov.

Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties
Case 5307: 15 Mt Auburn St., by President & Fellows of Harvard College. Demolish existing building and construct a new 3-story building.

Case 5314: 1 Brattle Sq., by BCSP 9 OBS Property LLC o/b/o DISH Wireless. Install telecom antennas on penthouse roof in two concealment structures.

Chandra Harrington, Chair
Cambridge Week , 6/26/25, 7/3/25

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

CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TURN-KEY SERVICES FOR INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEMS AT VARIOUS CHA-MANAGED SITES

The Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) is requesting propos-

als for “turn-key” installation of photovoltaic (PV) systems at various CHA-managed sites on behalf of CHA Solar LLC in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30B §56, from solar energy developers.

The selected Respondent shall be responsible for providing turn-key services for full design, purchase, construction assembly, ongoing maintenance, and billing services (optional) for installations of PV systems and (if applicable) associated electrical infrastructure at Jefferson Park Apartments, Garfield Place, Putnam Gardens, Newtowne Court, Woodrow Wilson Court and Temple Place.

The RFP will be available on **Thursday, July 3, 2025** after 10:00 AM and can be downloaded at <https://cambridge-housing.org/departments/fiscal/solicitations-and-bids/>. The deadline for proposals is **Friday, July 18, 2025 at 2:00 PM**. Please mail or hand deliver your proposals to: Cambridge Housing Authority, Planning and Development Department, 362 Green Street, 3rd Floor Cambridge, MA 02139, ATTN: Devin Chausse. **Submissions received after this deadline will not be accepted.**

All proposals are subject to Federal Davis-Bacon Prevailing

wage rates as required by the Secretary of Labor and included in this RFP and Cambridge’s Living Wage Ordinance.

An informational briefing will be held on **Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM** via Microsoft Teams. Interested Respondents should email: dchausse@cambridge-housing.org for the meeting link. The briefing is optional but attendance is encouraged

Deadline for questions is Friday, July 11, 2025, at 12:00 PM. Please submit questions to dchausse@cambridge-housing.org.

Respondents shall submit one original copy of a technical proposal and one original copy of a price proposal each in sealed envelopes marked “Price Proposal” and “Technical Proposal” within a larger sealed envelope clearly marked: RFP- TURN-KEY SERVICES FOR INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEMS AT VARIOUS CHA-MANAGED SITES. Respondents should provide a pdf version of both the technical and price proposals on individual thumb drives included within the price and technical proposal envelopes, respectively.

A 100% payment bond and a 100% performance bond will be required for the awarded

contract.

Half Crown-Marsh Neighborhood Conservation District Commission

Legal Notice for July 14, 2025 Half Crown-Marsh NCD Public Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Commission will hold a Public Meeting on **Monday, July 14, 2025 at 6:00 PM** to consider the following matters under Ch. 2.78, Article III of the City Code and the Order establishing the Commission. The meeting will be held online with remote participation only. The public may participate online via the Zoom platform from a phone or computer. Join at <https://tinyurl.com/HCMJuly25> or call (301) 715-8592. Webinar ID: 889 9457 2822

1. **HCM-699:** 987-989 Memorial Drive, by Barrington Court Condo Trust: Requesting window replacement package approval for building.
2. **Minutes**

The Week, 07/03/25 & 07/10/25

WILD THINGS

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



Baby cardinals start in the nest, left, but as fledglings, below, wander around before they can fly. By the fall, young cardinals begin to show their adult plumage, right.

Coachwood, left; Tom Murray, right



Winging an animal rescue

A baby bird needs help. What can you do with confidence you're not making things worse?

By JEANINE FARLEY

Jo S. asks: *Last night I found two tiny birds in my driveway next to some bushes. I moved one further in underneath and then wondered if I should have touched him at all. The other I moved only a small amount, lifting with stiff paper ... Alas, this morning he was dead on his side in the driveway. I named him June Bird and we buried him next to our former pet cat. I don't know if the other one made it ... Online advice seemed to be to leave the baby bird where he was, as they spend time on the ground before they fly. It was so sad to see he did not make it through the night. My question: What is the right thing to do here? Should I have tucked him in under the bushes? Is there any way I could have given him water ... with an eyedropper? What might he eat? I know many baby birds do not make it. I would be grateful for advice on what to do if this happens again."*

From the video, it appears that you found two baby cardinals. My family encountered a similar situation a number of years ago. We found a baby bird in our basement. (It had apparently fallen down a chimney.) The little brown bird had a feather that popped up on its head like a cowlick. We called a wildlife rehabber, who told us to put the bird in a box in the crotch of a tree and the parents would take it from there. We found a box and placed the bird in a tree as instructed. The parents, a pair of cardinals, soon found and attended to the peeping bird. The energetic youngster did not stay in the box for long, though. It soon jumped onto a flap of the box, then fell or jumped to the ground, where it hopped about. The parents continued to fly around it, and the young bird disappeared into the bushes never to be seen again by us. We hope it was able to avoid predators and grow up to have a good life.

The birds you found also appear to be fledgling cardinals. You did the right thing. Fledglings have feathers and can hop about on their own. They look scraggly, but that's just the way they are. In the video you sent, a fledgling peeps pitifully, calling out to its parents. This is a good sign; this is what it should be doing. The bird does not appear to be injured. (A fledgling is injured if it has a broken limb or is bleeding or shivering.) Unless a fledgling is injured, it is best to leave it alone. The parent birds find and take care of fledglings. Their odds of survival are best when nur-



Wild Things is taking questions

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

tured and taught by the parents. When a cardinal fledgling learns to fly, it often hops or flutters out of the nest, ending up on the ground. From there, the parents feed and protect it while the bird matures. This is a very vulnerable time for a fledgling, and many do not make it — a sad fact of life. Low survival rates, however, keep the population in balance with the food supply.

It is a myth that touching a baby bird will cause the parents to reject it. Cardinals, like most birds, do not have a good sense of smell. Moving the fledgling bird off the driveway and under a bush was helpful and did not lower its chances of survival.

Fledgling cardinals are a handful. They often leave the nest when they are only about a week old, but they cannot fly well until they are 19 days

old, and they don't become fully independent until they are 45 days old. One study indicated that only about 58 percent of fledgling cardinals survive. The parents feed them on the ground during this period and try to scare away predators, but many predators eat baby birds. In addition to predators, cold or wet weather can doom these exposed youngsters.

What happened to the two birds you discovered? We have had quite a bit of cold and wet weather recently, so one of your birds might have succumbed to the elements. We can only hope the other one, supported by its parents, survived. During the day, each parent feeds a fledgling cardinal two to four times per hour. The parents are less active at night, but they were probably nearby. The feeding process continues for two

months or more! Cardinals feed their young longer than most other birds.

You did the right thing by leaving the young fledglings alone. Giving them water is a bad idea: Young birds do not drink water, but get all the fluids they need from food provided by the parents. (Insects, berries and caterpillars have a high water content.) If you had tried to give the bird water with an eye dropper, it could have inhaled the water into its lungs. This can be fatal for a fledgling bird.

What could you have done differently? Not much. Since you found these birds at night, and they were well-feathered, they were old enough to be out on their own. They did not appear to be injured and were peeping to let the parents know where they were. Moving one off the driveway and under the bushes was a good choice. You probably could have tucked the second one under the bushes, too, but, alas, this may not have made a difference in its survival. Under normal conditions, fledglings do not need human intervention overnight.

If the birds had been featherless ba-

bies with closed eyes, the story would have been different. Babies would have needed help. Putting babies back in the nest is the best option, if you know where it is. If not, it makes sense to put the birds in a box or basket lined with a towel and a heating pad to keep them warm overnight until you can call a rehabber for advice in the morning. Remember, though, federal and state laws make it illegal to keep wild birds.

If a similar situation occurs, here are some people you can call according to the Tufts Wildlife Clinic: Cambridge or Somerville animal control, Tufts Wildlife Clinic, Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife or the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Mass.gov has a page that helps find a wildlife rehabber at bit.ly/4kl0QDL.

Mass Audubon has a handy guide at bit.ly/3TQlQr2 about what to do if you find a baby bird.

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.