



WILD THINGS

Scientists attach tracking devices to the legs of migrating birds. Trying to figure out the patterns of green darners required a different solution.

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THE
WEEK

SEPT.
18-25,
2025

FREE | by CAMBRIDGE DAY



Courtney Utsey leads a workshop on job offers at the Thriving in Biotech conference in Cambridge on Sept. 11.

Biotech pros
have advice
as a once rich
field contracts

By MARTINA NACACH
COWAN ROS

When Lila Neel walks through the streets of Cambridge, she imagines that any passerby could hold in their mind the cure for a sick child or parent. She said Cambridge, one of the biggest biotech clusters in the world, is a “beacon of hope” for people suffering from diseases and other health issues.

But signs are emerging that funding for research and development could become an impediment. The flow of money slowed industrywide in 2024 and the first half of 2025, according to the 2025 MassBio Industry Snapshot published in August. Research and development jobs in Massachusetts fell 1.7 percent in 2024, while 22.9 percent of lab space in Cambridge now sits vacant.

Neel is the national director of Project Onramp, a program with the nonprofit Life Science Cares that helps match undergraduates from low-income backgrounds to paid internships in life sciences. She spoke about the importance of community in the life sciences during this “profoundly challenging time” as the keynote speaker at the Sept. 11 Thriving in Biotech conference at LabCentral 238 in Cambridge.

See IN BIOTECH, Page 3

Election surprise eliminates mayor

Wilson and Burnley
top in a preliminary,
ousting Ballantyne

By SYDNEY WISE

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, coming in third in Tuesday’s preliminary elections in Somerville, will be off the ballot in November, and councilor at-large Jake Wilson is now the frontrunner for the office.

Wilson took 42 percent of votes in the election, according to unofficial results released by the Election Commission, and Willie Burnley Jr. got 34 percent. Ballantyne, first elected mayor in 2021 after serving as Ward 7 councilor for four terms, trailed at 23 percent and is likely denied a third term.

Ballantyne conceded in a speech to supporters, The Boston Globe reported. No mention of the loss or Ballantyne’s plans followed Wednesday on her campaign website or social media accounts.

There was 23 percent voter turnout, or 12,207 ballots cast from among 52,243 registered voters, according to the Election Commission. Another 100, mainly absentee or overseas ballots, are outstanding



Jake Wilson fields a congratulatory phone call Tuesday at his home after winning a preliminary election for Somerville mayor. At the right is a whiteboard giving the night’s vote count.

and will be counted to make the vote official.

A question for the next phase of the campaign is how many of Ballantyne’s 2,847 voters in the preliminary will switch their allegiance to Wilson, who emerged Tuesday with 5,109 votes, or to Burnley, with a showing of 4,117 votes.

Wilson held a victory party in the backyard of his Winter Hill home attended by campaign aides and volunteers, friends and colleagues from Somerville Youth Soccer, and fellow councilors Jesse Clingan and Matt McLaughlin.

See PRELIMINARY, Page 3

Masked federal agents take two more in Somerville

By MARC LEVY

Two East Somerville residents were seized by federal agents within the past week, and a spokesperson for the city says the number of residents and workers taken in federal anti-immigrant actions there now totals around 30 since the start of the calendar year.

Because the U.S. government does not share information about its enforcement actions, the city’s figures are based on reports by community members, said Denise Taylor, the spokesperson.

Overwhelmingly, those apprehended have been of Brazilian origin and have not been convicted of violent crimes, Taylor said. Likely the first was Tufts University graduate student Rümeyşa Öztürk, who was snatched from her street March 25 after co-writing an essay published in the school newspaper.

“They are Somerville residents, workers in our small businesses, parents of kids in our school district, young people contributing to our local economy. They are our neighbors and our friends. Some are lawfully present, while others have had their immigration documents lapse,” Taylor said.

The most recent was a Wisconsin Avenue man who was reportedly doing laundry when taken by federal agents Monday morning. The aftermath was captured on video showing masked agents in at least four unmarked SUVs; one wearing a vest that labeled him as police said in the citizen video that they were there to arrest people “breaking the law.”

“Masked and menacing Homeland Security agents abducted one of my East Somerville constituents,” said state representative Mike Connolly, who shared the video on social media.

Ward 1 city councilor Matt McLaughlin and Taylor said another resident was abducted by federal agents, apparently from Broadway at around midnight on Saturday.

The City Council passed a resolution Sept. 11 to ban the wearing of masks by federal agents and to force them to provide identification upon request. The resolution was filed by JT Scott, who represents Ward 2.

Taylor said the city, once alerted to an abduction, connects remaining family members with legal help and works to aid them.

See FEDERAL, Page 5



A masked agent is shown in East Somerville on Monday after taking a resident. The image was taken from a video shared on social media.

Funeral home
to be just homes,
while hotel plan
also progresses

By JANE PETERSON
and MARC LEVY

A Harvard Square hotel project that relocates and revives the historic Harriet Jacobs House has unanimous “approval in principle” from the Cambridge Historical Commission, meaning members are supportive enough to want more details. Meanwhile, commissioners have affirmed that change will come to Western Avenue next year: The A.J. Spears Funeral Home property can sell to a developer for demolition and replacement with an apartment building.

While the proposed residential design in the Riverside neighborhood meets zoning guidelines, some neighbors are still frustrated at the scale of the project of up to 74 units, 20 percent of which would be affordable.

The commission voted 6-1 to deem the current buildings “not preferably preserved,” with alternate Scott Kyle the lone opposing vote. Some members shared concerns with residents about a new six-story structure but acknowledged the issues were irrelevant.

See FUNERAL, Page 5

MEETINGS SEPT. 18-25

CAMBRIDGE

Development limits and surveillance tech

By MARC LEVY

Surveillance technology hearing

Pole and Conduit Commission, 9 to 11 a.m. Sept. 18. Flock Safety asks to install its license-plate-reading cameras on 16 poles citywide “to assist the Cambridge Police Department with criminal investigations.” This proposal provoked concern from residents, civil liberties groups and city councillors at a Sept. 8 meeting because of fears the data will be used by the federal government and other law enforcement agencies. Councillors voted for another look before installation. Watchable online.

Future of the K-Lo School

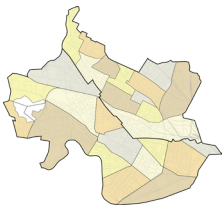
Family Policy Council, 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. Sept. 18. Interim schools superintendent David Murphy presents on planning for the future of what was the Kennedy-Longfellow elementary school – closed in June at 158 Spring St., East Cambridge, after 51 years; and about how Cambridge Public Schools engages with families. At the Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square.

Institutional encroachment

Neighborhood & Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts & Celebration Committee, 10 a.m. to noon Sept. 25. This committee run by city councillors Cathie Zusy and Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler looks at whether to bring back something like the Dover Amendment, which regulated development by institutions such as universities or religious groups in residential areas. That exemption from 1979 and 1980 was ended Feb. 10 with a Multifamily Housing Ordinance to encourage the construction of homes, only to see a religious group seize the opportunity to also expand nonhousing uses. The committee meets at City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square. Televised and watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.

Update on sewer improvements

Combined Sewer Overflow control planning update, 6 p.m. Sept. 25. Heavy rainfall can still cause sewer systems to overflow and pollute our rivers, but Cambridge, Somerville and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority are working on plans for sewer improvements that will reduce the pollution. Watchable by Zoom videoconferencing.



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

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

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

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

SOMERVILLE

Four stories by right, zoning with Medford

By JEFF SHWOM

Density bonus to help affordability

Land Use Committee, 6:30 p.m. Sept. 18. The committee continues a yearlong discussion toward allowing increased density, especially near transit, for affordable housing or other community benefits, with director Dan Bartman mentioning in June “the ability to construct four-story apartment buildings by-right in urban residence zones, which streamlines the development process.” Watchable via videoconferencing.

Intricacies of bus routes

Pedestrian and Transit Advisory Committee, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 18. Discussion with mobility division staff about the 90 bus, which the MBTA moved to Washington Street in line with its ongoing Bus Network Redesign project then returned to Cross and Tufts streets this fall after a committee request – but leaving concerns about such things as frequency and alignment with other transit changes. Separately, the director of transit priority at the T presents on the agency's plans for automated bus lane enforcement by use of cameras near the front of certain buses. In-person at 101 South St., Boynton Yards, using the door on the far left of the building next to Windsor Street. The meeting is also watchable via videoconferencing.

Apartments instead of lab space

Ward 5 Neighborhood Meeting, 6 p.m. Sept. 22. Developers share plans for a 30,000-square-foot residential building at 32-40 White St. Developers plan 29 residential units on the Somerville-Cambridge line next to the Porter Square Shopping Center and near the MBTA. In 2022, developers wanted to build lab space. Watchable via videoconferencing.

Redefining central Broadway

Division of Planning, Preservation and Zoning, 6:30 p.m. Sept. 23. The city releases a Central Broadway Corridor zoning study to address properties that straddle the Somerville-Medford border. The plan includes zoning recommendations such as aligning on building heights of up to six stories and allowed ground-floor uses. In person in the cafeteria at the Healey School, 5 Meacham St., Winter Hill.

THE WEEK

by CAMBRIDGE DAY

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Mission

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

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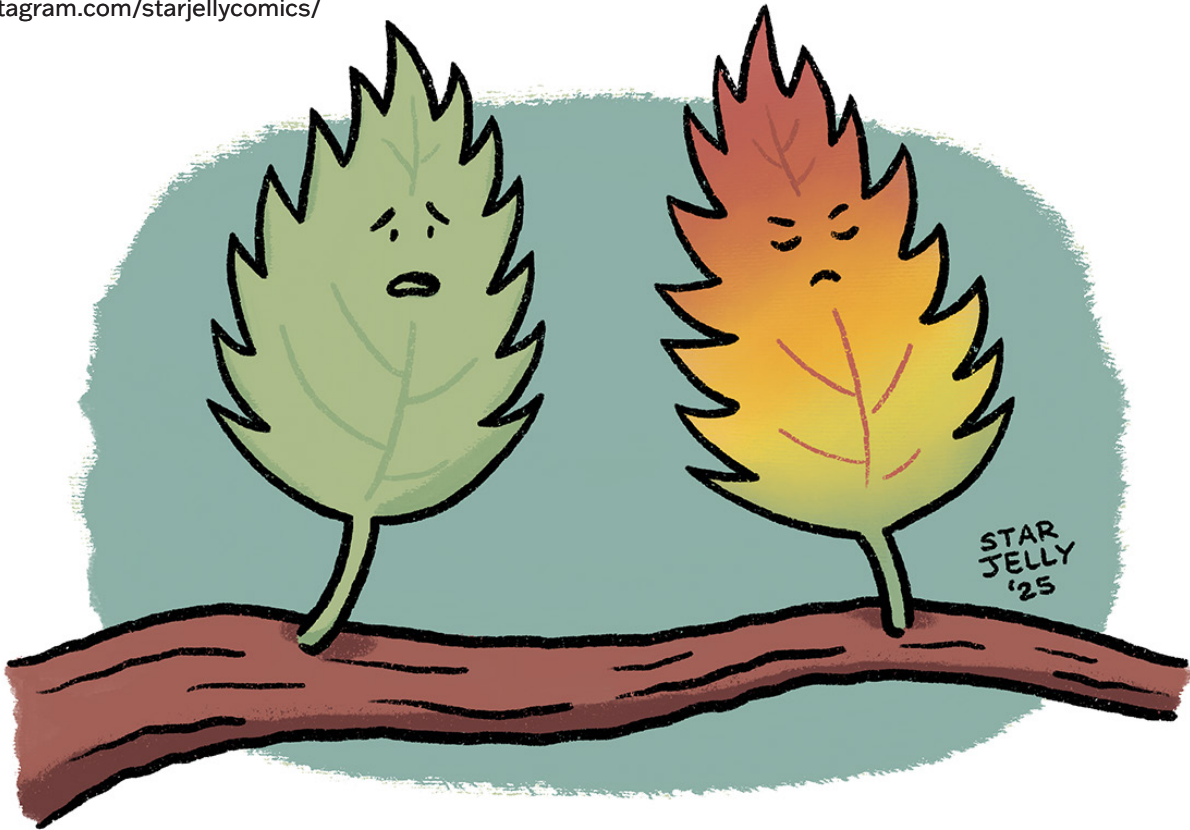
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“YOU’VE CHANGED.”

Standoff taught pepper spray lesson, but police resist psych aid

By SUE REINERT

Cambridge’s police commissioner says police won’t use pepper spray again in a situation like its 18-hour standoff Aug. 1-2 with a barricaded suspect, when the chemical drifted accidentally into the upper floors of a multifamily building on Broadway and forced out residents.

The target of the chemical, who had terrorized bystanders in Central Square with two machetes and injured two people before fleeing to his apartment, stayed put despite the pepper spray projectiles fired into his unit.

The police response showed the strength of officers’ training and professionalism, but following national guidelines on handling such a situation – including using pepper spray to try to deny a suspect a livable space – came “at too high a price,” commissioner Christine Elow said Sept. 10 at a City Council Public Safety Committee meeting.



Police body-worn camera footage shows injuries from an Aug. 1 incident in Cambridge that led to a standoff.

“We will not be deploying pepper spray in this manner again,” she said. A report presented to the committee gave more details: “As a densely populated city with a lot of older, multiunit buildings, there are significant barriers to any future [pepper spray] use inside of a building, particularly during a barricaded suspect situation.”

The report described how all the strategies to arrest the suspect, 51-year-old Princiano Faustin didn’t work: shooting him six times with a high-

speed sponge-tipped projectile while he ran toward his home, bringing in his ex-girlfriend to persuade him to leave, turning off the power to his apartment at 243 Broadway, placing a bomb disposal robot inside to track his location in the apartment (he disabled that by tossing a towel over the device), and firing 10 containers with powder and vapor containing the chemical irritant through his apartment window.

One thing that police did not do – a decision that dismayed councillors – was call in a mental health professional to help with a suspect who showed signs of mental distress. As police fired the sponge-tipped “less-than-lethal” shots at Faustin, he invited them to “shoot me again with real bullets” and also threatened to kill them, officer and police spokesperson Robert Reardon said. He also had warned he would “chop you up” with the machetes, police said.

Faustin has been at Bridgewater State Hospi-

tal since his arrest; a Cambridge District Court judge ruled on Aug. 22 he was not competent to stand trial.

The city has two options to respond to people in a mental crisis: a city agency outside the police department, and a special police program. Both initiatives – the Community Safety Department’s Community Assistance Response and Engagement team, and the police department’s co-response program – employ social workers.

Members of the co-response team and the Care team weren’t working Aug. 1-2, a Friday night and Saturday, police said. Even if they had been, police might not have involved a social worker in a violent situation, police officials said.

Officials made similar statements around the Jan. 4, 2023, death of Arif Sayed Faisal, 20, whom police shot as he wielded a knife in public.

Read more at bit.ly/46jXgVw.

In biotech headwinds, pros help students transition to workforce

From Page 1

“Political polarization, global crises and systemic inequities shape the landscape in which we’re now working and learning,” Neel said during her speech. “The scientific community hasn’t been immune to these pressures.”

The challenges in the industry, including funding reductions and a shift in attitudes about diversity initiatives, have made the transition from academia to the workforce harder for many people. The Sept. 11 conference, the first in-person event organized by the nonprofit Scientists in Solidarity, aimed to help life science students and early-stage professionals transition from academia to industry, focusing specifically on historically excluded groups. The conference featured two panels, three workshops and networking sessions designed to help attendees engage with industry professionals, gain a clearer understanding of the current context and develop skills for today’s job market.

Manasvi Verma, a doctoral student from India at Harvard Medical School’s graduate program in bacteriology, said she was aiming to graduate next spring semester but had to move up the date to November because of “chaos” with funding. Faced with an accelerated timeline, she began applying for jobs and attended the conference, noting many academics are uncertain how to make the transition from academia into the workforce.

She said competition is heightened in the Boston area, where talented people are losing their jobs, leaving a “lot of talent and not enough roles.”

“You have to compete with folks that have 10 years more experience than you do,” she said.

Postdoctoral researchers are suffering the most, Verma said, as their contracts are being cut short, while students are “rushed out” of their institutions to finish their degrees prematurely.

Usually by the end of these programs, “you’ve done all of this work, and you have synthesized it, and you get the chance to do fun things, like present your work, go to conferences, interact with other scientists,” she said. “You’re losing that because there’s no money for it.”

“The job search has changed”

Courtney Utsey, director of people and culture at Aktis Oncology, a Seaport biotech company, conducted three workshops at the conference that

aimed to prepare participants on how to navigate the professional world, covering skills such as interviewing, networking and negotiating. Utsey recognized the shift in the biotech environment.

“The nature of the job search has changed,” she said. “It was a candidates’ market where they had their prime pickings. And now it’s in the power of organizations, where we have the jobs.”

She urged candidates to be patient and not to settle. She emphasized the importance of encouraging conversation throughout the interview process, reminding students the “power” they have to assess whether an organization is a match for them.

“My goal is to make sure people today walk away feeling empowered and recall that they have the tools to validate and really assess opportunities for themselves,” she said. “I remain hopeful this industry is one that’s going to continue to evolve, just like the science continues to evolve. And I think so long as we continue to focus on the great science, we’ll continue to be a booming industry.”

Diversity, equity and inclusion

Minmin Yen, co-founder of Scientists in Solidarity, said the conference was organized to encourage “real talk in a safe space,” especially for people from marginalized communities in biotech. Yen said she worries that the big boom in diversity, equity and inclusion work, which arose during the 2020 pandemic, has begun to die off in the industry.

She said companies treat DEI as a trend, investing when it is popular but retreating when it becomes difficult. Yet DEI in the biotech industry is crucial to ensure medicine benefits all parts of the population, she said.

“If you have people working in biotech that only represent a certain part of the population, the medicines that they have will only benefit certain parts of the population,” she said. “It’s not just DEI for inclusiveness – it’s DEI because it helps us have a healthier world.”

Yen said she hoped the conference could spark connections between peers in biotech, along with confidence and tools. She said that with so much uncertainty facing individuals in the industry, it was important to connect in person. “That’s what community is for.”

This story is part of a partnership between Cambridge Day and the Boston University Department of Journalism.

Preliminary election drops incumbent

From Page 1

“We are humbled and really grateful to the voters of Somerville for the support that they showed our campaign and for their belief in me.



Ballantyne

Playing bartender at his own party and fielding a continual stream of congratulations in person and by phone, Wilson said he woke up Tuesday feeling like he’d win – and that he would break 40 percent.

Ballantyne and Burnley did not

respond immediately to requests for comment. Burnley was at a party in the back room of The Burren bar in Davis Square.

The mayor did call Wilson very briefly to offer congratulations, Wilson said.

Other races shaken up

The preliminary election also creates a shortlist of candidates for councilor at large, Ward 7 councilor and a Ward 3 representative for the School Committee.

Of the dozen candidates for councilor at large, incumbents Kristen Strezo and Will Mbah will move on alongside newcomers Ben Wheeler, Jonathan Link, Marianne Walles, Jack Perenick, Holly Simone and Scott Istvan. Mbah, Wheeler and

Strezo scored 15 percent, 13 percent and 11 percent of the vote each, while the others received between 5 percent and 8 percent.

Christopher Ryan Spicer, Justin Klekota, Ari Iaccarino and Tuesday Thomas will not advance.

In the contested Ward 7, where a council seat was left open after Judy Pineda Neufeld’s departure on June 30, Emily Hardt and Wilbert Pineda will advance. Michael Murray will be removed from the ballot. Hardt received 57 percent of the vote, Pineda 23 percent and Murray 15 percent.

In a tight race for an open School Committee seat in Ward 3, Michele Lippens and Jessie Ratey will continue. Lippens won 30 percent of the vote, while Ratey received 27.7 percent over Kat S. Johnston’s 27.3 percent.

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Meet the candidates

For City Council

9 to 10:30 a.m. Oct. 18

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

For School Committee

5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 9

Central Square Church,
5 Magazine St.,
Central Square

Meet the people vying for your vote in this fall’s election!
At each event, candidates will introduce themselves briefly
and mingle afterward to meet voters and answer questions.

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Harvard Art Museums

@Night

Last Thursday of the month, 5–9pm

Gather with friends on the last Thursday evening of each month (holidays permitting). Enjoy free admission, music inside our Italian-inspired courtyard, and exciting ways to engage with art across our spaces-over 50 galleries on 3 floors! Food and drink from local vendors available to purchase.

Thursday, September 25
Free museum admission

Funeral home, hotel projects are advanced

From Page 1

The commission's mission is solely to evaluating the historical value of the existing funeral home, they noted.

"The house looks the same as every other on the street. The historical part is us, and the people we've served," said co-owner and funeral director Anthony Spears. The home has been a long-standing institution for members of Riverside's Black community.

The date of sale to developer DND Homes is not final; the business will stay open and operating until sometime in 2026.

The commission estimates that the buildings between 122-132 Western Ave. were built sometime between 1850 and 1860. In 1964, they were bought by Andrew and Artis Spears to open the funeral home. The business is owned by Artis as well as her and Andrew's children, Anthony and Andrea, and Artis and Anthony have run the home as a mother-son operation for about 30 years, with Anthony serving as funeral director. He intends to continue his work in funerary services as a consultant for other area homes.

"I hate this project," commission member Gavin Kleespies said, but "whether or not I hate this project is not really the purview of the commission. [There are] zoning ordinances that allow this building essentially to be built whether we like it or not."

Kleespies was frustrated that the Historical Commission has turned into the only venue where constituents could voice opposition to new buildings. "This isn't the place to have that battle. The place to have this battle is in November," Kleespies said, referring to upcoming City Council elections.

Hotel project in Harvard Square

In getting to a vote on the hotel project, developers continued a presentation from an Aug. 14 meeting of a plan around the Regency-style home built in 1846 that once belonged to the writer and abolitionist Harriet Jacobs: to move 30 feet from 17 Story St. to the corner of Story and Mount Auburn streets and restore it, putting up a



Marc Levy

The Harriet Jacobs House is at 17 Story St., but would be relocated 30 feet in Cambridge's Harvard Square.

90,000-square-foot building behind of up to 67 hotel rooms and 50 residential units. The plan, with developers operating under the name 17 Story Street, involves demolishing a neighborhood building at 129 Mount Auburn St.

The presentation was paused at the previous meeting to consider a resident landmarking petition for the Jacobs house, which was approved.

The landmarking study is expected to take around four months but "does not stop the project," commission executive director Charles Sullivan said. The study can even incorporate information from the developers as they continue to hone their plans for a next presentation to the commission – expected in around a month.

The proposal is "by no means detailed enough for the commission to approve," Sullivan said, "but the applicants are entitled to have some indication from the commission of support ... so they can continue with design."

The Jacobs house is already in the Harvard Square Conservation District, which offers some oversight of changes "visible from a public way," but a landmark study adds oversight of such things as the appropriateness of a project's size and shape, just as though landmark status had already been granted, Sullivan said. The commission's vote is a recommendation to the City Council, which has final say.

The developers' plan would see the Jacobs house open to the public as a historic site honoring the author of the 1861 memoir "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" and acting as a lobby to the new building. The two would be connected with a cafe attachment.

Federal agents have taken around 30 in Somerville

From Page 1

Following when residents were taken is "getting increasingly challenging," Taylor said.

Family of the man taken Saturday contacted the city for help, while city staff identified the man taken on Monday by piecing together information from community members.

As in any such instance, "city and school staff including the City's Office of Immigrant Affairs are urging assistance to family members of detainees as they seek to find their loved

ones, access legal support and pick up the pieces in the devastating wake of the loss of a parent, provider or loved one," Taylor said. "Swift identification of detainees is critical in filing habeas corpus petitions to keep them in Massachusetts near loved ones and to protect their due process rights."

Residents also deserve credit for responding on behalf of the man taken from Wisconsin Avenue, Connolly said. "There were both attorneys in the neighborhood as well as activists, so people acted quickly and engaged Greater Boston Legal Services,"

Connolly said. In addition, he said he has been in contact with the office of U.S. representative Ayanna Pressley and "am hopeful that they can advocate directly to the feds."

East Somerville has a strong immigrant community – three-quarters of its businesses are immigrant-owned, McLaughlin has said. He warned in February that residents were already pushed into "hiding," and that there was "a real fear amongst both undocumented and naturalized American immigrants who are afraid of being mistaken for being undocumented."

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WHEN
Thursday, September 18th
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A  BioMed Realty property

Death notice

Mary M. Leno



Mary M. Leno, longtime resident of Cambridge, died on Sept. 4, 2025.

Mary worked hard for social justice, advocating for the LGBTQ community, low- or no-income people, and women.

She was a strong advocate for housing for all, initially moving to Cambridge because the city had rent control.

Her work for equal rights and dignity for the LGBTQ community earned her a special award at Cambridge's annual Pride Brunch. She was a lifelong lesbian.

A photographer, she chronicled social movements through graffiti, protest signs and protest T-shirts.

Mary's Celebration of Life will be Oct. 19, 1 to 4 p.m., at Sonia at the Middle East Restaurant, Cambridge.

Mary's full obituary is at Legacy.com.

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

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

Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Somerville

8 p.m. Sept. 18

Level Up Circus

\$30 to \$40. Circus acts and cosplay inspired by video games.

6:30 to 11 p.m. Sept. 19 (and continuing Saturday)

Boston Fuzzstival

\$30 (two-day pass) and \$20 (one day). All ages. Illegally Blind’s festival continues its mission of showing off local and regional psychedelic, fuzz, garage, hip-hop and surf rock bands – 18 of them this year. Tonight’s lineup includes Rong, Landowner, Nurse Joy, Spacecamp, Warmachine, Pew Pew, Ko Queen and Makeout Palace.

6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sept. 23

The Moth story slam

\$17.50. This monthly open-mic storytelling competition is open to anyone who can share a five-minute tale on the night’s theme – this time, “Underdog,” about when the odds were stacked, the system was rigged and the little guy came out on top.

6 p.m. Sept. 25

Stand-Up and Laugh for a Good Cause

\$50 to \$100. Comedian Henry Cho headlines this fundraising event for the Korean American Citizens League. Cho has appeared at the Grand Ole Opry, on the Tonight Show and “Designing Women.” Comedian Helen Hong opens and actor Mikayla Soo-ni Campbell and Boston Red Sox official DJ Maverick host.

6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 18

Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, in the Spring Hill neighborhood

“Barcode Journeys” opening reception

Free to \$10. Barcode Journeys explores the pervasiveness of barcodes in our daily lives – discovering the humor, awe, meaning and aesthetics in our coexistence with barcodes, algorithms and now AI, asking what it means to stay human. Participating artists are Lesley Bannatyne, Lynn Cannici, Greg Duerhr, Nathan Fash, Janine Fay, Kyle Huffman, Barbara Jo, Olga Mesa, Elizabeth Pacini, Cindy Ramírez, Laidy Saenz, Charlie Warren, Sandra Wascher and Woolsey Cole Chesterman.

Noon Sept. 20 (and continuing Sept. 21)

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

Oktoberfest

\$10 to \$30 and 21-plus. Craft beers, stein-holding competitions, music, giant pretzels, bratwurst and other German-inspired dishes. VIP admission includes a glass stein and a first pour, as well as an order of curry fries from Mimi’s Chuka Diner.

2 to 6 p.m. Sept. 20 (rain date: Sept. 21)

Somerville Avenue from School Street to Warren Avenue, near Union Square, Somerville

20th Annual “What the Fluff” Festival

Free to enter. Marshmallow Fluff was invented in Somerville in 1917, when a local named Archibald Query made it in his kitchen and sold it door to door. The festival honors the concoction in most every way imaginable, drawing more than 12,000 people to its music, games and, of course, lots of Fluff-related foods. (The classic Fluffernutter is just the start.)

6 to 10 p.m. Sept. 24

Bow Market, 1 Bow Market Way, Union Square, Somerville

40th Anniversary “Clue” screening

\$10. Tara Dikhof hosts a night of games, costume contests, prizes and a screening of the 1985 whodunit starring Tim Curry, Madeline Kahn, Christopher Lloyd and Leslie Ann Warren.

7 p.m. Sept. 25

Katherine Small Gallery, 108 Beacon St., Ward 2, Somerville

“Papyrus: The Authoritative Origin Story”

\$10. Speaker Chris Costello, a designer of coins and typefaces, discusses papyrus – the typeface, not the stationery store – that some may know from the film “Avatar” or an “SNL” sketch making fun of the movie “Avatar.” Learn all about the inspiration for, and real history of, papyrus as told by its creator. Standing room only!

7 p.m. Sept. 24

Mugar Omni Theater at the Museum of Science, 1 Science Park, Boston, on the Cambridge border

“Obscured Vision: A Night of Sonic Storytelling”

\$15 and 18-plus. Sit blindfolded and be transported while listening to four tales with the theme “Being Human” presented by science reporter Ari Daniel and sound designer and composer Ian Coss.

10:30 a.m. to noon Sept. 20

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

Family Workshop: Egg Drop

Free with museum admission and 11-plus. Small groups compete to build the best protective capsule for an egg and keep it whole even after being dropped.

Noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 21

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

Cambridge Science Carnival

Free. A family-friendly science extravaganza, an entertaining and educational event featuring more than 100 activity booths, demonstrations, live music and installations.

7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 22

Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Stratton Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge

Beginner ballroom dance

Free. Introductory ballroom and Latin dance classes, no partner and no dance experience required.

7:30 p.m. Sept. 11-Oct. 5

Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, Cambridge

“Silent Sky” play

\$27 to \$103. Lauren Gunderson’s female-led science drama tells the true story of 19th century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt as she explores a woman’s place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries. With music and math, Henrietta and her female peers change the way we understand both the heavens and the Earth.

5 to 10 p.m. Sept. 20

University Park Commons, in Cambridgeport near Central Square, Cambridge

Central Square Night Market

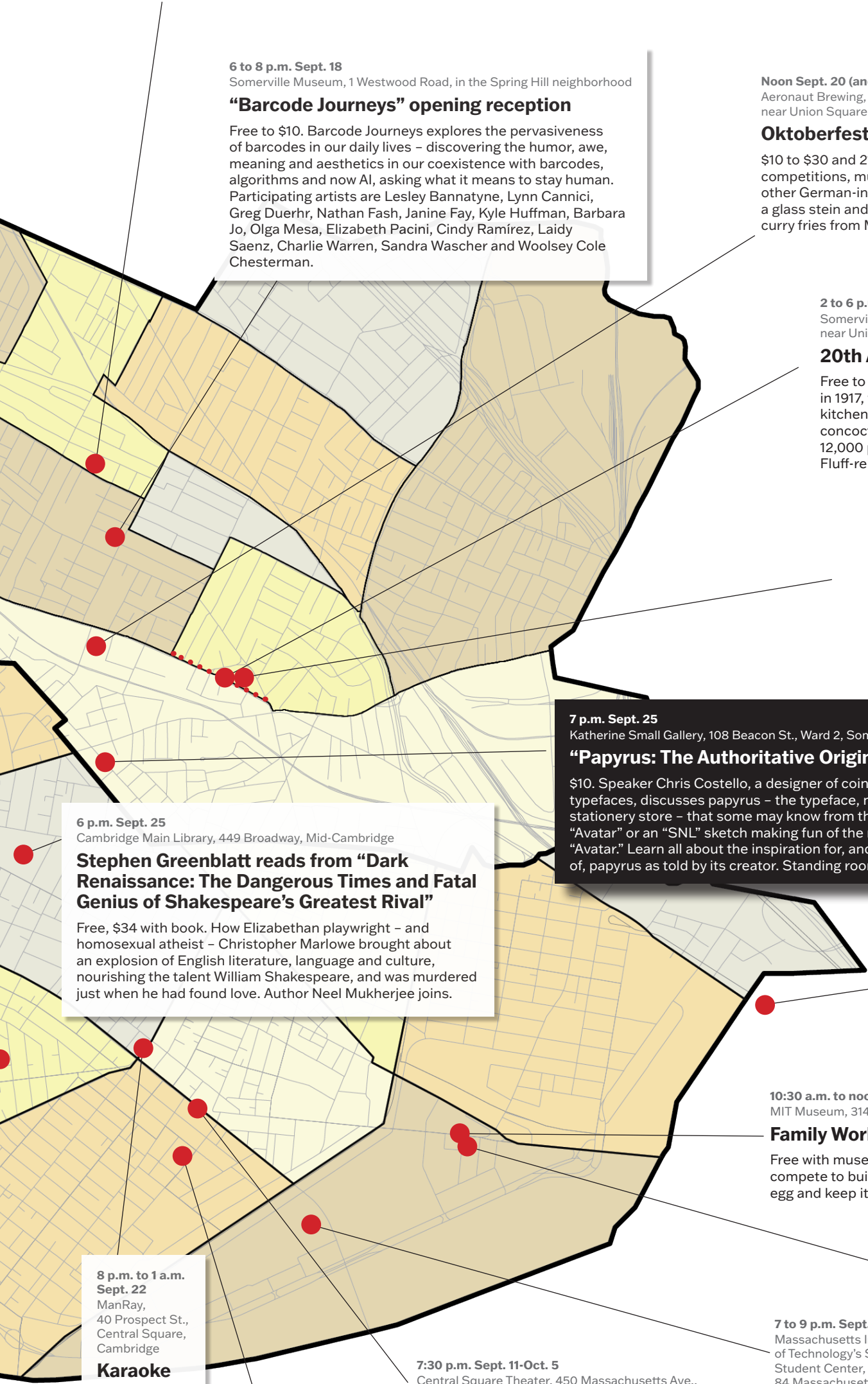
Free. The inaugural event includes food trucks, a beer garden, live performances, games and photo opportunities.

8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sept. 22

ManRay, 40 Prospect St., Central Square, Cambridge

Karaoke Noir

Free to enter and 19-plus. More than 5,000 songs from new wave, goth, punk, metal and postpunk genres.



FILM AHEAD SEPT. 18-25

LOCAL FOCUS



“It Doesn’t Get Any Better Than This” screens at The Brattle.

Found Footage festival includes ‘Doesn’t Get’: You don’t get it online

By OSCAR GOFF

If the atomic-age monster movie was the premier horror mode of the 1950s and the teen-sex slasher flick dominated the Reagan years, found footage was the horror movement of the 2010s. This strain – defined by handheld cameras, improvised dialogue and barely seen ghosts and monsters – had its big bang in 1999’s “The Blair Witch Project,” but didn’t really come into its own as a genre until the late 2000s, just as cellphones and social media were turning us all into compulsive self-recorders. Beginning Thursday, **The Brattle Theatre** has programmed more than a dozen features into a series dubbed the “**Found Footage Freakout**,” demonstrating the range and versatility of a sometimes derided subgenre.

The centerpiece of the series is the area premiere of “**It Doesn’t Get Any Better Than This**” (2023), which runs Friday through Tuesday. An impressively scrappy and lived-in feature, “Better” tells the story of three filmmaker friends (played by the filmmakers themselves) who buy a clearly haunted duplex in a bad part of town as the setting for their next horror movie, only to be plagued by local cultists and supernatural goings-on. If this sounds appealing to you, please note that the filmmakers have no plans to release their film online, making this perhaps your only chance for some time to find out what, exactly, is going on in that attic.

But this is far from the only top-shelf footage to be found on The Brattle’s screen. The series kicks off Thursday with a 10th anniversary screening of Michael Rousselet and Tomm Jacobsen’s faux-VHS slasher spoof “**Dude Bro Party Massacre III**” (2015), complete with filmmakers in attendance. Similarly nutty is the beloved Japanese zombie comedy “**One Cut of the Dead**” (2017), screening Friday and Saturday, which contains a plot twist so ingenious it would be criminal to spoil here. On the opposite end of the tonal spectrum is the Australian chiller “**Lake Mungo**” (2009), which frames its tragic ghost story as a “Dateline”-style true crime special; that one screens Sunday, with a special introduction by bestselling local horror author Paul Tremblay.

Appropriately for a genre built on unseen footage, the series features a handful of rarely screened gems. Sunday sees a free screening of “**Ghost-**

watch” (1992), a staged ghost-hunter special that caused a “War of the Worlds”-style panic when it originally aired on the BBC, causing it to sit for decades in the Beeb’s vault until its recent restoration. Going back even further is the truly remarkable “**The McPherson Tape**” (1989), which purports to capture a child’s birthday party interrupted by an alien home invasion. Found footage has become such a well-known trope, in horror and in daily life, that it’s fascinating to see an example that was actually shot in the 1980s on contemporaneous consumer equipment, as if we really are viewing something we were never meant to see.

Since found footage didn’t really take off until the 21st century, The Brattle’s program features its share of modern classics. The latter-day found footage boom arguably kicked off with Matt Reeves’ digicam kaiju blockbuster “**Cloverfield**” (2008), which caps the series Sept. 25, its Manhattan-leveling monster clearly intended to evoke 9/11 just as surely as Godzilla was conceived as a metaphor for the atomic bomb. Other 2010s highlights include Ti West’s “**The Sacrament**” (2013, screening Sunday), which documents a Jonestown-style cult in the milieu of a Vice-style viral expose; Bobcat Goldthwait’s surprisingly noncomedic bigfoot mock-doc “**Willow Creek**” (2013, screening Saturday in a double feature with André Øvredal’s bonkers 2010 Norwegian import “**Troll Hunter**”); and Stephen Cognetti’s “**Hell House LLC**” (2015, screening Friday), in which a crew of entrepreneurs inadvertently choose for their Halloween tourist attraction an actual haunted house. And no round-up of modern found footage would be complete without the durable “V/H/S” franchise of anthology films, each of which gathers a murder’s row of horror filmmakers to dabble in the form. In “**V/H/S/2**” (2013), which screens Wednesday, the lineup includes such luminaries as Adam Wingard (“You’re Next”), Gareth Evans (“The Raid: Redemption”) and none other than Eduardo Sánchez, who got this whole party started as co-director of “The Blair Witch Project.”

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 Amateur’: Rookie move

When an action thriller opens with a scene of wedded bliss, as “The Amateur” does between Charlie Heller (Rami Malek) and his lovely wife Sarah (Rachel Brosnahan), we know in a beat it will never last. Sure enough, Sarah is almost immediately killed in a terrorist attack and a grief-stricken Charlie, a tech geek at the CIA, uses his savvy to swiftly identify her killers. When his bosses decline to take speedy action, Charlie takes matters into his own hands, relying on his wits and mastery of the surveillance state to seek revenge. Though its marketing buzz might suggest a high-octane beat-em-up in the “John Wick” vein, this is something more old-fashioned, hearkening back to the glossy thrillers that dominated the 1990s like “Ransom.” It’s at its best when it leans into the pulpiness of the material; Laurence Fishburne and Holt McCallany are clearly having a ball as the square-jawed G-men on Charlie’s trail, as is Michael Stuhlbarg as the vaguely European mercenary he’s pursuing. Unfortunately, Rami Malek is no ’90s action hero, lacking either the everyperson charisma of a Bruce Willis (“Armageddon”) or the entertaining nerdiness of a Jeff Goldblum (“Jurassic Park” flicks). Malek is a compelling actor, but his marble-mouthed deadpan is ill-suited to a role that requires notes of heartbreak and steely rage. Ultimately, “The Amateur” makes an amusing turn toward black comedy as Charlie, lacking the prowess or the nerve to kill his adversaries face to face, uses their habits and weaknesses against them. But these flourishes are too often drowned out by the film’s dour tone and overwrought, constantly chugging score. “The Amateur” is diverting enough but ultimately forgettable, the sort of film with which one might pass a lazy afternoon on TNT – a summertime hit from the 1990s.

OSCAR GOFF

On Hulu.



‘A Working Man’: Clocked out

Bet you didn’t know that Sylvester Stallone penned screenplays for a pair of Jason Statham beatdown flicks: “Homefront” (2013) and this “Jack Reacher”-esque adaptation of Chuck Dixon’s 2014 novel, “Levon’s Trade.” But there’s something righteous and ultramanly in the pairing, and the two have also joined up on screen to kick ass in Sly’s “Expendables” series. Here, Statham plays Dixon’s titular hero, a working man with a past as a special-ops commando. Levon is widowed, and his young daughter Merry (Isla Gie) lives with her maternal grandfather, a bitter man with tons of cash who blames Levon for his daughter’s death and throws piles of green to his army of lawyers to make it so Levon has no place in Merry’s life. The owners of the Chicago construction company Levon works for, Joe Garcia (Michael Peña) and his wife, have taken him in as family, a detail that gets overplayed. So when their daughter Jenny (Arianna Rivas) is kidnapped by the Russian mafia, Levon reluctantly puts on the flak vest and works his way up the crime syndicate’s ladder. In his way are a biker bar full of ex-military drug dealers, two gangsters in satin pajamas and ridiculous bucket hats, a guy named Dimi with hair that would make Fabio envious and hordes of goth flunkies. The fight choreography is pretty tight, but the film goes on too long and has too many dead spots, not to mention that each kill feels redundant and cold. David Ayer, who’s been down the macho vengeance road before and better with “Harsh Times” (2005) and the Statham-starring “The Beekeeper” last year, seems to have lost his fastball of quick pacing. Statham holds it all together with his cool bristle, but “A Working Man” could and should have been so much more of a plucky can of whoop-ass.

TOM MEEK

On Amazon Prime Video.



MUSIC

ATTEND

The North Shore thing

By MICHAEL GUTIERREZ

The music scene in New England is a vast Rube Goldberg device consisting of countless wheels spinning within wheels. And one of the spinning wheels that keeps the contraption clanking in good spirits is the North Shore/Boston-area circuit.

On any given night there might be a folk artist from Ipswich who performs at Club Passim, or a metal band from Marblehead that opens for a nationally touring act at The Sinclair, or the entire emo punk scene from Gloucester trucks down to The Jungle for a 10-band rager.

Whatever headaches come with living in the big city (okay, Cambridge isn't Tokyo, but you get my drift) are offset by the concomitant luxuries, one of which is that art travels to you rather than you having to travel to the art. I'll spare you the related quote by famous Athenian orator and politician Pericles (but extra points awarded if you can name it).

The gifts that North Shore artists bring with them are many. Music lovers hear what new sounds are brewing outside of our own scene. Venues and bookers fill bills that would otherwise remain empty. And our local musicians make the kinds of contacts and connections that will serve them well the next time they look to book a tour northward.

While it's great to have music find its way to our doorstep, sometimes you also want to complete the circle and go hear out-of-town sounds in their natural habitat. I did that this past weekend, jumping on the commuter rail to attend Moon Over Salem, a big, annual, underground arts and culture bash organized by Moon, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting music in Greater Salem.

Fifty bands, seven venues (including a few gigs at Salem Access Television), countless foam fingers with "Support Local Music" branding and a good time had by all.

Many of the bands that performed at Moon Over Salem have graced our Cambridge and Somerville stages. Rebuilder, Choke Up, Mallcops, Layzi, Harmony's Cuddle Party, Parachute Club, Merry Merry, Cape Crush, the list goes on and on. More than a few of these bands are Cambridge or Somerville locals as well, which proves that the North Shore music community, always a great guest, can be a great host too by plat-forming our local artists.

Thanks, Moon!

Hit this

Friday and Saturday Fuzzstival
(*The Armory, Somerville*)

The festival dedicated to celebrating regional music in the weird, wild and experimental mode returns for its 11th edition. Which reminds me that the 10th anniversary sneaked past us last year without so much as a hint of hoopla. No gilded "10th Anniversary" edition hats, T-shirts or bath towels. No "10 Years Strong" fundraising drive. Hard to imagine in a moment when any multiple of five has us running for our Canva, socials and MailChimp to milk it for all it's worth.

The festival has always kept the focus on the musicians, though, and there's plenty of music to enjoy in 2025. Eighteen bands take the stage,

including favorites such as Landowner, Rong, Paper Lady and Winkler.

Saturday Fluff Festival (*Union Square, Somerville*)

"20 Years of Sticky, Sweet Somerville." Fluff-related fun for the whole family. Since I dragged the inaugural Cambridge Porchfest (a great event!) in July for waiting until the last second to announce its music lineup, I'll do the same with Fluff Festival. Fair is fair. We're less than a week away and the Fluff'N Jam Stage status still reads "More Information Coming Soon"? Trust me, I don't want to earn a reputation as the neighborhood scold. But the musicians donating their talents deserve more notice, if they haven't been booked already. And if they have been booked, why haven't they been announced? Our local artists deserve all the pop they can get, and don't underestimate the marketing mojo of a band with the time and opportunity to rally its fanbase. Let's take our Fluff'N Jammers seriously!

Sunday Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra: "*Sweet Love, Wild Dance*" (*Sanders Theatre, Cambridge*)

The musician-led cooperative chamber orchestra opens its 2025-2026 season with "Sweet Love, Wild Dance." The program mixes musical selections from Mozart (the overture from "Don Giovanni" and a piano concerto) with a less well known nugget such as Alberto Ginastera's ballet "Estancia." Piano prodigy Seokyoung Hong, born and raised in South Korea, now attending the New England Conservatory of Music as a first-year student, will skip orientation to command the keys. Baritone opera vocalist Marcelo Guzzo will join the orchestra for "Estancia," which tells the story of "a city boy and a rancher's daughter whose love blossoms over the course of a single day." Classic rom-com fodder. Add some stoner jokes, cast Uma Thurman's daughter and turn it into a Judd Apatow film.

Live: Hack the Planet
at the **Somerville Theatre**

A multimedia, omnisensorial blitz landed on Somerville Theatre like an extinction-level asteroid in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the teen cyberpunk drama "Hackers." DJs, band, light shows and star appearances by Renoly Santiago (Phantom Phreak) and Laurence Mason (Lord Nikon) scaled up what would otherwise have been your average nostalgia screening into a festival of fan service.

Adoring fans filled the theater and signature Hackers cocktails were available at the bar.

Theaters with the requisite chutzpah for late-night programming are always on the lookout for the next "Rocky Horror Picture Show," the next "rinse and repeat" cult classic that will put meat in the seats on a yearly, monthly or even a weekly basis.

Is "Hackers" that new cult classic?

The live music and visuals were a fine addition to this iteration, at least. Wubson opened with a DJ set, chip-tuners Battlemode showed off its expanded lineup and latest single, "Nvr Kno," while Danny Aye and Mike Videopunk delivered a visual wake-up call from the Nintendo generation.

See you next year?

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

FOOD

WHAT WE'RE HAVING



Tom Meek

The yellowfin tostadas at Field & Vine in Somerville's Union Square.

Small plates and seafood at Field & Vine

SNACK



Grape Cheese at Teaholic

Price: \$7.50

Boba tea enthusiasts are probably well aware of the latest craze for the internationally popular chain HeyTea, which has a shop in Allston. Cambridge boasts its own boba shop, Teaholic, that I think can go head to head against the HeyTeas of the world with its own set of creative drinks that the company call "creations," differing from traditional boba tea in that they occupy a hybrid space between drink and dessert. I tried one of Teaholic's signature creations, the Grape Cheese – don't let the name scare you away. This is a combination that not only works, but that opens a whole new world of how differently desserts can taste and feel on the palate. Here, sweet grape flavors are balanced with tangy chunks of muscat grape; the next sip brings a wave of lychee jelly, mild but adding texture; lastly comes the cheese foam, a savory, salty bite that literally tops off the experience.

JINOH LEE

■ **Teaholic, 205 Broadway, The Port, Cambridge**

By TOM MEEK

With the MBTA green line coming to Union Square and buildings going up left and right, the already dense intersection of Washington Street and Somerville Avenue has become a nook of culinary destinations (Bronwyn, Ebi Sushi). More are tucked away nearby in cozy enclaves such as Bow Market (Rebel Rebel, The Eaves) and the Sanborn Court alleyway and pavilion just off Washington (The Jungle nightclub, Backbar cocktail lounge).

The Sanborn Court group includes Field & Vine, the farm-to-table concept that feels spot on as white-tablecloth sit-downs and massive main dishes trend the way of the dodo. Diners want to know more about where their food is sourced and to sample complex textures and flavor combinations in small portions rather than plopping all their eggs in one culinary basket, so to speak. Formal linens have their place, but it no longer is the calling card of fine dining.

When you walk into Field & Vine, you know you're in for something different. There are literally vines crawling up the walls, and an artistically woven lattice that forms a box hood of sorts above the countertop bar and kitchen.

The name says it all: fresh, locally sourced and housemade everything. For my visit, when I noshed on yellowfin tostadas and a piping bowl of Wellfleet clams, I was thinking the name could as aptly be Field & Brine. Beside a grilled fish of the day and a steak, the menu is mostly small plates and shareables. The melon with prosciutto and chilled beet salads I saw being assembled had such juicy, ripe orange and purple red lushness to them you could practically sample the plates with your eyes. Those yellowfin treats – single bites of lean tuna carpaccio on a corn crisp with a bit of oil, green garnish and roe – were simple, high-quality nibbles that went down too fast. The clams came in a broth bowl akin to your more typical ale-steamed mussels or a bouillabaisse. It's a slurp- and sop-up event

■ **Field & Vine, 9 Sanborn Court, Union Square, Somerville**

with rewards. The broth, a green crab curry with onions and cabbage, has a bit of a spicy chili punch to it. It came with grilled housemade focaccia to soak up the last of that briny curry.

I debated a third dish, but on the dessert slate spied a chocolate coffee sorbet. Light and guilt free, I thought. Wrong. I'm not certain of the calorie count, but what came up was a generous serving of creamy decadence. I've never had a sorbet this dense, rich and cake-like. It was like a classic fudge pop made from the finest chocolate mousse. It was bold, accented with a sesame seed sprinkle that add a piquantly subtle, salty offset, far from the usual palate-cleansing sorbet. Penning this now, I'm still awed by it. What's even more amazing is that it's nearly half the price you'd pay for a scoop at Van Leeuwen.

Given its adored reputation, it's hard to believe Field & Vine began as a pop-up whim in 2017 of co-owners Sara Markey and chef Andrew Brady. The service is nearly as impeccable as the food. Do know that a 20 percent gratuity is built into your bill – par for good service anywhere, and you get a cut above that here. (Plus, sitting at the counter you get a free minieducation in cooking that people pay big dollars for elsewhere.)

As you might expect, the menu at Field & Vine rotates with the seasons and availability of high-quality ingredients. Things to try before the ostensible fall shift include that melon salad, and crispy potato cakes with cucumber tzatziki and smoked trout roe. Count me in for the housemade cheddar biscuit too.

Tom Meek is a writer living in Cambridge. His reviews, essays, short stories and articles have appeared in the WBUR ARTery, The Boston Phoenix, The Boston Globe, The Rumpus, The Charleston City Paper and SLAB literary journal. Tom is also a member of the Boston Society of Film Critics and rides his bike everywhere.

ARTS

BEHOLD

Clarke sculptures give irreverent take on American Christianity

By **CLAIRE OGDEN**

Christian imagery has long been fodder for artists making a political statement. Think of “Piss Christ,” Andres Serrano’s controversial 1987 photograph depicting a Jesus figurine submerged in urine. Or Madonna, who fanned the culture war flames by using Catholic aesthetics in her music videos. At Gallery 263, Marcus W. Clarke subverts American Christianity in a way that feels fresh and fitting for our current moment. In his new solo exhibit, “All Glory, Laud, and Honor,” he blends religious objects with camp and craft in an impressive array of multimedia sculptures.

The artworks are irreverent, playful and profound. Clarke takes cheap materials – such as glitter, plastic and confetti – and turns them into something striking. In “Blessed Judas,” he cuts out the Judas figure in a piece of Russian Orthodox jacquard tapestry, bedazzling the frayed edges and painting the cross a bright orange. Likewise, a tiny Jesus tchotchke becomes the centerpiece of a devotional object in “Keychain Triptych.”

He also brings construction imagery and everyday signs into the mix. In “Transfigurcrucifixilation,” Clarke clamps Bibles and a disco ball onto a “wet floor” sign, and a dollar store cross flashes in the middle. With an electric sign installed on a traffic barricade, another piece asks: “Are you suffering?”

Despite the glitter, there’s a sense of ominousness and alienation. Though Clarke’s subversions are a bit much at times, he succeeds in putting mystery and uncertainty back into a religion that’s increasingly at the center of the far-right political project.

As we’ve seen in coverage of the assassination of right-wing speaker Charlie Kirk, we’re in an era when white Christian nationalists are in power and conservative propaganda is framed as activism. In an age where faith has been flattened, Clarke’s work is a reminder that religion thrives more in questions than in easy answers.

■ **“All Glory, Laud, and Honor” by Marcus W. Clarke at Gallery 263, 263 Pearl St., Cambridgeport.**



Claire Ogden

Marcus W. Clarke’s “Blessed Judas” is at Gallery 263.

LAUGH



Peter Liu

Jason Fishman brings his “nice boy” style of comedy to Upstairs at Bow on Thursday.

‘Nice Young Men’ get stage time for a good cause

“Won’t mansplain crypto.” “Major bird nerd.” “Never pledged a frat.” These are the performer briefs for Half a Mind Comedy and “Nice Young Men,” New Normal Boston’s next collaborative show – known for centering the comedy of traditionally marginalized groups, but making the rare move to present an all-male lineup. “This show concept began as an inside joke; we joked that all-male lineups would be better if they were vetted by women,” producer Steph Dalwin said. (The comics have been “friends and allies to all three of the producers on this show, who are women of color,” collaborator Shruti Datari noted.) The show doubles as a charitable drive for Dignity Matters, which gives free period products to people with trouble getting them – and is expected to include a signature cocktail; punny name possibilities abound. The show suggests “a new way forward for men and others in positions of power in Boston comedy,” producers say.

AMMA MARFO

■ **“Nice Young Men” at 7 p.m. Thursday at Upstairs at Bow, 1 Bow Market Way, Union Square, Somerville. \$20.**

MOVE



Todd Van Hoosear via Flickr

The Dance Complex in Cambridge’s Central Square hosts “Fall Into Dance” on Sept. 26.

‘Fall Into Dance’ is season preview with a red carpet vibe

The second annual “Fall Into Dance” is a preview of Greater Boston’s upcoming dance season. The gathering is the brainchild of Peter DiMuro, executive artistic director at The Dance Complex. “In many cities I’ve lived in, including Boston, there’s a lot of dance happening, but it’s dispersed,” DiMuro said. “I kept thinking, wouldn’t it be great if we got together and announced our dance season so it felt like it had the

excitement of a pre-Emmys red carpet show?” The Dance Complex partners with ArtsBoston and the Boston Dance Alliance for the event, which includes an excerpted performance from “Belonging and Othering” by Beheard.world choreographed by Anna Myer and co-director Jay Paris. A kickoff for the season can accomplish even more, DiMuro said: “By bringing together dancers from across the city, I

hope we can dispel some myths about the Boston dance community [and show] a large spectrum of dance in the city in terms of styles, sizes and focus.”

RACHEL HACKHAM

■ **“Fall Into Dance” at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at The Dance Complex, 536 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, Cambridge. Free, but preregistration is recommended.**

DRINK



Karenna Umscheid

Darling’s Hope I Packed a Parachute is a milk punch drink.

Constant change, Hong Kong style flourish at Darling

By **KARENNA UMSCHIED**

Since opening in July, Darling in Central Square has been a popular spot for creative, delicious cocktails and sophisticated ambiance. The name is inspired by the phrase “kill your darlings,” and Darling does that in a menu that evolves daily. Some drinks I looked at had been available for only a few days, and one was slated to leave the next day – all this is to say, it feels impossible to be exactly on time for Darling. You can’t get attached to anything, and I can’t confirm that everything I noticed, read about and sampled will be on the menu by the time this is published. Darling beckons a revisit, and then another, and another.

My first drink absolutely had to be the whiskey highball titled Hypocrite Critic, a carbonated blend of Toki Japanese whiskey, Asian pear, Hiso Junmai Daiginjo and yuja peel. I found it absolutely dazzling, refreshing and bubbly, with a tangy yuzu flavor and delicate (and not overpowering) sweetness.

For my second drink, I had Darling’s current top seller, Hope I Packed a Parachute. It’s a milk punch drink, frothy and sweet with Teeling Irish whiskey, shochu, matcha, red bean amazake, cacao and taro foam. It’s a true dessert, rich and luxurious. The flavors pair so nicely, particularly the red bean and taro foam, creating something original and so unexpectedly delicious you can’t even taste the whiskey.

Before I left, I had a few sips of the Holy Trinity – not on the menu anymore – that I was told exhibits the evolution of the friendship between the head bartender and the owner. It riffs on the classic Gibson with gin washed in ginger, scallion, garlic, along with a little bit of MSG. It was strong, spicy, and delightfully garlicky, garnished with a pickled scallion.

Darling also offers a dim sum-inspired food menu (the \$8 cucumber was genuinely worth the price), and the decor and the drinks have a strong Hong Kong influence. The walls are adorned with stills from Wong Kar-Wai films, and the coasters feature illustrations of dim sum dishes.

Darling invokes its cultures in a brilliant, unique way, with a stylish, warm ambiance, and the service is extremely friendly and welcoming; the bartenders gave really useful recommendations, and answered all of my menu questions. Darling is the perfect bar for a date, a birthday, a night out with friends or even just as an opportunity to try something both new and familiar.

■ **Darling, 464 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, Cambridge**

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

SPORTS

North, West claim Little Baseball League championships



Eden Levy

The West Minor Little Baseball League team after winning its championship.



Tucker Lewis

The North Major team after winning its championship.

By PHILIP RIZZUTO

Teams from North and West Cambridge emerged victorious in the annual season-ending Cambridge Little Baseball League All-Star Tournament at Comeau Field on Sept. 6-7.

The four-day tournament featured teams representing North, West, East and Central Cambridge, organized into major (12 and under) and minor (10 and under) competitions. Games are six innings.

A hard-fought minors competition started with the West Minor team taking a 9-5 victory over East Minor. In the other semifinal, Central Minor earned a tight 1-0 victory over North Minor behind the pitching of Soren Wineski and Teddy Ledley. Gus Russo pitched a complete game for North Minor.

The final between West Minor and Central Minor was held Sept. 6. West Minor led 3-0 in the fourth inning when Lucas Sherman-Chang then hit a bases-clearing double to tie the score. West Minor took the lead again in the fifth inning and eventually claimed the championship 7-5. West Minor was led on the mound by Lila Nelson, Coen Dewan and Christian Falasca, and received clutch hits from Jack Levy and Aemon Wolfe.

The major final on Sept. 7 pitted two teams that won their first games handily. In its first game, the North Major team jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first inning and never looked back, beating Central Major 10-2. Meanwhile, the West Major team defeated the East Major team, 6-1.

The final was close through two innings, with North Major taking a 1-0

lead. In the third inning Clark Davis clouted a two-run home run to give North Major a 3-0 lead. Davis, doing his best Shohei Ohtani impression, combined with Kiyan Mehta to shut out West Major, eventually winning 6-0.

West Minor champions Rex Alexandrov, Kiran Basu, Cole Chong, Alejandro Curtis, Coen Dewan, Christian Falasca, Thomas Horan, Jack Levy,

Colin Matsumiya, Memphis Michels, Lila Nelson, Calvin Sterner, Aemon Wolfe **Coaches** Scott Slater, Anthony Tuccinardi, Nick Nelson, Curt Dewan, Ray Matsumiya

North Major champions Asher Bryant, Clark Davis, Hayes Fethe, Marko Gagoski, Sandro Gatti, Emmett Hite, Josh Hogan, Ray Latilo, Kiyan Mehta, Grayson Russo, Shunta Sumiyoshi, David Wilkins **Coaches** David Kale, John Holland, Michael Bennett, Rafael Crane, Kevin Fethe

Notice to creditors

Informal Probate Publication Notice (MPC 551)

Estate of Bertha E Anticona de Alvarez/
Bertha Alvarez

Date of Death: May 9, 2025

Docket No.: M124P4271EA

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: A petition for informal probate has been filed by Carlos M Alvarez, as Personal Representative of the above-named estate, which is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code. Creditors have one year from the date of death to present any claims in writing to:

**130 SE 105th Ave. Apt. L1
Portland, OR 97216.**

Notification date: 09/18/2025

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.

INSTALLATION OF 24-STRAND SINGLE-MODE OS2 FIBER AT WASHINGTON ELMS AND PISANI

CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO BID INSTALLATION OF 24-STRAND SINGLE-MODE OS2 FIBER AT WASHINGTON ELMS AND PISANI

The Cambridge Housing Authority, as Owner and managing agent for its affiliate properties, invites bids to install 24-Strand Single-Mode OS2 Fiber at Washington Elms (100 Harvard Street, Cambridge, MA 02139) in accordance with the bid documents as written by the Cambridge Housing Authority. The not-to-exceed value of this contract is \$48,000.00. The awarded contractor will be responsible for installing 24-strand OS2 fiber between all designated buildings and ensuring cable pathway between buildings. The scope of work will include, but not be limited to, installing and securing patch panels and splicing trays at termination points

Bid Forms and specifications will be available at www.procore.com on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM** (may

be downloaded and viewed electronically).

All bids should be submitted electronically online at www.procore.com and received no later than **Thursday, October 2, 2025, by 12:00 PM**. HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. **All bids are subject to Massachusetts Davis Bacon Wage Rates as included in the project specifications.**

Any questions regarding this project can be directed to rludger@cambridge-housing.org no later than **Monday, September 23, 2025, at 2:00 PM**. If you need to contact the Cambridge Housing Authority on any other bidding issues, please contact rludger@cambridge-housing.org.

Rock-Andral Ludger, Senior
Purchasing Agent

INTERCOM AND ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM AT WOODROW WILSON COURT

CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO BID

INTERCOM AND ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM AT WOODROW WILSON COURT

The Cambridge Housing Authority, as Owner and Managing Agent for its affiliate properties, is seeking proposals from qualified vendors for the installation of an intercom system at nine (9) entry doors and an access control system, including twenty-four (24) card readers at the Woodrow Wilson Court property. The selected contractor shall provide all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to complete the installation in accordance with the specifications outlined in the scope of work and in accordance with the bid documents as written by the Cambridge Housing Authority. **The Not-to-Exceed amount for this project is \$150,000.00.**

Bid Forms and specifications will be available at www.procore.com on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM** (may be downloaded and viewed electronically).

All bids should be submitted electronically online at www.procore.com and received no later than **Friday, October 3, 2025, by 2:00 PM**. HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. **All bids are subject to Massachusetts Davis Bacon Wage Rates as included in the project specifications.**

Any questions regarding this project can be directed to rludger@cambridge-hous-

ing.org no later than **Friday, September 26, 2025, at 2:00 PM**. If you need to contact the Cambridge Housing Authority on any other bidding issues, please contact rludger@cambridge-housing.org.

Rock-Andral Ludger, Senior
Purchasing Agent

FULL ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR UP TO TWENTY-EIGHT ELEVATORS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

INVITATION TO BID FULL ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE SERVICE FOR UP TO TWENTY-EIGHT ELEVATORS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The Cambridge Housing Authority, the Owner and managing agent for its affiliate properties, invites sealed bids for Elevator Maintenance Service at Various Locations, in Cambridge, MA in accordance with the specifications as prepared by the Cambridge Housing Authority. The awarded contractor will be responsible for providing the CHA with elevator maintenance service of up to twenty-eight elevators in various locations in

the Cambridge area. This project entails providing comprehensive monthly maintenance and repairs for up to twenty-eight hydraulic and traction elevators at nineteen different locations all owned or managed by the Cambridge Housing Authority in Cambridge, MA. The term of this contract will be for a period of three years, or until the funds are expended, whichever occurs first. The estimated cost of this project is **\$800,000.00**.

Bid Forms and specifications will be available at www.procore.com on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM** (may be downloaded and viewed electronically).

All bids should be submitted electronically online at www.procore.com and received no later than **Thursday, October 2, 2025, by 2:00 PM**. HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. **All bids are subject to Massachusetts Davis Bacon Wage Rates as included in the project specifications.**

Any questions regarding this project can be directed to rludger@cambridge-housing.org no later than **Monday, September 22, 2025, at 2:00 PM**. If you need to contact the Cambridge Housing Authority on any other bidding issues, please contact rludger@cambridge-housing.org.

Rock-Andral Ludger, Senior
Purchasing Agent

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.

Why are green darners still around into the fall when dragonflies are a summer thing?

Multigenerational migration

By JEANINE FARLEY

The adult green darner dragonfly (*Anax junius*), also known as the mosquito hawk, is a voracious predator. It snatches and devours small insects as they fly over water. Mosquitoes, gnats, moths, tiny flies, beetles and even smaller damselflies make a delicious meal. Because each of its four wings moves independently, a green darner is highly maneuverable: It can fly forward, backward, sideways, up or down. It can even hover or spin. When still, darners hang from vegetation by their long legs, rather than perching upright.

This dragonfly spends most of its life as an aquatic nymph, though, molting 11 or 12 times before crawling out of the water and molting one last time to become a 3-inch adult with functional wings. Both males and females have bright green thoraxes (the second body segment), but their abdomens are different colors: Females have reddish brown abdomens, while the males have abdomens that are blue.

Like the adults, each nymph is a voracious predator. Its spring-loaded lower jaw snatches prey and pulls it into its mouth. Green darner nymphs are also highly maneuverable, even though they live in water. Each nymph has gills in its rectum, and draws water in and out to breathe. It can expel a burst of water quickly to lunge at prey or to escape an attacker.

Green darners, like monarch butterflies, migrate. From late July to mid-October, peaking in September, swarms fly to the southern United States, the Caribbean or the Gulf of Mexico. (It's still the Gulf of Mexico to me.) They can fly 25 to 35 mph. As they migrate, they stop to feed, so the journey can take weeks. Like monarchs the complete migration takes several generations.

The green darners that return north in the spring are the great-grandchildren of the dragonflies that migrated south in the fall. Not all green darners migrate, though. Some resident green darners in Massachusetts overwinter as aquatic nymphs, becoming adults later



in the season than the green darners that migrate from the south. (In other words, the green darners you see in March have migrated here. The resident green darners, overwintering as aquatic nymphs, become winged adults later in the season, when the water warms.)

To monitor bird migrations, scientists often attach tracking devices to a leg. How did scientists figure out green darner migration patterns, when they are too small for this method to work?

Scientists knew green darners mi-

grated because people observe their flights every year. But which generation was traveling was difficult to decipher.

Researchers decided to [use chemical clues](#). Dragonfly wings pick up a mix of hydrogen forms (isotopes) from the water in which the nymphs mature. A form called hydrogen-2 (deuterium) is more common in the south and decreases as you travel northward. Analyzing a pinhead-sized portion of a wing, scientists could tell whether a dragonfly was born a Yankee or a Southerner. They checked 800 green darner wings (including wings from museum specimens) spanning 140 years. This is what they found.

In the spring, the first generation of adult green darner dragonflies emerges in the southern United States, the Caribbean or Mexico. Temperature dictates when they fly north. The air must be at least 49 degrees for them to survive. In Massachusetts, temperatures usually reach 49 degrees in March or April, and that's when the first green darners arrive.

Upon arrival, these dragonflies mate, lay eggs in ponds (producing a second generation) and die. By late summer, some of the second-generation nymphs have become adults who fly south beginning in late July (but peaking, as I said before, in September). After they arrive at their destination, they mate, lay eggs in ponds (producing a third generation) and die. This third generation of nymphs becomes winged adults in November. This generation



Tom Murray, above and top

Green darners hang from vegetation while at rest, top, or while mating, above. Female green darners have reddish-brown abdomens, while the males have blue abdomens.

cannot return north because the weather has become too cold in the north. So these dragonflies stay in the south all winter where they mate and lay eggs, which become nymphs. Beginning in February, these nymphs become the next generation of winged adults. These green darners begin the cycle all over again. They fly north in spring as the temperatures warm, repeating the journey their great-grandparents made. The first migrants often reach Massachusetts in March.

Unlike monarchs that move north over several generations, green darners

move all the way to the northernmost or southernmost parts of their range in one generation.

Green darners are not the only dragonfly species that migrates. In North America there are about 18 migratory dragonfly species, including black saddlebags, wandering gliders and variegated meadowhawks.

Green darners are one of the most abundant dragonflies in North America. You can see them earlier than most other dragonflies in the spring (and now you know why). Their offspring are still around in the late fall. Look for them on your walks near ponds and marshy areas.

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.



Rebecca Shoer

Green darners are large dragonflies, as shown by this one on the Somerville Community Path on Aug. 12.

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.