

The yellow-rumped warbler can eat things other birds can't

Cambridge Community Foundation gives more than 150 grants

CAMBRIDGE DAY

THE WEEK OF MAY 21 – MAY 28, 2026

FREE

Residents press officials for answers

By JANE PETERSEN

About 50 community members braved a downpour to attend a Community Debrief on the May 11 shooting on Memorial Drive, which made national news and left the perpetrator and two victims hospitalized. Those gathered in the steamy Cambridge Community Center gym, about a 10-minute walk from the incident's site, listened to local leaders before grilling officials on their response and the state of the criminal justice system.

"Why aren't we having an all-town, town-hall meeting at City Hall?" Cambridge resident Lawrence J. Adkins asked. He also said the meeting came "eight days too late."

"You need to do the job," he said. At the meeting were a mix of about 30 state officials, city officials, elected leaders, members of the Cambridge Police Department



Michael F. Fitzgerald

Lawrence J. Adkins, a neighborhood leader, questioned local leaders at a Community Debrief on the May 11 Memorial Drive shooting.

(CPD) and an emotional support black Labrador retriever named Bear. Also on hand were representatives of Riverside Trauma Center.

Another resident, Denise Haynes, dissatisfied by answers she was receiving, finally said "We're

looking to hear that 'yes, we messed up. There was a miss.'"

Yi-An Huang, Cambridge's City Manager, called the critique that the city could have done more in the immediate aftermath to support the broader community

"important feedback."

"I recognize that you need to meet community members where they are, and I think in this case, maybe that would have meant being more responsive with an official response."

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui said that "we can always do more" and that her main priority has been the family members of victims, like Maimouna, who declined to give her last name, whose uncle is still hospitalized for his injuries (see related story on page 3).

Much of last Monday's incident unfolded in front of The Rivermark, a large mixed income building at 808 and 812 Memorial Drive with 300 apartments, including a number of subsidized units. State rep. Mike Connolly said he and Councillor Ayah Al-Zubi went door-to-door throughout Rivermark "just let people know that we're thinking about them, [and that] they're not alone." In an email update, he called it "a pretty striking experience [sic] today — some people we spoke with sheltered in place and feared for their lives last week."

See QUESTIONS, page 3

Council drops ShotSpotter in close vote



Bruno Muñoz-Oropeza

City Councillor Ayah Al-Zubi (right), pictured at her swearing in in January, proposed the policy order to discontinue ShotSpotter.

By JANE PETERSEN

The City Council voted Monday night to pull the plug on ShotSpotter, a controversial police surveillance technology in use in Cambridge for more than a decade.

The move came after extended public comment and nearly an hour of deliberation, with intense distrust of the current federal administration a factor in approving the policy order.

The policy order to remove

ShotSpotter first appeared on the council's agenda last week but was delayed when vice mayor Burhan Azeem exercised his charter right, citing emotions running high during a meeting that started mere hours after a shooting on Memorial Drive left a gunman and two victims hospitalized.

ShotSpotter uses a network of microphones to alert law enforcement when a high decibel sound potentially indicating a gunshot is recorded. It was first deployed by the Cambridge Police Department (CPD) in June of 2014.

"We shouldn't frame safety only through surveillance or policing. We have to be expansive," said Councillor Ayah Al-Zubi, who chairs the public safety committee and was the lead sponsor of the policy order. Councillors Marc McGovern, Patty Nolan and Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler co-sponsored the order. All four ultimately voted in favor of the order, along with Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui.

The vote bucked requests from both city manager Yi-An Huang and acting police commissioner Pauline Wells to keep ShotSpotter.

See SHOTSPOTTER, page 4

Parents push Murphy for answers on 158 Spring Street



Charles Cherney

The former Kennedy-Longfellow School in East Cambridge may become home to the Amigos School.

By JULIA CARPI

At a town hall-style meeting Thursday, parents pressed Cambridge Public Schools Superintendent Dave Murphy for specifics about what might go into the empty school building in East Cambridge.

Around 50 community members, parents and caregivers, and district administrators attended the meeting with Murphy on the vacancy at the former Kennedy-Longfellow School. It was hosted at the King Open School. School Committee Members Elizabeth Hudson, Arjun Jaikumar, Luisa de Paula Santos and Mayor Sumbul Sid-

diqui attended but did not participate in the conversation.

Murphy gave a 40-minute presentation about potential long-term effects of the decision and a range of general options for the building:

- ➔ move an existing school
- ➔ merge two existing elementary schools into the space
- ➔ merge two upper schools
- ➔ create a school or Early Learning center
- ➔ preserve the building as swing space
- ➔ relinquish the building to the city

See SCHOOL, page 4

As S&S Restaurant prepares to close, owners hope a new legacy will start

A new edition of a book on Harvard's gates

● Accolades and achievements for area residents

Baseball keeps winning, girls lacrosse scores on Senior Day

LOCAL

Over 150 local nonprofits get grants

By EUGENIA SCHRAA HUH

The Cambridge Community Foundation (CCF) recently made its Community Fund grants, awarding almost \$1.4 million this year to 157 Cambridge-serving nonprofits. While the CCF is Cambridge-focused, this year's awards were influenced by national political trends.

With the Trump Administration in its second year, many local nonprofits are struggling to fulfill their missions — government funds have dried up and corporations have turned against diversity, equity and identity-oriented initiatives, including those supporting women and girls, said Geeta Pradhan, CCF's executive director, and Christina Turner, its vice president of programs and grantmaking.

One funding recipient is Science Club for Girls (SCFG), which received \$24,500 in total this year and last, for afterschool education and mentoring programs that help "girls and gender-expansive youth from underrepresented communities" develop knowledge in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

"People are surprised that there are penalties being felt by women and girls," said Bonnie Bertolaet, SCFG's executive director. She said it was a "tough time for STEM and for our funders," many of which are technology and biotechnology companies.

Pradhan praised the nonprofit for continuing to fulfill its mission "in the face of outright attacks on things that mention girls specifically."

Another woman-focused grant recipient, the Cambridge-based Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC), had not applied for funding in about a decade, Pradhan said. But government funding for its work "has dramatically changed." It received \$8,500 this year.

CCF also worked to help organizations responding to the federal government's more punitive approach to immigration. At least seven grant recipients are focused on that population, though Pradhan said there may be others, because many nonprofits serving immigrant populations now try to disguise the nature of their work and their clients' identities.

In addition, organizations can span multiple categories. One such organization is De Novo, which provides legal support on issues relating to immigration, but also housing, family law and disability, as well as counseling services.

An intensive review

CCF aims to be a long-term, invested supporter that understands and responds to "the changing needs in the community," Pradhan said. Its grants involve a "labor-intensive" review process that took 14 separate



Bruno Muñoz-Oropeza

Geeta Pradhan, president of the Cambridge Community Foundation, at an event in February.

3-hour meetings, involving 44 local resident volunteer advisors.

This year, Community Fund awards ranged from \$1,500 to \$25,000, with an average of just under \$9,000; the median was \$7,000. Most applicants got funded — 199 organizations applied, with only 42 not receiving funding this cycle.

While the grants are not large, Turner said CCF funding comes with ongoing follow-up and support. The goal is to "develop a

arts, food insecurity, and homelessness. Some were more controversial, such as The Black Response, a nonprofit "dedicated to defunding and abolishing the Cambridge Police Department." It received a \$5,000 grant for a second straight year.

Turner said that a core element of CCF's work is "to understand how grassroots organizations serve their communities. We want to support them as they surface needs we might not understand."



Derek Kouyoumjian

Quinton Zondervan, seen in 2020, chairs the Cambridge Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team (HEART).

deeper understanding" of the nonprofits it partners with and their work, she said. As they get to know nonprofits through this process, CCF, which has about \$69 million in assets according to the nonprofit-focused news organization ProPublica, may end up giving grants of up to \$150,000 to nonprofits working in the arts and food insecurity, its two primary areas of focus.

Bertolaet of Science Club for Girls said Pradhan gave SCFG not just financial support but also valuable advice and contacts that helped them, for example, restructure in 2018 and grow in scope.

Controversial choices

Many recipients were in the CCF's core mission areas, such as

which allows for cultivating and nurturing nonprofit partners, even those that may have had stumbles. CultureHouse in July will "pilot a KiOSK Residency program" to highlight an artist's work for a month, said Cleo Brigham, CultureHouse's KiOSK manager. She added the goal is to provide "more support for artists to create some really special moments at the KiOSK."

CCF also gave \$10,000 this year and last to HEART (Cambridge Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team), a stand-alone nonprofit that grew out of The Black Response. HEART currently operates a van used to give mobile crisis support, largely in the form of rides or accompaniment to court or other appointments. The van also makes rounds to provide aid to unhoused community members. But it could be viewed as yet a third kind of alternative to regular emergency response, in addition to alternative response team within the Police Department and the Community Safety Department's Community Assistance Response and Engagement team (CARE).

HEART's mission "is rooted in the community and grounded in abolitionist values," said its chair, Quinton Zondervan, a former city councillor. He said it has lost funding "in part due to the national zeitgeist" and has had to scale down operations.

Zondervan added that the goal is to allow community residents to request via 911 calls that HEART, rather than a city-staffed department, respond to their needs. He said it was always the plan for HEART to contract with the Community Safety Department.

For Pradhan, CCF's community grant program is about hope. "The positive thing is that people are contributing and joining with us," she said. When things feel out of control at the national level, she thinks, sometimes, "the only place you can really feel good about is when you're investing in your community: supporting local artists, lifting up your kids, providing food and basic necessities to people."

CAMBRIDGE DAY

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Cambridge
Community Foundation



Yi-An Huang, Cambridge city manager, answers a question during the Community Debrief on the Memorial Drive shooting.

Questions

From Page 1

Connolly said they had shared resource information and flyers for this meeting and one on Thursday hosted by the Rivermark Tenant Association expressly for residents of the building to meet with Riverside Trauma Center staff and Cambridge police.

Tuesday's event was the second for the community, after one on Friday night held at Riverside Pizza and Sea Food. That had limited turnout, but residents who did attend also were frustrated by the response, particularly when a representative of the Rivermark's management company arrived. The community members in attendance were angry that management had not reached out.

Local leader and Rivermark resident Valerie Bonds, who attended the event on Friday, said in an email to city officials shared with Cambridge Day that residents of the Rivermark, including children, had "experienced various forms of trauma and triggers caused by the long-term effects of hovering helicopters, police, machine gun shots, and blood on the street in front of our housing complex." And she asked why the 812 Community Room had not been used to gather residents and help them "connect, share, and begin healing."

She did, however, call the Friday gathering "a meaningful first step in acknowledging the experiences of those living in Cambridgeport and throughout the Cambridge community."

She also thanked the organizers, including state Rep. Marjorie Decker and Cambridge Public Health Department.

At Tuesday's meeting, city councillor E. Denise Simmons said "I've always been a big proponent of 'talk with me, not about me', and we've really got to get out of this habit of talking for people that we have not taken the time to know. This is an opportunity for us to recalibrate and look at what we need to do better."

Speaking before the event, Nancy Rihan-Porter, Cambridge Public Health Department's director of resilience and emergency preparedness, called the



Kessen Green, Cambridge Police Department's director of outreach and community programs, at the Community Debrief.

Memorial Drive events unprecedented. "We've never had this kind of randomized thing, not in my 10 years" in the department.

She asked residents to pay attention to their emotions. "People need to be aware of how they're feeling. You're going to have irrational reactions. One guy was saying he's ducking while driving. That's a normal human reaction to a completely abnormal thing."

She encouraged residents to be open about their feelings with other, to make an effort to connect with people, especially neighbors who might be feeling the same way. "There's nothing more healing than to be with each other," she said.



Acting Police Commissioner Pauline Wells answers a question at the Community Debrief.

Memorial Drive shooting victim stable



Michael F. Fitzgerald

Some of the community members who came to the Community Debrief on the May 11 Memorial Drive shooting. At top left, wearing black hat and white shirt, is Maimouna, the niece of one of the victims.

By JANE PETERSEN

The niece of one of the Memorial Drive shooting victims attended Tuesday's Community Debrief on the incident at Cambridge Community Center recounted the harrowing moments when it appeared her uncle had been shot. She also said earlier in the day her uncle had undergone his fifth surgery since the shooting.

Maimouna (she declined to give her last name) told Cambridge Day she lives with her mother and uncle near the scene of last Monday's shooting. She was at work at the Massachusetts General Hospital Ketamine Clinic when her mother called her to inform her of the shooting.

Her mother shared photos of what appeared to be her uncle's car at the scene, but there was some confusion over whose car he had been driving that day. In the

meantime, her mother's repeated calls to his cell phone went unanswered.

"Then I got a picture of a person on the ground," Maimouna said. "I knew it was him, because of his beard and the shirt that he was wearing." She recognized it as the same shirt he had on that morning.

Maimouna rushed home to meet her mother, and then back to Mass General — this time, to the emergency room, where emergency responders brought her uncle, who had suffered multiple gunshot wounds.

After her uncle, who has been identified in media reports as Casimir or Casmir Bangoura, a DoorDash driver, was admitted to the hospital, he was interviewed by state police investigating the shooting. During the portion of the community meeting where community members

had the opportunity to speak, she asked local leaders why officers had asked her uncle if he had any "gang affiliation or drug affiliation."

Maimouna told Cambridge Day state police had questioned her and asked if her uncle had any "enemies."

When asked how this line of questioning made her feel, Maimouna simply said: "It is what it is." She said Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui had been in touch with her family, but otherwise none of the other "higher ups" in the city or state had contacted them.

Maimouna gave an update on her uncle's condition. "He's as good as he can be. He can't walk like he usually does," she said. She said it was initially thought he had three gunshot wounds, but Maimouna said doctors are still finding more bullets.

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LOCAL

ShotSpotter

From Page 1

Huang acknowledged that ShotSpotter was not “a perfect tool” and had tradeoffs, but that ShotSpotter didn’t need to always be accurate to be effective.

“When you look at the data a slightly different way, this is actually allowing [police] to respond more quickly, and that’s what we’ve been hearing from our police leadership,” Huang said.

Wells spoke ahead of the vote and answered questions from city councillors, cited a shooting on Harvard Street in July 2024 in which no 911 call had occurred. Wells said officers found a 48-year-old man with a gunshot wound to his upper thigh. She also invoked the Memorial Drive shooting in imploring the council to vote down the policy order.

“Last Monday’s incident was as anomaly, and frankly, we’ve been lucky. But lucky is not a strategy,” Wells said. “We are literally going into a community meeting tomorrow night and telling them that the city of Cambridge voted down gunshot detection technology after an active shooter event. Why wouldn’t we want to keep our community as safe as possible?”

In both cases Wells cited, though, ShotSpotter was either not solely responsible or not a factor at all in police response. CPD staff have confirmed with Cambridge Day that last week’s shooting on Memorial Drive occurred outside of ShotSpotter’s range. As for the July 2024 shooting on Harvard Street, CPD’s own report confirms that while a ShotSpotter alert was triggered, a patrol unit had also overheard the gunshots and dispatched toward the scene. ShotSpotter activation wasn’t mentioned in the day’s daily log of police activity.

The policy order asks the city manager to direct CPD to turn off and physically remove ShotSpotter microphones within 90 days. Councillors Timothy Flaherty and E. Denise Simmons voted against it, while Azeem and councillor Cathie Zusy voted “present.”

Public discomfort

About 30 people came in person or called in during public comment, and all voiced their opposition to ShotSpotter. They cited the city’s lack of control over how ShotSpotter’s data is used, the program’s potential to over-police people of color, and an overall discomfort with surveillance technology as reasons for why they thought the city should discontinue its use.

Some commenters were concerned that ShotSpotter’s high false positive rate, which according to CPD has been 65% over the duration of its use in Cambridge, causes police officers to be on guard when dispatched to a location.

Cambridge resident Rachel Bickelman said she was concerned by “how quickly these situations can escalate when there’s



Julia Levine

City manager Yi-An Huang seen in a 2025 photo.



Bruno Muñoz-Oropeza

City Councillor Marc McGovern speaking before the council in January.

... police with firearms involved in a chaotic moment.” She said she was worried ShotSpotter could lead to “unnecessary and preventable violence.”

Multiple commenters played voice recordings of Cambridge residents who said they were afraid of coming to public comment in person out of fear of retaliation.

Dana Grottenstein shared a recording of a comment made in Spanish by a Cambridge resident who identified herself as Sandra. Grottenstein translated remarks saying residents of public housing like Sandra did not come to public comment because they “have felt watched, and we have felt punished whenever we have complained or spoken out against something. I do not want these machines recording us. Get these microphones out of our neighborhoods.”

Someone who provided voice notes through their in-person intermediaries mentioned having “mixed status” households, meaning that someone in their household could be subject to deportation. They worried about ShotSpotter microphones “listening in on immigrant communities.”

Alex Marthews, co-chair of Digital Fourth, a civil liberties group, translated a recording of a woman who identified herself as Angela and said “I fear for my situation every day. This secret surveillance isn’t abstract. It is a

real threat.”

Former mayor Anthony Galluccio was not at public comment but shared with Cambridge Day a letter sent to the city council and Huang. The letter spoke out against ICE’s “trampling of due process” but asked councillors not to let anger at the Trump administration drive their votes. “Please pause and think about how to control the use of technology but not eliminate it,” the letter said, adding that local government “is responsible for protecting us.”

There is no evidence that ShotSpotter maker SoundThinking has supplied data, including recordings of conversations its microphones are capable of picking up, to the federal government. But the Trump administration has confirmed its purchase of commercially available location data on people residing in the U.S. from other companies to aid in investigations.

“Security theater”

After public comment, councillors spent nearly an hour discussing the policy order. Some struck a conciliatory tone, acknowledging the variety of viewpoints on council.

“I’m not going to say that anybody who votes to keep [ShotSpotter] doesn’t care. That’s cheap, that’s political, and we should do better,” said McGovern.

Councillors in favor of the policy order to remove ShotSpotter

said the technology was ineffective. “In terms of what we tell the community tomorrow, I hope we can tell them that we’re using things that work,” said Sobrinho-Wheeler, in response to Wells’s remarks. “Let’s actually use proven technologies ... rather than some security theater.”

The council also voted last October to stop use of Flock, whose technology scans license plates. But others didn’t want to ditch the technology altogether without an alternative in place.

“The argument in favor is that it may help the police or law enforcement in gathering sufficient evidence, so that even in the absence of witnesses testimony, we can hold people accountable,” said Simmons. As for privacy concerns, she said “If you’re on your phone, you walk past a Tesla, a Ring doorbell ... We’re being surveilled all the time, whether we like it or not.”

Some councillors thought public concern that ShotSpotter could report to Immigrations and Custom Enforcement (ICE) were overblown.

“I think it’s a false narrative to think that federal agents are monitoring conversations that are overheard by ShotSpotter,” said Flaherty.

At least one public commenter misattributed the funding the city gets for ShotSpotter to ICE. Cambridge’s ShotSpotter program has been funded through grant money the city of Boston receives through the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). FEMA and ICE are both part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Simmons made a motion to table the policy order in favor of a compromise that would direct the city to re-write its contract with SoundThinking to restrict how the company is allowed to use data collected on Cambridge residents. The motion failed by a 5-4 vote, with Azeem, Flaherty, Simmons, and Zusy voting in favor and the other five councillors voting against.

McGovern said the risks simply outweighed the benefits.

“I don’t think [ShotSpotter] is listening to everybody at their kitchen table, nor do I think the city is going to be less safe without it,” he said. For him, the decision to remove ShotSpotter came down to “the access of the information not being in our hands. And under this current federal administration, that’s scary.”

Advocates who spoke in favor of dismantling ShotSpotter could be seen high fiving each other in the hallway outside of council chambers immediately following the vote.

Marthews, the Digital Fourth co-chair called the vote a “wise decision based on a sober consideration of the evidence.” “ShotSpotter has never been shown to reduce gun violence, and it is better for the city to not have rolling audio monitoring of its citizens as they pass by about their daily lives.”

School

From Page 1

He then spent an hour answering questions about those options. Murphy almost immediately said he would not recommend using the building as a swing space or relinquishing it to the city.

Options pared away

In response to questions about the building’s infrastructure, Murphy said 158 Spring Street is currently “operational.” “We did not close Kennedy-Longfellow because the infrastructure could not support a school community in the long term,” Murphy said.

Other options were pared away until finally, under questioning from a parent, Murphy expressed a preference for merging two schools or moving an existing school, adding that the building is “too much of a valuable asset.”

“I have some reservations about [creating a new school], because of the unknown implications with respect to the rest of the system,” Murphy added.

The meeting drew a number of parents with children at the Amigos School, the district’s only K-8 school. One idea for the building’s future is to move The Amigos School from its current home in Cambridgeport back to 158 Spring Street, which housed the Amigos program in the late 1990s, before it became a full-fledged school.

“If we were to relocate Amigos to this school or merge with another school and vacate the facility of Amigos, wouldn’t that facility be better adapted to become an early learning center than this massive school?” an Amigos parent asked.

Murphy agreed, acknowledging the “visible inequity around the infrastructure of [some Cambridge] schools.”

Amigos is overcrowded

Parents from Amigos expressed concerns about overcrowding and space issues in its current building, which has more than 400 students. The K-Lo building could hold more than 650 students. Amigos is highly sought after within the district’s controlled choice system, but is not currently a “top three choice” for parents enrolling children in kindergarten, Murphy said.

The controlled choice system in Cambridge, which places students in schools based on family preference and socioeconomic status, will play a factor in the decision about the 158 Spring Street vacancy. “The levels of demand at our schools under the choice policy are heavily concentrated in a subset of our schools, and that’s not healthy from an enrollment perspective in a school choice system,” Murphy said.

For more on
Parents push
Murphy for
answers,
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■ Do you know of a business opening or closing in Cambridge or Somerville? Send news to business@cambridgeday.com.

BUSINESS

New restaurant may replace S&S, owners say

By MADISON LUCCHESI

While the S&S Restaurant will close June 7 after 107 years in Inman Square, its owners say a new restaurant may replace it.

“We are going to take a deep breath and figure out what is the right thing for this landmark, iconic space,” said Gary Mitchell, who is the fourth generation in his family to run the restaurant, which he owns with his sister, Aimee Baum. They also own the building at 1334 Cambridge St., and Mitchell said they plan to rent the space to another “legacy,” family-run restaurant or business ready to become the next neighborhood staple. He said they hope to “help create what’s next” for Inman Square.

Mitchell said the restaurant is having a “record year,” but he is 69 and started working behind the deli counter in 1969, when he was 12. His daughters don’t want to take over the family business, and he and Baum feel now is the right time to retire.

In November 1919, Rebecca “Ma” Edelstein, Mitchell and Baum’s great-grandmother, opened the deli at its original 1306 Cambridge St. location. The deli was named for her favorite Yiddish saying, “Es and es,” which means eat and eat. From those initial days as a deli counter to today’s full restaurant, function room and catering services, S&S has always been a part of “the fabric” of Inman Square, said Mitchell. When the restaurant turned 75 in 1994, it buried a time capsule with restaurant memorabilia and other items, which was opened in 2019 during the restaurant’s centennial.

He said he believes S&S’s long-running success comes from



An exterior view of S&S Restaurant.

Courtesy of Paige Harding



An S&S employee works behind the deli counter inside S&S Restaurant, a few weeks before the restaurant will close after 107 years.

Madison Lucchesi

the quality and good value of its food as well as its effort to make every customer feel comfortable. These things kept people coming back, sometimes for their entire lives.



Courtesy of Paige Harding

Gary Mitchell, fourth-generation co-owner of S&S.

Mitchell shared an email he received from a Cantabrigian-turned-Floridian sharing childhood memories of S&S and his dismay at his inability to visit one last time. “You will be sorely missed. Thank you so much for always having the best food, the best services, and most importantly, putting people first,” the man wrote.

Its longevity makes its closure bittersweet. Mitchell said he’s been hearing from customers who want Mitchell and Baum to take a much-needed break. But they’re also crying over the loss of “their place,” Mitchell said.

Cambridge resident, Sara Mae Berman wrote a letter to The Boston Globe saying she’s been an S&S customer for approximately 50 years and “was heartbroken to learn that the S&S Deli ... will close.”

“I will miss the customers tremendously,” Mitchell said, as well as the staff. He wants the end of S&S to be “a celebration of my family’s history here,” so a week after it serves its last reubens, matzo ball soups and cheese blintzes on June 7, Mitchell will host an invitation-only party.

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EVENTS

Thursday, June 4, 7:30 p.m.
Somerville Theatre, 55 Davis Square.

American Dreams: The Moth Mainstage

\$52 to \$96. Five seasoned storytellers share extraordinary, true stories that dig deep into the idea of the American Dream. Does it even exist anymore?

Wednesday, May 27, 8 p.m.
The Lizard Lounge, 1667 Massachusetts Ave., in the Baldwin neighborhood between Harvard and Porter squares, Cambridge.

Four Piece Suit with special guests Barrence Whitfield and John Troy

\$11 to \$20 and 21-plus. Four Piece Suit is David Becker on bass, Jeff Giacomelli on saxophone, Seth Pappas on drums and Milt Reder on guitar. The predominantly instrumental group has been heard on soundtracks for “Sex and the City” and “Dexter.”

Tuesday, May 26, 7 p.m.
Porter Square Books, 1815 Massachusetts Ave., Porter Square, Cambridge.

Lindsey Danis reads from “(Out) on the Road: The Radical Joy of Queer Travel”

RSVP. Queer people spend around \$100 billion annually on travel and are twice as likely as the general population to hold a passport. Lindsey Danis empowers LGBTQ+ travelers to face their fears, expand their comfort zones, find community, and thrive on the road. Author Milo Todd joins.

10:30 a.m.
Cambridge Common, 1500 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge.

Memorial Day Observance Ceremony

Free. Join Director of Veteran Services Director Cynthia Harris, Mayor Sumbul Saddiqui and Vice Mayor Burhan Azeem and other City officials in commemoration of Memorial Day.

Monday, June 1, 7 p.m.
Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge.

Morgan Thomas reads from “Mad Eden”

Free. In this debut novel, Morgan Thomas tells the story of a trans healthcare worker who’s carefully built life is imperiled by a series of circumstances. Co-editor-in-chief for the LGBTQ+ literary journal, Foglifter Journal Milo Todd joins.

Saturday, May 23, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Cambridge Main Library, 449 Broadway, Mid-Cambridge.

Asian American and Pacifica Islander Heritage Month Celebration with Boston Festival Orchestra

Free but register. Join Boston Festival Orchestra Artistic Director Alyssa Wang, BFO musicians and guest artists for an intimate chamber music experience of Asian American and Pacific Islander composers.

Saturday, May 30, 11a.m. to 5 p.m.
Seven Hills Park, Davis Square, Somerville.

2026 New England Hong Kong Festival

Free admission. Hosted during Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Month, this year’s festival brings together 40 local vendors, artists and community groups offering food, gifts, and interactive activities. There will also be live performances from bands, martial artists and cultural performers, as well as free games, family-friendly activities and photo ops.

Friday, May 22, 6 p.m.
Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge.

Campfire Festival (through May 25)

\$20. Passim’s twice-a-year, four-day homegrown festival of Americana, bluegrass, blues, Celtic, country, folk and related musical styles is in its 25th year, with more than 50 artists performing through Monday, May 25. Adam Hendey kicks off this year’s festival. Flagship Romance, Diana Daniels, Alouette Batteau, Trae Sheehan, GHOST GRL, davy, Kate White, Eloise Shaw, Ella Duff and Cam Peak are also slated to perform.

Thursday, May 28, 5 to 9 p.m.
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., in the Baldwin neighborhood near Harvard Square, Cambridge.

ArtsThursdays: A Free Night at the Museums

Free and all ages. Experience the world-famous Blaschka Glass Flowers, a new rubies installation in the Earth and Planetary Sciences Gallery and “Swimming with Sharks: A Deep Dive into Shark Biology and Behavior.”

Sunday, May 31, 1 to 3 p.m.
An Sabin, 1193 Cambridge St., Cambridge.

Bluegrass Brunch

Free. Catherine Bowness and Alex Rubin host this “bluegrass brunch” featuring local musicians.

Friday, May 29, 7:30 p.m.
Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square, Cambridge.

The Mystery of Irma Vep

Starting at \$27, but check performance date. In this spoof of Gothic melodramas, an English estate may or may not be haunted by its former recently deceased mistress.

Wednesday, June 3, 4 to 7:30 p.m.
Hoyt Field (Gilmore and Montague streets off Western Avenue), Riverside, Cambridge.

Pop-Up Recycle Event

Free. Residents are invited to drop-off batteries, books, electronics and printer cartridges, fluorescent bulbs and other mercury items (thermometers, thermostats), plastic bags/ film, scrap metal, curbside recyclables and bulky rigid plastics (laundry baskets, pails).

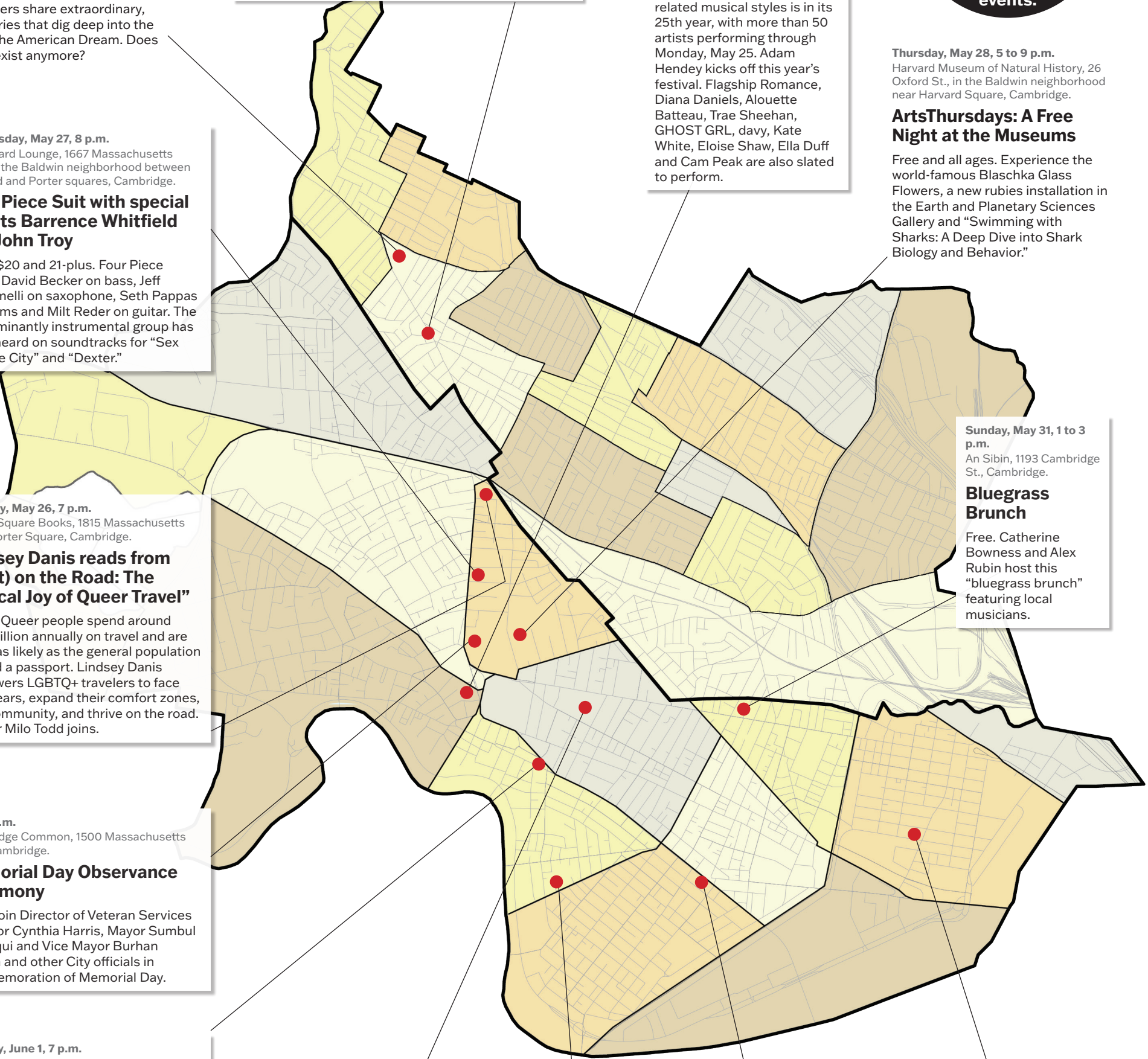
Thursday, May 21, 6 to 8 p.m.
The Foundry, 101 Rogers St., Cambridge.

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School Sisters on the Runway Fashion Show

\$5 to \$10. Sisters on the Runway raises awareness and funds in support of victims of domestic violence. This year’s theme for its annual runway fashion show is “Light in the Darkness.” All money raised goes to Transition House, a local domestic violence shelter.



Scan here for more events.



■ 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.

WILD THINGS

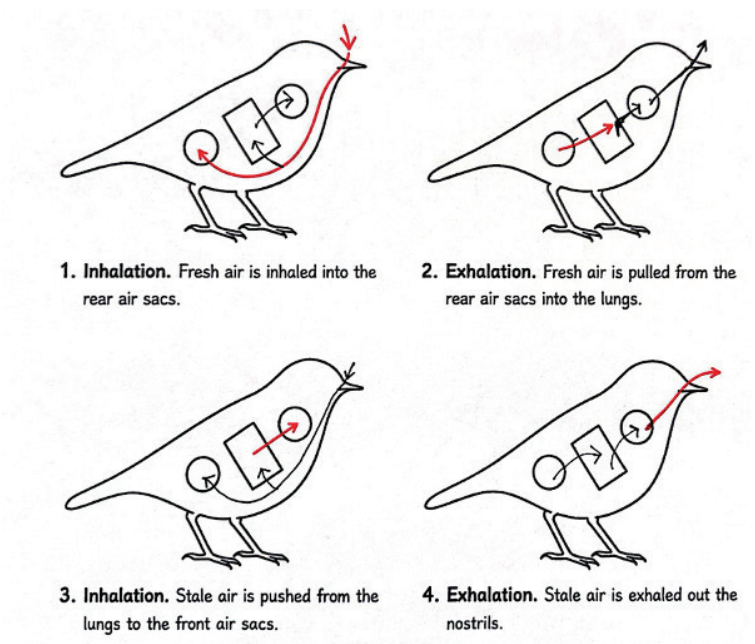
If humans breathed like warblers

By JEANINE FARLEY

Mammals, including humans, inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide, which sounds like a fairly simple process. But compared to birds, we're very inefficient. When we breathe, we inhale oxygen-rich air into our lungs. This fresh air mixes with old oxygen-poor air already in the lungs. When we breathe out, we breathe out this old stale air along with fresh air. No fresh air is getting into our system when we exhale, however.

Birds do not breathe this way. When birds fly, their demand for oxygen is enormous. When they inhale and exhale, fresh air and stale air do not mix. The air moves in a one-way loop, and it takes two complete cycles of inhaling and exhaling to complete the process.

Here's my crude rendering of how this works:



A bird inhales air into rear air sacs. When it exhales, this air goes from the rear air sacs into the lungs, pushing out the stale air already in the lungs into front air sacs. Then the bird inhales again, and the stale air in the lung is pushed into the front air sacs. This is the air that leaves when the bird exhales through its nostrils. Scientists think this adaptation developed when dinosaurs — ancestors to birds — lived in a low-oxygen environment and had to breathe efficiently to survive.

Like all birds, yellow-rumped warblers (*Setophaga coronata*) breathe in this fashion. They need to breathe efficiently because some migrate thousands of miles from winter grounds in Central America to Canada and Alaska where they breed. Now, mid-to-late spring, is the time of year they will pass through our region.

Most warblers have digestive systems that are designed to process soft-bodied insects. The yellow-rumped warbler, however, is an exception. Like other warblers, yellow-rumps eat mostly insects during breeding season in the summer. However, these birds regularly eat waxy fruits such as



A yellow-rumped warbler. The birds are unusual for being able to digest waxy fruits like juniper berries.

Tom Murray

act like soap to break down waxy layers. Once in the intestines, the food moves through very slowly, allowing the bird to process and absorb maximum nutrients from the berries.

Scientists think that these

adaptations may have helped the species become one of the most widespread warblers in North America. As many as 170 million exist worldwide, from Alaska to Central America.

Even though these warblers



Jeanine Farley

A hopping yellow-rumped warbler along the Mystic River.

are extremely common, we do not see them in the numbers that William Brewster, a late 19th and early 20th century ornithologist, described in “The Birds of the Cambridge Region of Massachusetts.” Back then they were also called Myrtle warblers because they ate wax myrtle berries. Here’s



Jeanine Farley

Yellow-rumped warbler along the Mystic River in Somerville.

what he wrote:

[D]uring the forenoon of April 25, 1868, I found “several thousand” Myrtle Warblers at Fresh Pond. It was snowing heavily at the time, but on the north side of the pond, near the water’s edge, the snow melted as fast as it fell and the pebbly shores were bare. Here, for a distance of perhaps a quarter of a mile, the surface of the ground was literally crowded with Yellow-rumps.

They were even around in the winter, according to Brewster:

On January 27, 1868, I saw a Myrtle Warbler...within what are now the grounds of the McLean Asylum, feeding on the berries of a greenbrier vine, ... on a hillside not far from Arlington Heights a few birds have been found nearly every winter since 1890.

The same birds that once crowded Fresh Pond during Brewster’s snowstorm still visit our region today. Throughout May, look for these common migrants alighting in the canopies of trees. And delight in the knowledge that they have a respiratory system inherited from dinosaurs and a digestive system that can turn wax into food.



Tom Murray

In the fall, these warblers display more muted colors.

FILM

LOCAL FOCUS



A scene from "Taxi Driver."

Reunite with some classic films

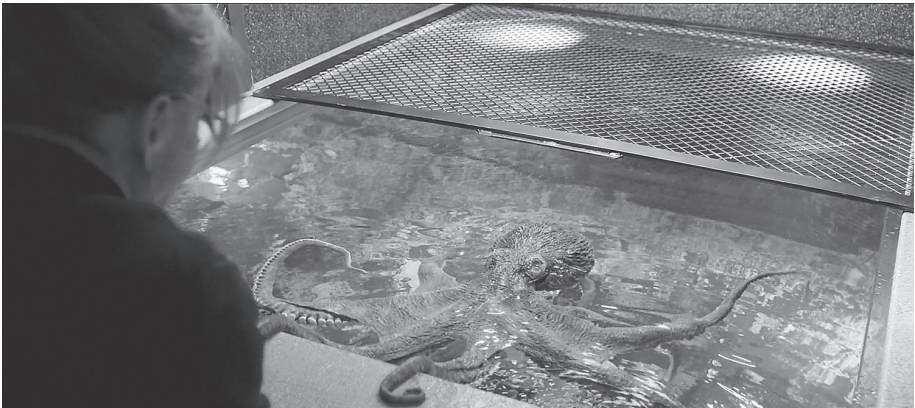
By OSCAR GOFF

Schools may be letting out, but it's **Reunion Week** at the **Brattle Theatre**, a reliably eclectic annual series of films celebrating their 25th, 50th, or 75th anniversary. It kicks off Friday with two very different New York classics hitting the big 5-0 this year: Chantal Akerman's winsome essay film **"News from Home"** (1976), in which the director reads letters from her mother over priceless documentary footage of the '70s Big Apple, and Martin Scorsese's explosive **"Taxi Driver"** (1976), in which Robert De Niro's Travis Bickle stalks those same streets and writes more sinister missives ("Taxi Driver" screens in encore Sunday afternoon). Saturday runs the board, marking the 75th anniversary of the Gene Kelly classic **"An American in Paris"** (1951), the 50th of Wim Wenders' elegiac buddy picture **"Kings of the Road"** (1976), and the 25th of Terry Zwigoff's **"Ghost World"** (2001), starring Thora Birch and Scarlett Johansson as hipsters. Sunday begins with a brand-new 4K restoration of Disney's **"Alice in Wonderland"** (1951), which remains as eye-poppingly strange as when it premiered. It's followed by a pair of decidedly more grown-up features in Alf Sjöberg's adaptation of August Strindberg's **"Miss Julie"** (1951) and Michael Haneke's harrowing international breakthrough **"The Piano Teacher"** (2001). Those looking for lighter fare can spend Memorial Day with a double feature of the beloved baseball comedy **"The Bad News Bears"** (1976) and Wes Anderson's wistful masterpiece **"The Royal Tenenbaums"** (2001). Perhaps the most intriguing selection of this year's Reunion Week, however, is René Daalder's fascinatingly weird revenge thriller **"Massacre at Central High"** (1976), screening on Saturday and Tuesday. When a mysterious loner transfers to a school run by preppe bullies, he evens the score by picking them off one by one — only for the school's previously bullied nerds and outcasts to assert themselves as just as vicious as their onetime tormentors. Though it scans at first blush as typical '70s horror sleaze (to be sure, some elements are very much of their time), Daalder's film sets itself apart with a deceptively clever script and a cast of oddball characters, including the late Robert Carradine as a hilariously groovy stoner. It's also startlingly prescient in its vision of so-called nerds proving to be fascists-in-waiting, anticipating any number of current high-profile figures in politics and tech. This marks the first time "Central High" has screened at the Brattle. Over at the **Somerville Theatre**, the **Kurt & Jodie** repertory series continues with two more double features from Mr. Russell and Ms. Foster. Sunday brings

a family-friendly double feature of Disney's animated classic **"The Fox and the Hound"** (1981), in which Kurt Russell voices a friendly hunting dog who strikes up an ill-starred friendship with Mickey Rooney's orphaned fox, and the oddball kiddie musical **"Bugsy Malone"** (1976), starring Jodie Foster and a cast of child actors incongruously cast as grown-up gangsters. Leave the kids at home, however, for Monday's program, which sees Russell in Robert Zemeckis' ribald comedy **"Used Cars"** (1980) and Foster entangled with a drunken clown (played by Gary Busey!) in the cult drama **"Carny"** (1980). These four films, released early in their stars' careers, signaled the range of both Russell and Foster's talents. On Tuesday, the **Kendall Square Cinema's** month-long exploration of **Aliens Among Us** highlights one of the most unique and unclassifiable sci-fi films in recent memory. Adapted from Michael Faber's novel of the same name, Jonathan Glazer's **"Under the Skin"** (2013) casts a never-better Scarlett Johansson as an unnamed extra-terrestrial who assumes human form to lure unsuspecting motorists in Scotland. Far from your usual creature feature, "Under the Skin" is haunting and spare; dialogue is minimal, and Glazer's detached camera invites us to view the world as if we were ourselves visitors from another world. The eerie atmosphere is driven home by the unforgettable score by Mica Levi, whose atonal, three-note refrain will haunt your dreams just as surely as Johansson's man-eating creature. It may take you some time to interpret "Under the Skin," but one thing's for sure: You haven't seen very much like it. The Somerville's **Thirsty Thursdays** series is a weekly crawl through cinema's most infamous watering holes. This week, the establishment in question is **"Road House"** (1989), one of the most agreeably silly cult classics of the '80s. Directed by the perfectly named Rowdy Herrington, "Road House" stars Patrick Swayze as Dalton, a world-famous bouncer (is there actually such a thing?) who quotes Zen philosophy while busting heads and flexing his pecs. There is a plot, involving crooked local businessman Ben Gazzara and a romance with beautiful doctor Kelly Lynch (last seen in previous Thirsty Thursday selection "Cocktail"), but it's largely incidental to the immaculate '80s vibes and ridiculously quotable dialogue ("Pain don't hurt!"). "Road House" was such a staple of cable TV and VHS rentals in the '90s that it almost feels sacrilegious to see it on the big screen, but there is no better way to experience its scuzzy charms than with a room full of fellow moviegoers (and, ideally, a trip to the Somerville's own bar).

REVIEWS

"Remarkably Brilliant Creatures"



Tova (Sally Field) meets Marcellus (voiced by Alfred Molina).

Based on the bestselling 2022 novel by Shelby Van Pelt and directed by Olivia Newman ("Where the Crawdads Sing"), "Remarkably Bright Creatures" channels Nicholas Sparks by way of centenarian wildlife expert David Attenborough. If that sounds like a lot of tentacles, it should, as the film is narrated by an aging giant octopi named Marcellus. Marcellus lives in an aquarium on the Puget Sound and likes to get out and scamper about at night, which brings him into contact with Tova (Sally Field), a retiree who works the late-night janitorial shift, both to keep busy and to help settle past traumas. One affectionate tentacle touch and Marcellus can tell that there is a "hole" in Tova's heart. Things get more complicated when Lewis Pullman's Cameron, a broke struggling musician, takes over Tova's shift after she twists an ankle. The Sparks-ian angle — human trauma distilled into an airy lite confection — has all three finding closure on that past and healing in the now, through interaction with each other. For the audience, there's an unsolved mystery to add intrigue. Marcellus, voiced by Alfred Molina,

gives us all the Attenborough octopi factoids we need, and while the film is best when Marcellus is at the center (the FX and such are excellent), Field and her gaggle of aging gal pals — the "knit-wits," a sewing club with Joan Chen, Beth Grant and Kathy Baker — charm in devilishly understated ways. It's heartwarming for sure, but never maudlin. Field, a veteran presence, carries the film and knows when to cede the stage to her eight-armed co-star. Watching "Creatures" sparked the desire in me to go back and watch the Academy Award-winning documentary "My Octopus Teacher" (2020), which plays like "Creatures" IRL. It also has me wanting to reread Sy Montgomery's excellent and emotionally insightful "The Soul of an Octopus," which, like Tova, is about the author's interaction with a poly-pous named Athena at our beloved New England Aquarium.

— TOM MEEK

★★★★☆

Streaming on Netflix

"Is God Is"

Adapted from her own stage play, Aleshea Harris's "Is God Is" is a slow burn of a revenge tale that twists in strange, stylized ways as it follows the travails of twin sisters Anaia (Mallori Johnson) and Racine (Kara Young, the upcoming "I Love Boosters"). The twins, after receiving a letter from their disfigured mother (an unrecognizable Vivica A. Fox), set off on a quest to avenge her by killing their father (Sterling K. Brown, "Moonlight," "Paradise"). What ensues is something of a lo-fi spaghetti western filtered through the lens of a Greek tragedy with bubbles of Afrofuturist hip — in a loose stylistic sense, think "Sinners" and, to a lesser degree, "Him."

Of the twins, Anaia is as — if not more — scarred than her mother from the fiery act of cruelty inflicted by Brown's father — the flashback of which is dark, eerie and hard to watch. The credits list him only as "Man." Mom is referred to as Ruby God, which, I guess, is what gives her agency to command the act of vengeance from her long-simmering death bed somewhere in the dusty fields of Virginia. The command that Ruby has over the girls is curious as she has been long absent from their lives — since the incident. They grew up in foster care hell. The two also have a form of ESP, where they can look at each other and communicate in full sentences — for the rest of us it helps that we see them on screen in closed-captioned psychic subtitles.

gives us all the Attenborough octopi factoids we need, and while the film is best when Marcellus is at the center (the FX and such are excellent), Field and her gaggle of aging gal pals — the "knit-wits," a sewing club with Joan Chen, Beth Grant and Kathy Baker — charm in devilishly understated ways. It's heartwarming for sure, but never maudlin. Field, a veteran presence, carries the film and knows when to cede the stage to her eight-armed co-star. Watching "Creatures" sparked the desire in me to go back and watch the Academy Award-winning documentary "My Octopus Teacher" (2020), which plays like "Creatures" IRL. It also has me wanting to reread Sy Montgomery's excellent and emotionally insightful "The Soul of an Octopus," which, like Tova, is about the author's interaction with a poly-pous named Athena at our beloved New England Aquarium.

— TOM MEEK

★★★★☆

Streaming on Netflix

Mallori Johnson (left) and Kara Young in a scene from "Is God Is."

The violence that comes — and there's lots of it — is fast, bloody and brutal. It's also at times comedic, with a touch of mean poetry to it — something Quentin Tarantino elevated to an art form and Harris is not too bad at. The girls' tools of choice? A rock in a bloody white sock — looking like David's sling — and a pair of pruning loppers. As the twins, Johnson and Young are asked much of, and shoulder it well, but the film feels too long for what it is as the quiet moments of talky contemplation before the next, far-too-intimate beat down, often feel flat and don't add anything new. Brown and Fox smolder in their brief parental parts, and the ever-elegant Janelle Monáe is a portrait of troubled grace as Man's current wife. "Is God Is" comes out swinging and fierce, but there's a hollowness to it that resonates more than the searing anger it postures.

— TOM MEEK

★★★★☆

Playing at AMC Assembly Row 12

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

FOOD

WHAT WE'RE HAVING

Forage's Zero Waste Wednesdays a leftover delight



The Arctic char belly dish at Forage.

Photos: Tom Meek

By TOM MEEK

“Waste” is an ugly word: It conjures rotting banana peels in compost bins, flies buzzing around landfills. But Forage, a cozy Craigie Circle bistro, isn’t afraid of the word — it stakes its identity on the idea of “zero waste.” The restaurant, which proclaims the mantra five times on its website, also hosts “Zero Waste Wednesdays” — all you-can-eat meals for \$100/person.

It’s a natural extension of the restaurant’s farm-to-table ethos: If you respect where the food comes from, don’t squander it.

“I have personal relationships with the farmers we work with,” said chef and co-founder Eric Cooper. “I know the work that goes into growing these vegetables, and I hate to see that effort wasted. Plus, it’s ridiculous to throw away a third of the asparagus you paid for. That’s just throwing away money.”

There are many restaurants in Camberville that practice zero-waste. Most employ it as an ideology or an aspiration. But Forage hosts its “Zero Waste” dinner each

Wednesday night, a tasting table event, where the good eats du jour are not curated days before, but based on what is already in the fridge. These are dishes transformed into something unique through the whim of the chef and the wishes of the diners. “It’s a conversation with the table,” said General Manager Teague Mitchell. “We read them, see how far they want to go, how many rounds they can handle.”

The genesis for the concept, as Mitchell tells it, came when he was bandying about ideas with Cooper. “Eric said, ‘I wish I could just cook whatever I want without a menu.’ And we realized — we already had the restaurant. We just needed to try it.”

The Zero Waste dinner — which follows Tuesday wine dinners (we’re fans) — uses leftovers from the previous night. So, for instance, if Tuesday is a scallop day and diners lean vegetarian, the Zero Waste crowd will reap the rewards of the overstocked fruits de mer, Mitchell said.

The Wednesday meal is for one table only — and you must be a party of five or more. Your plate

is endless: Cooper and crew send out rounds of tapas-style dishes until diners throw in the towel — and then, dessert and digestives loom.

Mitchell and Cooper cite some big Zero Waste successes from food pulled from the fridge: marinated brisket left over from a wine dinner and prepared as become taco meat, midsections of asparagus used to make a vinaigrette, and Arctic char belly flaps. The fish was seared with oil and butter, creating a dish with crispy skin and rich, fatty meat.

“The belly of an Arctic char will blow the pants off you,” Cooper said.

Other “Zero Waste” dishes have included a vegan fish sauce made from pink oyster mushrooms, an heirloom Hubbard squash used as a salad bowl, and miso paste made from black trumpet mushroom scraps.

“We don’t plan much ahead. We know what we have available, and then it’s just creativity — spur of the moment,” Cooper said.

“Sometimes we just get wacky ideas, and throw them at the wall and see if it flies,” Mitchell added.

Forage, which Cooper and co-owner Stan Hilbert started 10 years ago, grew from Ten Tables, the restaurant that previously occupied the space, and where the two creative minds met, worked together, and forged their partnership. Committed to his trade and hyperlocal and sustainable tenets, Cooper radiates bearish charm and has prepared meals professionally on all seven continents. He was living in New York City when he made the spur-of-the-moment decision to take a job cooking at a research facility in Antarctica. He had been disillusioned by the city’s heat, dust, and early morning noise (people in the food industry typically go to bed at 2 a.m. or

later) emanating from the school below his window. In India, he taught cooking at a Tibetan refugee camp.

“I’ve wandered the world,” he said, “and brought all of that back here.” Forage now has a gorgeous new wraparound deck just off the entryway to the subterranean eatery. In past years, the temporary deck was located across the building’s parking lot.

For the Zero Waste dinner, reservations are required, and an early conversation with the Forage team about your preferences will set Cooper’s imagination in motion long before you take your seat.

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From left to right: Forage’s general manager Teague Mitchell with chefs and co-founders Stan Hilbert and Eric Cooper.

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CULTURE

Opening Harvard’s gates, if not its doors

By BLAIR KAMIN

This article originally appeared in Nieman Reports on May 12, 2026, and is republished here with permission.

As every reporter knows, good things — or, at least, good stories — don’t come to those who wait. They come to those who persist. And persist. It also helps to work with an editor who sprinkles magic dust on your labor of love.

Such is the happy, 13-years-in-the-making saga of the new clothbound edition of “Gates of Harvard Yard: The Iconic Entrances to America’s Oldest University” (Harvard University Press). The book was birthed in an eight-day January term class titled “Rate the Gates” that I co-taught with my fellow fellows Jeneen Interlandi and Finbarr O’Reilly during our 2012-13 Nieman year. Focusing on the 25 gates that enclose the Yard, we asked our students to sharpen their eyes, as well as their storytelling and critical thinking skills. They dug into Harvard’s archives. They eyeballed the gates on frigid winter days. And they pieced together stories about these precious portals that had never before been fully told.

Consider the Dexter Gate along Massachusetts Avenue, best known for its often-quoted inscription “Enter to Grow in Wisdom.” The distinctive threshold, with its alternating stripes of rough brick and smooth limestone, was the product of a mother’s love. Its principal donor, Josephine Dexter, sought to memorialize her son Samuel (Class of 1890), who died in 1894, two days after coming down with meningitis.

I’m often asked: Why would an architecture critic who typically writes about big buildings — skyscrapers, museums, and stadiums — focus on gates that are diminutive by comparison? My answer: Why not? Being an intensely visual person, I was both dazzled and mystified by these portals



Photos: Ralph Lieberman

The Johnston Gate at Harvard Yard.



The Solomon Gate at Harvard.

when I arrived in Cambridge. Dazzled by the way blacksmiths had transformed tough wrought iron into delicate scrollwork. Mystified by things like the numerals that appear on the portals’ flanking fences. What were they about?

Our January term class discovered many things: The gates replaced a simple post-and-rail fence that was considered too modest for a great university. The first of them, Johnston Gate, appeared in 1889. Most were built in the first half of the 20th century, shielding the Edenic precinct of Harvard Yard from the streetcars and urban hurly-burly of Harvard Square. Classes of alumni sponsored many of the gates; their donations were recognized by the aforementioned numerals — an “8” for the Class of 1908, for example.

Like all good architecture, the gates transformed the pragmatic into the aesthetic, turning the necessity of controlling access to the Yard into often-breathtaking compositions. They also articulated the university’s highest ideals, among them a reverence for truth, as seen in stone and metal versions of the three-book Harvard shield that spells out “VE-RITAS.” And despite the gates’ small size, they turned out to be profoundly influential.

Rejecting the florid palette of the Victorian era, architect Charles McKim of the celebrated firm McKim, Mead & White returned Harvard to its Georgian-era architectural roots with the design of the Johnston Gate. To ensure that the gate would harmonize with neighboring Massachusetts Hall, built nearly 170 years earlier in 1720, McKim selected overburnt bricks, known as “culls,” whose variegated colors and weathered textures made the new portal seem as old, and as authentic, as its colonial-era predecessor. How very American. In this young country, we often subject architectural materials to instant aging. Johnston Gate’s Georgian Revival style and “Harvard brick” became the university’s design DNA, spreading to everything from the dorms along the Charles River to Harvard Business School. Though the gates rim the edge of the nearly-25 acre Yard, they are central to Harvard’s identity, its public face. When President Donald Trump froze Harvard’s federal funding last year, for example, photos of the gates often illustrated the resulting news stories.

Trouble is, the vast majority of people — students, faculty, and the busloads of tourists who can’t wait to rub their hands on the left foot of the John Harvard statue — simply blow through these portals. The point of the January term class was to counteract this rush. To urge people to slow down, behold the gates, and take in the stories of their creation, as well as the intentions of their architects.

Accolades and achievements

By ALEX DEGTEREV

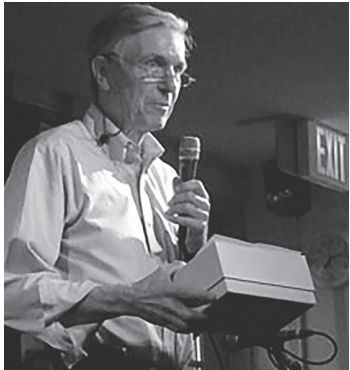
An occasional column on local residents who receive notable honors and recognition.

Dan Hogan received the Hope in Action Award from the Alzheimer’s Association Massachusetts/ New Hampshire Charter, recognizing him for his advocacy work on behalf of people impacted by Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia. A long-time member of the Club Passim staff, Hogan has served the club as both an executive direction and senior advisor. He has been living with Alzheimer’s, Lewy body disease and cerebrovascular disease since 2023, and has advocated actively for greater representation and support for people living with cognitive diseases. He plans to participate in the Alzheimer’s Impact Movement Advocacy Forum, on June 1-3 in the upcoming Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C.

Ludwig Straub, professor of economics at Harvard University, was awarded the John Bates Clark Medal by the American Economic Association, given annually to economists under the age of 40 who are judged to have made ‘the most significant contribution to economic thought and knowledge’. He was awarded for his work in understanding household inequality and its interaction with fiscal and monetary policy.

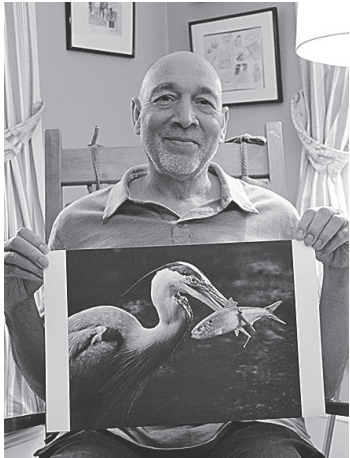
At least two Cambridge residents received a Pulitzer Prize in May. Mark Lamster, an architecture critic at the Dallas Morning News who resides primarily in Cambridge, won the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism for his 2025 writing on a slew of architectural concerns in Dallas. One of the articles considered was his commentary on the proposed demolishing of Dallas’ storied City Hall. Lamster’s third book, “Welcome to Paradox City,” a history of Dallas as told through its architecture, will be published this August.

Jill Lepore, a Harvard historian who is also a professor at Harvard Law School and a New Yorker staff writer, won the History prize for “We the People: A History of the U.S. Constitution.” The book explores how the Constitution has become something of an infallible, unamendable document. She has been a finalist for the Pulitzer twice, in 2006 for her book “New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan” and in 2019 for Criticism, for selected writings from The New Yorker. Her forthcoming book, “The Rise and Fall of the Artificial State”, which will tackle the political dangers of AI and other advanced technologies, is slated for release this August.



Dan Tappan

Daniel B. Hogan, former executive director at the Harvard Square nonprofit Club Passim.



Iris Zhan

Derrick Z. Jackson holding his award-winning photo.

Nature photographer and Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) fellow **Derrick Z. Jackson** won the American Society of Journalists and Authors award for Opinion/Op-Ed writing for a series of columns on the Trump Administration’s rollback of environmental protections, published in The Equation, a blog from the Union of Concerned Scientists. Jackson was also nominated for the awards gallery in two wildlife categories at the 12th Fine Art Photography Awards, one for his “Heron Harpoon” image, which won an Applied Arts award this year, and for a series of puffin photos. Jackson also placed third in the 92nd Headliner Awards in Single Feature Photo for a photograph of a blue heron eating a fish, and in Individual Photo Portfolio for a collection of images used to illustrate his work for UCS and The Money Trail substack.

Cambridge Rindge and Latin junior **Samuel Mayle** has been named to the 40th cohort of the Bronfman Fellowship, a leadership and learning program for Jewish 11th graders. Fellows spend five weeks between the U.S. and Israel studying major topics in contemporary Jewish life, learning from rabbis and educators from around the globe and partaking in arts workshops with Jewish artists. Mayle is currently a Hartman Teen Fellow and sings as a part of HaZimar International Jewish Teen Choir. At CRLS, he leads the Investment and Mock Trial clubs, while also competing in the Maimonides Moot Court Competition. He is also an intern at the Mitsubishi Electric Research Laboratories.

Cambridge's police commissioner says police won't use pepper spray again in a situation like what happened at the 2025 Harvard Law School graduation ceremony. The police used pepper spray on the upper floors of a multifamily building on Broadway and forced out residents.

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SPORTS

Baseball streak hits eight; girls' lacrosse wins on Senior Day



Erika Whitters

Emma Kass carries the ball, as Kyra Burke (left) and Emily Nolan move into position.

By DAN EISNER

The Cambridge Rindge and Latin baseball team (15-2) extended its winning streak to eight games last week with a 9-7 defeat of St. John's Prep on May 12, a 5-0 defeat of Bedford on May 13, and a 3-1 defeat of Boston Latin Academy on Monday. The Falcons are ranked ninth in the MIAA Division I Power Rankings.

Against St. John's, the team scored all nine runs with two outs in the second inning. Hugo Davis led the offense with two hits and three RBIs, including a bases-clearing double that tied the score at 4-4. Stefan Alexandrov, who went 2-for-4, drove in the go-ahead run with a single, scoring Davis.

Alexandrov pitched a three-hit shutout, striking out eight and walking only one in the defeat of Bedford. He also had two hits and an RBI. The offense was led by Joel Rojas-Cruz, who went 2-for-3 with two RBIs. Davis and Nikko Santos both smacked a double.

In the win over Boston Latin Academy, Oliver Henke pitched six shutout innings, striking out nine and allowing three hits to earn his team-leading fourth win. Henke, Davis, Rojas-Cruz, Alexandrov, Logan Sherwood, and Jasen Thomas each singled. Alexandrov knocked in a run.

Softball: The softball team (7-10) lost to Bedford on May 12, 11-8, and to Acton-Boxborough on Friday, 6-2. Against Bedford, Eleanor Holleran went 3-for-4, and Marin Albrecht went 1-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. Bella Wilkins, Isabel Navarro, and Caitlin Beyer each drove in a run. In the loss

to Acton-Boxborough, Marin Albrecht hit a home run — her fifth of the season — and drove in both Falcons runs. Bronwyn Johnson went 2-for-2 with a double.

Boys' track: At Saturday's MSTCA Coaches Metro Invitational, which featured athletes from nearly 70 schools, Liam Eldridge won the 800-meter run in 1:57.28. Jermaine Houston finished second in the 100-meter dash (11.10) and eighth in the 200-meter dash (23.03). Benjamin Richard finished eighth in the one-mile run (4:30.21), with Gael Berzin ninth (4:31.07). Laurent Valentin finished fourth in the long jump (21-

07.25) and ninth in the triple jump (41-02).

Girls' track: At the MSTCA Coaches Metro Invitational, Naomi Baldwin finished fifth in the 400-meter dash (59.46) and sixth in the 200-meter dash (26.26). Sophia Juanes Seto finished third in the 800-meter run (2:17.09) and Neva Hartman finished third in the one-mile run (5:10.80).

Girls' lacrosse: The girls' lacrosse team lost to Westford Academy on May 12 and Bedford on Thursday, both by scores of 19-2, before avenging an ear-

lier loss to Boston Latin Academy by beating it 11-10 on Senior Day. The Falcons lost the final game of the season to Acton-Boxborough on Monday, 19-6, finishing 4-14.

Maude Ullmann, who recorded her 200th career save in the loss to Boston Latin Academy, had 17 saves in the defeat of Boston Latin Academy and the loss to Acton-Boxborough. Emma Kass recorded her 100th career goal in the first game against Boston Latin Academy and added five more in the win. Emily Nolan had a breakout game in the defeat of Boston Latin Academy with two goals and tenacious defending from the midfield position.

Girls' tennis: The girls' tennis team lost to Bedford, 4-1, on May 13 and to Acton-Boxborough on Friday, 3-2. Against Bedford, the second doubles team of Amelie Ramos and Avery Fearing won their rain-shortened match. After losing the first set, they took the second set and then won the match on a 13-11 tiebreaker. Against Acton-Boxborough, the first doubles team of Ramos and PC Koester won 6-0, 6-4. The second doubles team of Fearing and Liza Itskhoki won 6-4, 6-2.

Boys' tennis: The boys' tennis team lost to Acton-Boxborough on Friday and to Bedford on Monday, both by scores of 5-0.



Rich Beyer

Oliver Henke, pictured earlier this season, threw six shutout innings and struck out nine to beat Boston Latin Academy.

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CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY | REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS | DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION SERVICES

The Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) Planning and Development Department is seeking the services of up to three qualified consultant(s) or consultant teams experienced in affordable housing development and modernization in Massachusetts. Tasks may include financial and feasibility analyses, proforma development, project management services, and due diligence preparation. The term of the contract will be for one year. At CHA's sole discretion contracts may be renewable for additional terms up to four additional one year terms. The maximum

total fee per contract year is \$250,000 per annum. A copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP) detailing the scope of work and selection criteria will be available from CHA beginning Monday, May 18, 2026. The deadline for submitting proposals is 5:00 PM on Thursday, June 4, 2026 by mail or hand delivery to 362 Green Street, 3rd Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139; Attn: Margaret Donnelly Moran. The RFP can be obtained by contacting Millie Santana, Executive Secretary via email at: msantana@cambridge-housing.org or via telephone at: (617) 499-7133.

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