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Blimp with wings? Flying cigar? The chimney swift has many names

BUSINESS PAGE 5

The Brattle will get new seats, carpet and a flooring refresh

CAMBRIDGE DAY

THE WEEK OF JUNE 25 – JULY 2, 2026

FREE

A tale of two liquor laws



Tom Meek

World Cup watch parties like this one in Harvard Square have come with relaxed rules on alcohol to-go.

By RUTH TAM

Is Cambridge getting more lax about liquor? Two policies are telling two different stories.

New public drinking permissions during the World Cup suggest a more laissez-faire approach. But the same Cambridge department that fast-tracked the state's idea to extend bar hours and offer alcohol to-go through July also wants to limit customers to one drink every 30 minutes.

City makes pour decisions

On May 1, Cambridge's board of license commissioners proposed changes to the city's alcohol regulations. They included a 30-min-

ute cooling period between drink orders, an earlier last call and a requirement to offer drug testing devices for tampered drinks.

These changes were emailed to alcohol license holders in a redlined 30-page document, but only gained widespread notice in mid-June after Lauren Friel, owner of the wine bar Dear Annie, posted about them on Instagram.

"[These rules] would probably be the most restrictive in the country," she said in a widely-shared video. "The only way a colleague of mine suggested we [monitor customers] would be to put egg timers on every table."

The proposed rules were puz-

zling to many business owners and patrons, who are still adjusting to the fact that you can now stroll down many main streets in Cambridge with a beer in hand. That is, as long as that beer is from an approved bar, in an approved cup, and held by a wrist-banded hand.

None of this was possible until June 12. Four days after Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey signed an anticipated law loosening alcohol service during the World Cup, Cambridge's Licensing Commission hastened to offer local businesses permits to take advantage of the opportunity.

See LIQUOR LAWS, page 9

Parent pushback prompts immersion change

By TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY

Since 2021, a Mandarin Chinese immersion program that has been a draw for Cambridge families has cut down on its Chinese instruction hours and changed its curriculum. Now, after months of debate between the school district and parents, the program is being renamed.

Parents of students at both Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School and Putnam Avenue Upper School (PAUS) have been embroiled in conversations with school and district officials about changes to the immersion program's curriculum and instruction hours. Parents say the program offers full immersion only from kindergarten to 2nd grade. After that, they say, the 50/50 split the program advertises becomes more like 33/67.

"They're really just doing a disservice to the program by telling us we're doing 50/50 immersion, and then not actually providing it to us," said Amy Lee, a parent of a 4th grader in the program.

District officials have gone back and forth on whether it is an immersion program. In emails shared with a Cambridge Day reporter, the MLK school's principal, Gerald Yung, wrote that the program was not at a "50/50 split due to the increased requirements of our English curriculums," but students did



Cambridge Public Schools

Gerald Yung, principal at the Martin Luther King Jr. School.

receive between 42-48% Mandarin instruction.

Other requirements affect time

Yung explained in the email that cuts to the Mandarin instruction time were because of new curriculum, new district initiatives and the addition of a second recess.

The schedules included in the email showed the instruction time for grades three through five. The listed total instruction time for Chinese does not equal 50 percent for each grade.

For 3rd grade, the instruction time in Chinese is 27 percent of the week. For 4th grade, Chinese instruction time was 28 percent of the week and for 5th grade it was 27 percent of the week.

See IMMERSION page 4

Cambridge's Black community reflects on 'our 4th of July'



Michael F. Fitzgerald

A dance group marches in the 5th Annual Cambridge Juneteenth Celebration and Parade June 19, 2026.

By CHINANU OKOLI

Five years after Juneteenth became a federal holiday, the spirit of racial liberation that drove it has fizzled. Demands for racial justice are not as loud or widespread. The Trump administration has undermined the preservation of the history of slavery and the Supreme Court recently gutted a key provision of the Voting Rights Act meant to protect marginalized voters. Many companies, including Amazon and Target, have scaled back diversity, equity and inclusion efforts or eliminated them entirely. While

Cambridge denizens and leaders gathered last Friday to commemorate the holiday locally, many of its Black residents are still grappling with how to balance the celebration of joy, and call for racial justice, in this political climate.

Rev. Irene Monroe, a local public theologian, has celebrated Juneteenth for over four decades. She considers Juneteenth more important than the Fourth of July because it symbolizes freedom and independence in a way that the Fourth does not. But in the last five years, she says not much has changed systemi-

cally. She said the swift adoption of racial justice policies and DEI programming was a "bone" thrown to appease protestors in 2020, not something intended to last permanently.

Since then, "this has been one of the most let-down times for Black people in this country, with 60 to 70 years' worth of progress being snatched away within five years," said Coby Hayes, who will be a junior at Harvard University and is vice president of its Black Student Association.

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FOOD PAGE 9

Lulu Green may be meatless, but the food is mouth-watering

BOOKS PAGE 10

Christopher Lydon and John Summers on America's Orwell

SPORTS PAGE 11

CRLS student athletes make their collegiate commitments

LOCAL

Council tries to shield women’s shelters from funding cuts

By JANE PETERSEN

During its meeting Monday, Cambridge City Council unanimously approved \$625,000 in funds for local nonprofits that provide emergency housing and services for victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse. The nonprofits, which include Transition House in Central Square and the De Novo Center for Justice and Healing in East Cambridge, lost funding provided through the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance (MOVA) because of Trump administration cuts to federal dollars for state programs that provide services for victims of violent crime.

Cambridge will tap its Federal Stabilization Fund, but councilors and city officials cautioned that the money will only temporarily address the budget crisis faced by these service providers. Those that serve the Cambridge area report receiving \$1.7 million less than expected this year.

“A budget reduction on paper means fewer advocates available to accompany someone to court, it means fewer safe housing options for a parent fleeing abuse with their children, it means fewer opportunities for someone to rebuild their life after violence,” said Sarah Gyorog, executive director of Transition House, during public comment. “Violence does not stop because funding disappears. Survivors will still call us.”

The Federal Stabilization Fund was created last June with \$5 million to cover anticipated reductions in federal money that has historically supported a variety of city and nonprofit services.



Transition House via Facebook

Nonprofits like Transition House have faced funding cuts before, such as in 2022, when the state helped plug a gap in federal funding.

The fund’s balance before the vote was \$3.75 million. Its formation coincided with the closing of the Transition Wellness Center, a 58-bed homeless shelter funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), last summer.

Advocates of unoused people have raised concerns about mobilizing these funds for pro-

grams beside those to shelter the homeless, though. In particular, there are questions about whether money will be there to offset planned cuts by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to emergency rent vouchers, which led Councillor Ayah Al-Zubi to use her charter right on the policy order accompanying the allocation when it first appeared on council’s agenda on June 8. (Al-Zubi was absent for Monday’s meeting.)

HUD announced in November 2025 a rule change that in Cambridge would eliminate \$3.8 million in rental assistance for 128 formerly homeless households. The cuts targeted cities with diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programming or that participate in “gender ideology extremism.” Cambridge joined a lawsuit with about 75 other municipalities and counties nationwide to restore funding. In January, a judge issued a temporary injunction striking down the federal rule changes, which the Trump administration appealed. The case is working its way through the federal appellate system.

“We don’t have time on this”

Some advocates said they were under the impression that the stabilization fund was always intended to cover emergency housing vouchers.

“We were told that while the Transitional Wellness Center was going to close, funding for emergency supportive housing would continue to be allocated through other pathways,” said Stanislav Rivkin, who unsuccessfully ran

for city council last year, during the public comment period. While he said that the services provided by MOVA funding are “essential,” “we should not go backwards in our commitment to emergency housing, and instead reallocate this money towards additional vouchers, shelter support, or similar assistance.”

But Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui, the policy order’s lead sponsor, said the types of cuts that MOVA-recipient programs are facing are exactly why the Federal Stabilization Fund was put in place.

“This is something that we should be funding. We don’t know what the future holds with the many other funding losses that may occur, and the sole purpose of this [fund] was to use [it] in this way,” Siddiqui said. She said that this wasn’t a matter of competing priorities, but rather “taking things as they come.”

Councillor Marc McGovern, a co-sponsor of the policy order and a longtime leader on issues related to homelessness, said he was “confident we will figure something out” if Cambridge loses its emergency voucher funding. But while the fate of those federal dollars continues to be considered by the courts, local domestic violence shelters were looking at laying off their staff in as soon as in two weeks.

“As someone who advocated strongly for that money going towards vouchers, I’m certainly not going to let that disappear easily,” McGovern said. “But we have time on that. We don’t have time on this.”

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By Tom Meek September 15,
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Juneteenth

From Page 1

“While it’s a holiday and it’s a national holiday ... it’s important that we don’t forget to truly honor Black people through legislation and true legal progress.”

Similarly frustrated are Stephanie Guirand and Bárbara ZO, core team members of The Black Response, a Cambridge-based anti-carceral organization. “The work isn’t sexy anymore,” ZO said. “It was, at a point and time, ‘the thing’... but it’s work that’s always been happening and it’s going to continue.”

They say Juneteenth’s federalization has caused it to be whitewashed and depoliticized. In particular, collaborations with police and the commercialization of the holiday — where Juneteenth-themed plates and napkins are sold in stores — disregards its history and decenters community.

“We cannot let the police lead a Juneteenth anything,” Guirand said. “This is about creating community... if we’re sitting together and we’re asserting and acknowledging each other’s humanity and daring to dream together and share our imaginations for a different future, I think that’s what I want people to do.”

Juneteenth a true symbol of freedom

Juneteenth observes the day in 1865 when Union soldiers informed enslaved people in Galveston, Texas that they were free — over two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. But it was only recently that it became a prominent date, at least nationally. Many members of Cambridge’s Black community anticipate the holiday’s commemoration and celebration of freedom, even if it was not a holiday they knew much about when they were younger.

Stephanie Crayton’s family on her father’s side were in Texas and celebrated Juneteenth, but she grew up in Massachusetts, and was left to ask why Juneteenth wasn’t something that was celebrated here. “I still didn’t really realize what it was until the last seven or eight years,” she said. It wasn’t until Crayton, then a Cambridge firefighter, started Paragon, the local African American firefighters society, that she realized the deep importance of Juneteenth and how few people knew about it.

This year, Crayton volunteered with the Cambridge Juneteenth Committee to help organize the annual Juneteenth parade, which began at Central Square and ended at Riverside Press Park.

Lida Griffin, a chairperson of the committee, grew up in Atlanta and Boston and did not know the significance of Juneteenth until her mid-20s. As a darker-skinned person who experienced racism, Griffin said her family raised her to love herself and that part of loving herself is educating herself.

“I feel like the significance of Juneteenth now for me is educating



Ruth Tam

Cambridge City Councillor E. Denise Simmons makes remarks at Riverside Press Park during the 5th Annual Cambridge Juneteenth Celebration and Parade.

ing everyone about their power and being proud of their empowerment,” Griffin said.

Both Crayton and Griffin emphasized that Juneteenth is a celebration and should be kept joyous. “Juneteenth is a reminder of what we’ve been through, but also, joy,” Griffin said. “While we’re in survival mode, still have joy.”

“You have to commit to happiness as well,” agreed ZO. “It’s really important for people to know their history and where they came from and how that plays into where they are right now... and making the conscious decision to also commit to taking care of yourself and other people in your community.”

With the ongoing DEI and racial justice rollbacks, it’s a scary time for Hayes, but also one that offers potential. He wants people to support Black politicians, organizations, businesses and people to ensure the needs of the Black community — and all the marginalized communities in the nation — are brought to the forefront.

“The principles in which America was founded on and failed to deliver on — it’s now a time to show we want the true principles to apply for everyone in this country,” he said.

Monroe said a groundswell of awareness of “the tentacles of discrimination, whether economic, educational, class, race or whatever, have just broadened” in the last few years. “Now, more people are talking about it because the class and the race of people who were supposed to have easy access — meaning White, educated people — no longer have access to the American dream any more than Black people.”

The local Black history “nobody really knows”

Hayes said he knew about Juneteenth while growing up in Marion, Ark. but it wasn’t celebrated. However, his family were very familiar with the history of slavery because they lived it.

“A lot of us are the descendants of sharecroppers, the descendants of people who, outside the Emancipation Proclamation, still

endured severe disenfranchisement and slavery through different means,” Hayes said. “That was always taught to me as a part of Black history.”

Local history also matters, said Crayton. Central Square, where Friday’s parade kicked off, is also where Patrick Raymond, the first Black fire chief in Cambridge and the nation, is said to have lived.

“Nobody in Cambridge really knows who he was or what he did and it’s an important part of our history and it’s right there in Cambridge,” Crayton said. “And I just think about how many people we don’t know about.”

For Janie Victoria Ward, a

retired professor, there was a different holiday for Black people that mattered in her youth, although she couldn’t understand why her church in Cambridge would take her and her Sunday school peers all the way to Salem for a picnic every July. The adults around her simply said, “it’s what we do.” Later, she learned the “Black Picnic,” also known as “Negro Election Day,” is a tradition dating back to the 1700s, when enslaved Black people organized themselves into a democracy and elected people to lead their community.

“We may not have remembered what the event was, but as a people, we knew this was something

we wanted to celebrate,” Ward said. She thinks the same can be true for Juneteenth. She is committed to passing the history of the Black Picnic and Juneteenth onto her children and grandchildren. “We have to hold onto those historical moments and pass them on to the next generation. Especially when it feels that the powers that be would be more than happy if everyone forgot about them.”

As the nation itself turns 250, Monroe says we have to remember Black people played a role during the Revolution. “We don’t even celebrate the Black patriots,” she said. “Crispus Attacks, this was a brother of African and Native American ancestry, right here in Framingham. He was the first person to die in the American Revolution. Prince Estabrook, he was a Black minuteman [in Lexington]. We don’t hear that.”

Ward said there are waves of disinformation and obfuscation when it comes to conversations on slavery, which makes educating people important. She wants people to recognize that Juneteenth is just one part of a greater catastrophic event and consider what it might’ve felt like for people to learn they were free.

“I think there are people outside the African American community that could learn a lot about who we are as a people by understanding that joy, by understanding where that exultation came from,” Ward said. “It helps them to understand what fuels our resistance. It helps them to understand why we continue to fight for everything that we believe we deserve.”

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EDUCATION

Amigos School relocation will be “seriously considered”



Bruno Muñoz-Oropeza.

Dave Murphy, superintendent of Cambridge Public Schools.

By JULIA CARPI

Relocating the Amigos School to the vacant school building at 158 Spring Street will be “seriously considered,” Superintendent Dave Murphy said in an email Monday to Amigos parents and families.

Amigos has emerged as a leading contender for the former Kennedy-Longfellow building in recent months, with Murphy raising the possibility at an April town hall and Amigos parents expressing support for the potential move into a building that has an auditorium and a notably larger cafeteria.

While Murphy said in the email that “no final decisions have been made,” he acknowledged that the building’s capacity of about 650 students would be conducive to the Amigos School, a school with over 400 students and the district’s only K-8 school.

“When it opened in 1970, it was designed to serve as a 700-student Kindergarten through 8th grade school, meaning it also features appropriately sized classrooms and specialized learning spaces like a science lab, etc.,” the

email reads.

The email referenced “logistical challenges” at the current Amigos building housed in Cambridgeport on Upton Street, namely overcrowding and ongoing maintenance.

Unlike the current Amigos building, the school at 158 Spring Street will have a dedicated green space, Ahern Field, which is currently undergoing renovations. After pushback from community members and some Amigos parents, the renovations will no longer include installation of synthetic turf, according to a June 10 statement from City Manager Yi-An Huang.

Other options for the building at 158 Spring Street have been mooted at previous town halls and school committee meetings, such as merging two schools into the building or creating a new school, but Murphy’s email is the only formal communication from the district about a front-running option thus far.

The district will host community forums throughout the summer and school year to discuss a potential Amigos move, according to the email.

Immersion

From Page 1

The Mandarin-Chinese immersion program, which started in 2011 and is one of two in the state, is labelled on the school district’s website as a K-8 dual-language immersion program. MLK received a federal Blue Ribbon award in 2024 for narrowing performance gaps in part thanks to the Mandarin Chinese Immersion Program and its eight-hour school day.

Dual language programs fall under the category of English Learner Education. These programs are defined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as “promoting bilingualism” for “both native English speakers and [English Learners].”

Programs fall under one of two categories, two-way immersion and one-way immersion.

Two-way immersion programs, which MLK and PAUS fall under according to a document published by DESE, enrolls both English learners and students proficient in English before they start schooling. However, parents have classified the majority if not all of the students in the program as heritage speakers who come into school proficient in English.

Name change

In a recent email to parents, Yung acknowledged that the program does not fit the districts’ classification of dual language programs because it did not have “at least 50% of students” who were English learners. He wrote that the program would now be called Chinese Immersion World Language Program.

Parents argue that the program doesn’t count as immersion because it doesn’t hit the 50/50 Chinese and English instruction split. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education told Cambridge Day that two-way immersion programs are classified as such depending on either the demographics of the student population or the instruction split.

Per DESE requirements, school districts must submit a self assessment of their immersion programs every six years. The assessments are part of a larger audit that DESE conducts to ensure that every program is meeting state and federal laws and students’ progression to English learning proficiency.

MLK and PAUS’ last review was in the 2020-21 school year. The schools’ will be reviewed in the 2026-27 school year to ensure that it meets standards for the LOOK Act, a law passed in 2017 that aims to give districts more flexibility for how they run language acquisition programs.

The curriculum has also changed at MLK to eliminate math instruction in Mandarin. The decrease in instruction time and the changes to the curriculum have thrown off students’ learning according to parents.

Andrew Low, a parent of a 7th grader and a 9th grader, said the changes have made students more unprepared for middle school because students aren’t finishing the curriculum.

“They’re not getting a proper foundation now,” Low said.

This leaves the middle school teachers to find a solution to keep students on track.

PAUS also switched instruction from Chinese to English for 8th grade social studies and implemented “better immersion” for 6th graders, which parents say has impeded their children’s learning. Students were also told they’d be taking the STAMP (Standards-based Measurement of Proficiency) biliteracy test earlier.

The test was taken in June until this year, when it was moved to February for 8th graders and March for 6th and 7th graders. Parents argue this has made their students unprepared for the exam.

Rebecca Xiong, parent of an 8th grader in the program, said the curriculum changes affected her daughter, who should have a leg up because Xiong speaks Chinese at home. This year, her daughter was one point shy of passing the STAMP test.

“If my kid is having problems, imagine the other parents,” Xiong said.

Exam impact

The STAMP test also impacts where the students place in high school. Students who complete the immersion program are expected to have received the stamp of biliteracy and go straight into AP Chinese in 9th grade.

However, Low says that because of the disjointed learning, these options are no longer a guarantee. Xiong is worried that her daughter will be less prepared for AP Chinese in the coming year because of curriculum changes.

“I feel they’re not doing what’s best for the kids,” Xiong said.

Some parents have been able to offset some of the program’s deficiencies with supplemental learning such as tutoring and Chinese Sunday School. However, these aren’t good alternatives for most parents because of the cost, and they cut into students’ free time.

A few parents pulled their students from middle school as a result of the changes. However, many have stayed, listing their reasons being having bought or buying a house in Cambridge for the immersion program and considering it better than other alternatives even in its reduced form. Cambridge Public Schools spokesperson Jaclyn Piques said via email that “All students receive high-quality instruction and materials within this DESE-approved framework. We are dedicated to offering this advanced Mandarin track that empowers students to think, analyze, and learn fluently in two languages. Just as importantly, we ensure all students are fully integrated into general English classes, building a truly unified school community.”

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



Courtesy of Finn Graham

Finn Graham (right) with Sam Musher, Cambridge Public Schools Youth Advocacy Specialist.

CRLS senior wins state LGBTQ+ award

By JULIA CARPI

A recent graduate of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) is one of 10 students to be awarded a state leadership award for his LGBTQ+ advocacy.

Finn Graham was awarded the Jeff Perrotti Award from the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ+ Youth in late May for working to expand the number of gender-neutral bathrooms and planning his school’s annual Community Pride Day.

The Jeff Perrotti Award, now in its fourth year, is given to students at Massachusetts high schools who have done work to expand gender-neutral bathrooms, queer

extracurricular programming and other initiatives at their schools, according to the award’s website. The award honors Perrotti, who in 1993 founded the Safe Schools Program in Massachusetts that provides services to help schools support LGBTQ+ students.

“It’s important to highlight the people [who] are going to be making their own schools and communities better, especially with so much negative feelings towards queer youth,” Graham said on the significance of the award.

Graham has helped to plan the district’s Community Pride Day for the past four years. His goal was to include more performances from local drag artists, queer per-

formers and student singers and dancers.

At this June’s pride day the CRLS Step Team, a rhythmic dance group, performed a voguing routine a style of dance that evolved out of the Black and Latinx LGBTQ+ Harlem ballroom scene of the 1970s. Graham said the performance was one of his favorites from this year, citing the importance of teaching the history of the queer art forms to students of all ages.

For more on CRLS senior wins, scan the QR code.



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Brattle Theatre will take a seat (all of them) in July



The Brattle Theatre's auditorium will get new seating and sight lines in July.

Photos: Tom Meek

By TOM MEEK

Toward the end of next month, the Brattle Theatre will go dark for 10 days so the venerable repertory house can complete its latest round of capital improvements. The primary focus of the renovation will be replacing the seats, and it will also put in new carpeting, refurbish the flooring and install new aisle lights.

The seats were last replaced 25 years ago, when Ned Hinkle became the Brattle's creative director, Ivy Moylan its executive director and the institution was repositioned as a nonprofit, the Brattle Film Foundation. Hinkle said the company that made the current seats went out of business, making it increasingly difficult to get replacement parts.

The new seats will be relatively similar, Hinkle said, though more snug and firmer, with backs that are slightly higher and peaked — visitors can try a demo model at the rear of the theater during the weeks before the change is made.

The Brattle will also try to fix one of its foibles: its sight lines. Because its seats are roughly on the same level and aligned one directly behind another, a shorter person could find their view obstructed by a taller person in front of them.

The new seating will be staggered to create better natural sight lines, which will reduce capacity slightly, from 214 seats to 210 seats. Hinkle said some technical tweaks will be made to allow certain films to have subtitles display higher on the screen.

The renovations are expected to cost about \$100,000. As with its previous seat replacement

process, part of the funding will be raised through seat dedication plaques. For \$750, people can have their name — or any name — engraved on a small metal tag affixed to a chair. However, those who currently have dedicated chairs will lose those tags. "It was for the life of the seat," Hinkle said.

He said the Brattle is actively reaching out to those who dedicated seats in the past to inform them about the replacement and give them the chance to re-up. Notable names on the back of chairs include the late author

Andre Dubus, whose novel "Killings" was adapted into Todd Field's debut film, "In the Bedroom" (2001) and two novellas were turned into "We Don't Live Here Anymore" (2004), David Lynch and Boston broadcaster David Brudnoy. There's also a seat in honor of Dungeons & Dragons inventor Gary Gygax and some jokey plaques too, such as "I'm with Stupid -->" and "<--- I'm with psycho."

The Brattle will close July 20 and re-open on July 31 with a 3 p.m. showing of the 1961 version of "West Side Story."



Ned Hinkle, creative director of the Brattle Theatre, sits in a demonstration model of the theatre's new seats.

Amazon, AI and local media at 617 Day small business summit

By MADISON LUCCHESI



Madison Lucchesi

Daniel Berger-Jones, co-founder of the Boston History Company, emceed 617 Day.

The second annual 617 Day small business summit took an optimistic tone, with panels directed at helping local business owners succeed in the age of AI and Amazon.

617 Day is a small business holiday created by Cambridge Local First, a network of more than 400 businesses. It plays off both the traditional area code for Greater Boston and its date, June 17.

Approximately 60 people attended the event Wednesday at the USQ building in Union Square. They saw panelists discuss how business can interact with AI, local media, and alternatives to ecommerce giants.

There were also opportunities for networking at the festival. The

point was to create a summit with "something for everybody who is engaged and who is interested in a thriving local economy," said Katie Labrie, executive director of Cambridge Local First.

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EVENTS

Tuesday, July 7, 6 to 8 p.m.
Danehy Park, 99 Sherman St., in Neighborhood 9 just east of Fresh Pond.

Danehy Park Summer Concert Series: Rebecca Mac

Free. Rebecca Mac, a Boston-based violinist and violist, performs at this weekly summer concert series. Sponsored by Club Passim in partnership with The Cambridge Arts Council.

Saturday, June 27, 7 to 8 p.m.
First Parish Cambridge Unitarian Universalist, 3 Church St./1446 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard Square.

Maggie O’Farrell discusses her new novel “Land” with Celeste Ng

\$42, includes ticket and book. The author of “Hamnet” and “The Marriage Portrait” discusses her new historical novel set in Ireland in the years before and after the Great Hunger. She’s joined by Ng, a New York Times bestselling author.

Sunday, June 28, 6 p.m.
The Rockwell, 255 Elm St., Davis Square.

QA&P Presents: 48-Hour Play Festival

\$15 to \$20. Across a single weekend, LGBTQ+ artists dream up, write down and fully conjure a collection of original one-act plays then perform them live on stage.

Saturday, June 27, 1 to 4 p.m.
Trum Field, 541 Broadway, Magoun Square.

Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day Free. Celebrate the start of summer at Somerville’s 20th Annual Family Fun Day, hosted by the Parks & Rec Department. This year’s activities include bounce houses, magic shows, face painting, live music, arts and crafts, outdoor games and more.

Tuesday, June 30, 5:30 to 10 p.m.
Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, in the Spring Hill neighborhood and Trum Field, 541 Broadway, Magoun Square.

Reading Frederick Douglass together, followed by fireworks

Free. The annual community reading of Douglass’s “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July” until 7. Across the way, live music from Plutos Return, a Somerville High School alumni band, followed by DJ Live’s mix of pop, soul, funk and classic hits, and at 7:45 p.m., local funk band Search Party takes the stage. At 9 p.m., the National Anthem starts the countdown to fireworks. Rain date: July 1.



Friday, July 3, 6 to 9 p.m.
Sunday July 5, 5 to 8 p.m
Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., East Cambridge.

Pico Opera: “Lucia di Lammermoor”

\$20 to \$25. Donizetti’s opera is the tragic story of Lucia Ashton, who is trapped in a deadly feud between her family and the Ravenswoods. While her brother Enrico plots to save his failing fortune by forcing her to marry his wealthy ally, Arturo Bucklaw, Lucia secretly pledges her love to her family’s sworn enemy, Edgardo of Ravenswood.

Thursday, June 25, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday through July 12 (No performance July 4; check site for details)
Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Harvard Square.

Black Swan

Starting at \$43 but check performance date. Tony Award winner Sonya Tayeh brings the Academy Award-nominated psychological thriller “Black Swan” from Searchlight Pictures to the stage.

Monday, July 6, 7 p.m.
Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard Square.

Christopher M. Finan reads from “Freedom of Speech: A People’s History of Democracy’s Most Essential Right”

Free. The former executive director of the National Coalition Against Censorship and the former president of the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression Christopher M. Finan discusses how free speech throughout history has been used to advocate for change and can be used today to expand on democracy. Harvard Law’s Randall Kennedy joins.

Wednesday, July 1, 12:30 to 1 p.m.
Harvard Art Museums, 32 Quincy St., near Harvard Square.

Gallery Talk: American Works of Art at the 250th

Free. Curator of American art Horace D. Ballard leads this series of gallery talks to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Each talk will closely examine a work of art that speaks to the historical, social and political contexts that continue to shape the events and ideas of the United States.

Friday, June 26, Starting at 4 p.m.
Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square

2026 Cambridge Dance Party

Free. At 4 p.m., the Dance Party kicks off at City Hall with a high energy jam session and conga line ready set led by local favorite DJ P.A.C. that is specifically designed for older adults and young families. Then from 6 to 8 p.m. is DJ Gee Spin, a Boston-born radio legend. DJ D-Nice, creator of Club Quarantine, closes out the night from 8 to 10 p.m.

Thursday, June 25, 6:30 p.m.
Cambridge Public Library’s Central Square Branch, 45 Pearl St.

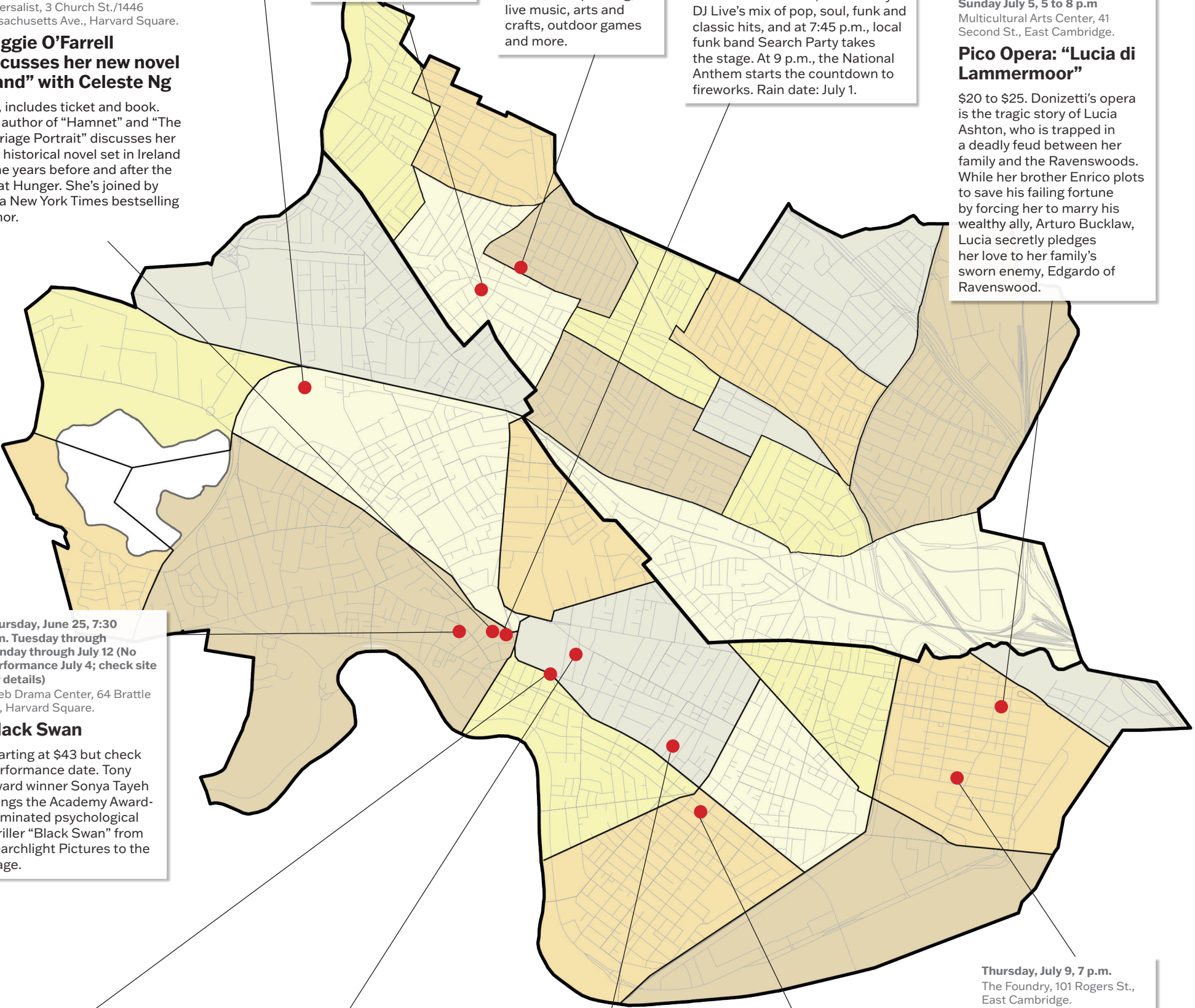
Cookbook Club and Community Potluck

Free. This month, we’re cooking from “In Bibi’s Kitchen: The Recipes and Stories of Grandmothers from the Eight African Countries that Touch the Indian Ocean” by Hawa Hassan. Bring a dish to share or just come to talk about your experience with this cookbook.

Thursday, July 9, 7 p.m.
The Foundry, 101 Rogers St., East Cambridge.

Alphabet: Youth Contemporary Circus Show

\$17 to \$28. Through the foundational disciplines of acrobatics, juggling, aerial, balancing and clowning, Alphabet is a youth circus show for all ages.



■ 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



Three chimney swifts above Cambridge, May 16, 2020.

Brian Rusnica

Chimney swifts face challenges

By JEANINE FARLEY

Chimney swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) are called that for good reason. These birds fly with great speed and roost and build nests in chimneys. Or at least they used to until the 1960s, when chimneys began to be capped or lined with metal, making them too smooth or inaccessible for chimney swift roosting sites.

Why do chimney swifts live in old chimneys? It's because their feet are built differently. Most birds have three toes that point forward and one that points backward. This helps birds grasp branches and hop along the ground. In chimney swifts, that backward-pointing toe swings forward. Their four forward-facing hook-like claws help them cling vertically to rough surfaces like brick walls and hollow trees. The short toes cannot grasp

a branch like other birds. It's also why these swifts cannot walk or hop on land very well. Their stiff tail feathers with projecting spines act like a diagonal brace to hold the clinging birds in place.

Where did these birds live before there were chimneys? According to artist and ornithologist John James Audubon, who in 1834 called the bird a chimney swallow: *Since our country has furnished thousands of convenient places for this Swallow to breed in, free from storms, snakes, or quadrupeds, it has abandoned, with a judgment worthy of remark, its former abodes in the hollows of trees, and taken possession of the chimneys, which emit no smoke in the summer season.*

In Roger Tory Peterson's 1934 seminal work, *A Field Guide to Birds*, he writes that the chimney swift "has been described as a 'cigar with wings,' and the description has continued even to this day, when cigar shapes have changed significantly. In the 1930s and earlier, cigars were mostly hand-rolled. The most popular cigar, the Perfecto, was thick in the middle and tapered to points at both ends — the same shape as a chimney swift. Since today's cigars are mostly tube-shaped, a more accurate modern description of these birds might be "a blimp with wings."

When swifts hatch, they are the size of a fingernail, living in a tiny nest with a huge drop off. But the little birds are good at clinging and climbing. Soon they climb to the top of the chimney, where they wait for mom and dad to feed them.

Chimney swift nests, which can withstand all except the strongest of storms, are shaped like a half basket. Swifts need lots of saliva to glue a nest together, so during breeding season the saliva glands under their tongues enlarge. While on the wing, they break off dead twigs from trees

and carry the twigs back to the nesting site, which they glue to a wall with their saliva. According to Audubon: "They throw their body suddenly against the twig, grapple it with their feet, and by an instantaneous jerk, snap it off short, and proceed with it to the place intended for the nest."

When these birds are not perching, they are flying, sometimes at 60 miles per hour. They conduct most of their lives on the wing, catching and eating one-third of their body weight in insects each day. That's 1,000 insects per day (even more when they have hungry youngsters to feed).

The history of chimney swift populations has been a tumultuous one. Chimney swifts used to nest in caves and hollow trees found in old-growth forests. In the early history of our nation, swifts adapted to human encroachment by building nests in chimneys as forests were razed for farmlands. This change in behavior helped chimney swifts thrive for a long time.

Suitable chimneys, too, are declining and have been for some time. Up to 1875 or a little later they continued to breed abundantly in our immediate neighborhood, and very commonly in many other parts of Cambridge. Ornithologist William Brewster, whose [boyhood home](#) was at Brattle and Sparks Street (now the Holy Trinity Armenian Church), wrote:

One of the pleasantest recollections of my youth is that of Chimney Swifts careering in swarms, with joyous, twittering cries, over and around our house. Although they have not yet deserted this city, we no longer see them here in any numbers, at least in early summer.



Mrs. Mabel Osgood Wright

A chimney swift climbing a chimney, circa 1907.

According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, between 1966 and 2023, the chimney swift population declined by 74 percent.

Brewster continues, "In my opinion, it has not been due to the spread and increase of the human population as much as to the change in landscape", including older homes being replaced by homes with narrow, smoothly lined chimney flues. He notes that in the farming country to the west of Cambridge, as well as about the vil-



Richard George

Chimney swifts are sooty gray, often with a lighter throat.

lage centers of Arlington, Belmont and Watertown, where chimneys of ancient pattern still abound, the swifts continue to reappear every season in nearly, if not quite their former, numbers.

But, according to a study in Canada, the biggest threat to chimney swift populations today is not lack of suitable nesting sites but rather a lack of insects to eat. Other birds that catch insects on the wing (swallows, flycatchers) are experiencing a similar population crash. We can help chimney swifts and other insect-eating birds by helping insect populations. Planting native species to help native insects thrive and avoiding the use of pesticides that kill insects would be a great start.



Charles C. Marble and William Kerr Higley

An 1896 illustration shows a chimney swift's tail feather spikes and nest.



Richard George

Chimney swifts are sometimes described as "cigars with wings."

FILM

LOCAL FOCUS



Gene Wilder as Dr. Frankenstein in Mel Brooks’ 1974 classic “Young Frankenstein.”

Mel Brooks turns 100; best Boston film

By OSCAR GOFF

This Sunday marks the 100th birthday of **Mel Brooks**, the legendary comedian, filmmaker and all-around bon vivant, who, by all appearances, remains as sprightly and charming as ever. To celebrate this living legend as he enters his second century, the **Brattle Theatre** has curated a weekend-long series of some of his most beloved work. Present, of course, are “**Young Frankenstein**” (1974, screening Saturday and Sunday) and “**The Producers**” (1968, Sunday), which rank by any estimation among the finest studio comedies ever made. Also on the docket are the VHS-era rental staples “**History of the World: Part I**” (1981, Saturday) and “**Spaceballs**” (1987, Monday), which find Brooks at his most irrepressible both behind and in front of the camera. The series is rounded out by a pair of decidedly non-comedic auteurist classics: David Lynch’s “**The Elephant Man**” (1980, Friday) and David Cronenberg’s “**The Fly**” (1986, Saturday and Sunday), both of which Brooks produced and championed under his Brooksfilms shingle. We at the Day wish Mel Brooks the happiest of 100th birthdays and hope for nothing but the best until his 2000th.

On Saturday, the **Somerville Theatre’s** “Midnight Specials” program shines a spotlight on the 60th anniversary of one of the most influential spaghetti westerns of all time. In Sergio Corbucci’s “**Django**” (1966), Franco Nero plays a former Union soldier turned Wild West outlaw who arrives in a rough-and-tumble town dragging a coffin. The plot roughly follows that of Sergio Leone’s “A Fistful of Dollars” (1964) — itself a riff on Akira Kurosawa’s “Yojimbo” (1961) — as Django finds himself in the middle of a bitter feud, playing both sides against each other as he decides who to support. What it lacks in originality, however, “Django” makes up for in excess, exemplifying the tawdry violence that makes the spaghetti western such a midnight-movie delight. Quentin Tarantino is certainly a fan: he named his Oscar-winning “Django Unchained” (2012) after Corbucci’s film (casting Nero himself in a winking cameo), and name-checked Corbucci in “Once Upon a Time in Hollywood” (2019) as “the second-best director of Italian westerns” — presumably second only to Leone himself.

Also on Saturday, the good folks at the **Somerville Cine-Club** return to the **Somerville Public Library Central Branch** for a rarely screened gem from one of our greatest filmmakers. It’s probably safe to say that much of the Cine-Club’s audience is familiar with “**Twin Peaks**” (1990), the groundbreaking ’90s TV show from David Lynch. What audiences who first watched

“Twin Peaks” via streaming might not know, however, is that Lynch shot an alternate version of the pilot episode to screen theatrically in European markets, complete with an entirely different ending. Some of the footage from these scenes made it into the series as broadcast (most notably the first appearance of villain Killer BOB and the infamous Red Room scene), while other moments can be seen nowhere else. The Cine-Club will screen this so-called “Euro-pilot” from an original Laserdisc, presenting this Lynchian curio in the clearest definition possible. As always, admission is free, but you may want to show up early, as seating will likely go faster than the Double R Diner’s famous cherry pies.

In the annals of great Boston films, one title stands alone: Peter Yates’ crime classic “**The Friends of Eddie Coyle**” (1973), which screens for free Tuesday as part of the Brattle’s ongoing “Elements of Cinema” series. Robert Mitchum stars as the titular down-and-out gangster in Quincy, navigating his own fading relevance at the end of an ignominious career. “Eddie Coyle” is a classic of downbeat neo-noir, no matter where you watch it, filled with hardboiled dialogue and such great character actors as Peter Boyle and Alex Rocco (the latter a real-life onetime member of the Winter Hill Gang). But it’s cherished by locals for its priceless footage of Boston, Cambridge, and the surrounding area at its scuzzy ’70s best, capturing for posterity the dive bars and lunch counters Coyle and his friends undoubtedly would have frequented. While plenty of contemporary period pieces have attempted to recreate the old, dirty Boston, “The Friends of Eddie Coyle” is the real deal.

On the new release front, adventurous moviegoers have their choice between two fascinating independent features not coming to a multiplex near you. From Friday through Thursday, the Brattle presents the local premiere run of “**Mare’s Nest**” (2026), the latest from experimental filmmaker (and frequent Harvard Film Archive guest programmer) Ben Rivers, which combines a parable about children wandering a fantasy landscape with a faithful adaptation of Don DeLillo’s one-act play “The Word for Snow.” Then, on Wednesday and Thursday, the Somerville presents “**Down by the Riverside**” (2023), a documentary about folksinger and activist Pete Seeger’s unconventional campaign to clean up the polluted Hudson River, with filmmakers Jodie Childers and Dan Messina in person for a Q&A following Wednesday’s screening. Anyone who says no interesting movies are being released these days simply isn’t looking hard enough.

REVIEWS

"Supergirl" a cosmic party

One year since James Gunn's "Superman" (2025) kicked off DC Studios' latest effort to reestablish its suite of superheros on the big screen, we meet another member of the Kryptonian diaspora. As the titular Supergirl, Milly Alcock plays Kara Zor-El, Superman/Clark Kent's hard-drinking party girl cousin, who's spent the better part of the year celebrating her birthday on an intergalactic pub crawl (like her cousin, she derives her powers from the rays of the yellow sun, but planets with red ones allow the booze to hit her bloodstream harder). Her sole companion is Krypto, the lovable super-mutt who all but stole last year's film. However, when the ruthless barbarian Krem (Matthias Schoenaerts) shoots Krypto with a poison dart, Kara is forced to cut the party short, joining forces with revenge-bent alien-orphan Ruthye (Eve Ridley) to track down the villain and retrieve the antidote.

The Gunn-helmed "Superman" ably reintroduced its iconic cast of characters but nearly drowned them in an ocean of shared universe place-settings. Thankfully, "Supergirl" is largely self-contained. Alcock is winningly charismatic as the oft-inebriated heroine, closer to Natasha Lyonne than the 1984 original's Helen Slater. The plot borrows liberally from "True Grit" (1969), casting her as Rooster Cogburn by way of Ke\$ha. Apart from Supes, who appears in a series of lovably concerned video messages, the only gratuitous cameo is Jason Momoa as cigar-chomping space biker Lobo (Momoa played Aquaman in the last DC



Allied Global Marketing

Milly Alcock as Supergirl and Matthias Schoenaerts as Krem in “Supergirl.”

cycle, but he's such a perfect match for this '90s antihero that the double-dipping is easy to forgive). Most blessedly of all, "Supergirl" clocks in at well under two hours, with an ending that actually concludes its own story rather than breathlessly setting up the next five films.

Given "Supergirl" is a contemporary cape flick it comes with many of the common pitfalls of the genre: cruddy CGI, a forgettable villain, an interminable third act battle against a legion of faceless henchmen atop a floating spaceship. Those afflicted with superhero fatigue are unlikely to find a magic cure on Krem's keychain. Still, in a time when Hollywood is choked with bloated blockbusters, "Supergirl" is refreshingly lightweight. It may not be more powerful than a locomotive, but it's a diverting bit of summer pop nonsense — which is what superhero movies were supposed to be in the first place.

— OSCAR GOFF



At Kendall Square Cinema, Apple Cinemas Cambridge, and AMC Assembly Row 12

“Leviticus” a crucible

Nothing like a homophobic township with the power of God behind it to execute a modern version of the “Crucible,” complete with supernatural manifestations. Adrian Chiarella’s directorial debut depicts two teens who are tormented for who they are by the usual posse of bullies as well as a supernatural manifestation.

We meet the boyishly naive Naim (Joe Bird) and edgier Ryan (Stacy Clausen) as two kids exploring an abandoned mill. They get to horsing around, trading punches and falling to the ground in a violent bear hug that quickly relaxes into a loose hug and ultimately a kiss. There it is, they’re rebel lovers going against the grain in the deeply religious rural Australian town where they live.

Naim later witnesses Ryan intimately grappling with another classmate, Hunter (Jeremy Blewitt). Jealous, Ryan tells the town’s pastor (Ewen Lesley), who happens to be Hunter’s dad. What ensues is an exorcism performed by a “deliverance preacher” (Nicholas Hope) brought in to force the gay out of the lads (Naim’s mom, Mia Wasikowska of “Alice in Wonderland,” forces him to endure the ritual because he’s too close to Ryan).

It seems hokey at first, but the brief fire and brimstone rite unleashes a personal demon that torments each boy in isolation, by taking the form of the person each boy desires most (Naim for Ryan, and vice versa). Lust is its lure, bloodlust its mission. It’s a frightening change that no one else can see, and it leads to terrible



Courtesy of Neon

Stacey Clausen (left) as Ryan and Joe Bird as Naim in “Leviticus.”

ends first for a young woman and then for Hunter. Yet somehow, their bullying classmates manage to be worse.

The film’s title refers to the Bible’s third book, which contains Old Testament laws defining sin, purity and sexual conduct that some use to condemn homosexuality. The small-town dwellers are herded into an angry horde by Hope’s outsider. The performances by Bird and Clausen are pivotal, and the rest of the ensemble are also strong. But the characters of Naim and especially Ryan feel underdeveloped. The supernatural element also is wispy. The message, however, is not. Chiarella creates effective eerie and edgy moments. He’s another budding horror auteur like Kane Parsons (“Obsession”) and Curry Baker (“Backrooms”), who know how to craft mood and scene beyond their years, but have room to grow to conjure spirit and soul.

— TOM MEEK



Playing at Kendall Square Cinema and 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.

WHAT WE'RE HAVING

Tasty meatless morsels at Lulu Green



Tom Meek

The steak frites at Lulu Green.

By TOM MEEK

Funky alternative restaurants like Grasshopper in Allston and Veggie Galaxy in Central Square were serving plant-based meats long before Impossible Foods and Beyond Meat found their way onto supermarket shelves. But for those looking to jump into this niche market, entry isn't easy. The owners of True Bistro, the vegetarian restaurant in Teele Square, closed their well-regarded eatery after the pandemic, citing the struggle to stay profitable despite strong demand. The last time I was at Saus, a vegetarian eatery in Bow Market, and tried to order their hearty Somerville Dip (meatless short rib au jus), I was told it was temporarily out of stock because the plant-based meat substitute supplier, Tender Food, was having supply and business issues. More recently, Clover made news when it shuttered, and then promptly re-opened, under new ownership. The market for plant-based meat has grown in recent years, propelled by people who see the products as a healthier option or a way to lessen the environmental toll of meat production.

So folks in Kendall Square should rejoice in the recent opening of Lulu Green, which moved into the storefront that was formerly PlantPub — a similar concept that specialized in meatless fried chicken and vegetarian pizzas. The new vegetarian eatery leans toward Mexican (tacos, burritos) and Korean (sweet chili sauces) dishes, with strong Lebanese and Middle Eastern accents. It's a clean, open space with an ample, shaded outdoor patio offering a picturesque view of Henri A. Termeer Square, home to the Kendall Square Farmers Market and Skate @ Canal District Kendall.

The menu is diverse with standard and not-so-standard salads and bowls (quinoa, sweet potato and broccoli, Mediterranean and Vietnamese noodles with crispy chicken), lemony lentil soup, and

a mezze trio. Lulu Green serves acai bowls and meatless burgers every which way — including a double smash burger. But my eyes and appetite locked onto the “Chef Signatures” menu, namely the Korean barbecue-glazed mushroom short rib burrito. If that sounds like a mouthful, it is, and a delightfully delicious one. The marinated shrooms were surprisingly meaty, and the sweet-and-spicy barbecue sauce played well with the rice. Kimchi and pickled onions added some pucker.

The eatery's flagship staple is the maple hot wings, seitan wings glazed with maple hot. The maple hot barbecue sauce is thick and tangy — but not really hot. The plate came with lightly pickled carrot and celery sticks and a side of Lulu ranch for dipping. I stumbled upon a happy surprise on the appetizer lineup: Korean beef lettuce wraps. The gochujang-glazed seitan was pleasingly chewy, with a carpaccio-like texture, and the glaze, like the Korean short rib, was perfectly tangy and more sweet than spicy. This plate also came with mild kimchi, shredded carrots, and chopped peanuts. The wraps reminded me of the loc lak wraps (Cambodian-style, beef stir fry) that Elephant Walk served in its Porter Square days.

The other popular item that seemed to fly across the counter was the tacos al pastor — seitan, grilled pineapple, sumac onions, and avocado with cilantro crema. Three come in an order, arranged upright on a metal taco rack for eating with minimal mess. I didn't try them because — incited by the Day's 2024 article about Mooji's plant-based rib-eye — I have been wildly curious about the taste of plant-based steak — and lo and behold, the “Chef Signatures” section boasted steak frites. The “meat,” sourced from Chunk Foods, a supplier that's been in the plant-based meat biz since 2020, arrived looking too well-formed and symmetrical, reminding me of the Swan-

son Salisbury steaks I had as a child. But once I cut into the slab, crowned with a glorious, green mound of zhoug, a Middle Eastern spicy cilantro sauce, the crosscut looked genuinely like meat. Not that it really mattered, because what's ultimately important is how it tastes and feels in your mouth — and to that end, the moo-less meat was clean, lean and satisfyingly juicy, without any grain or grizzle. The zhoug was a perfect addition too, a bite of spice and peppery greenness — think of it as a subtle pesto with a zing. The accompanying truffle fries that filled out the plate were plump and fluffy, but it was the perfectly formed triangle of meatless meat that made the meal. Lulu has a weekend brunch menu that features a taco, a seitan asada with scrambled plant eggs, guacamole, and hot sauce. There's also an omelette du jour, a “meatball” shakshuka, and gluten-free pancakes. Lulu's is looking to add beer and wine soon, and they already have an impressive slate of smoothies — the mango sunrise is an addictive, fruity slurp — and artisanal spritzers.

Open midmorning to early evening, Lulu's is an excellent fast-fine addition to the Kendall Square culinary landscape, and one that fills a dietary niche not well-covered in the area. It's a tasty, socially conscious alternative that delivers for both traditional vegetarians (who never needed meatless meat, because they were already meatless) and carnivores seeking to move on from meat without losing something juicy and meaty to bite into.

Lulu Green
675 W Kendall St.
Kendall Square
<https://www.lulugreen.com/>
\$\$ (out of \$\$\$\$)

Have a favorite dish or dine out spot that we've not covered and think we should? email Tom at tmeek@cambridgeday.com.

Liquor laws

From Page 1

City spokesperson Jeremy Warnick said sending the proposal of stricter rules right before the city launched its summer public drinking zones was “a coincidence.”

But the effect, according to Evan Harrison, co-owner of State Park in Kendall Square, was more like “whiplash.”

The loosening of rules for people to enjoy the city in new ways during the World Cup was “pretty progressive and cool,” he said. But these new, proposed rules are “categorically opposed” to that.

Any rules requiring service staff to keep time would require operators to “micromanage people in a condescending way,” he said. “It distracts from any kind of authentic experience in a bar or restaurant.”

Prohibition still unpopular

Last Thursday, a summer thunderstorm didn't keep residents from enjoying the World Cup match between Mexico and Korea.

On crowded rooftops, in lines outside bars, and on sidewalk patios, both residents and nightlife staff were eager to weigh in on the new rules.

Roofside at Felipe's in Harvard Square was A.J. Martinez, a nine-year resident of Cambridge, who called the 30-minute wait time “dumb.”

Another patron who comes to Cambridge with friends from Boston said it would deter him from crossing the Charles River to socialize.

Security professionals at both Felipe's and Shays said it didn't seem feasible.

It's “overkill,” said Divyne Apollon, a security guard, who said servers are already trained to monitor people for overconsumption.

Apollon has worked in nightlife for over 40 years in places like Washington, D.C. and New Jersey and said regulations in Cambridge and Massachusetts are “way over the top,” even for a region that attracts many young people for college. Here, “there's no responsibility [expected] from the patron,” he said.

The city's hangover

Two days after Friel posted her video, the licensing board tried to walk back its proposal.

License commission chair Nicole Murati-Ferrer sent an email to business owners saying that the document that was originally sent was a working draft. Sending it out was a request for feedback, she wrote, before apologizing if that wasn't clear. She said the board held two feedback sessions for business owners in June and would host two more in July before discussing the rules in August.

“I never got a notification of any listening sessions,” said Kari Kuelzer, owner of The Sea Hag

and Grendel's Den in Harvard Square. Kuelzer said some of her colleagues in the industry had heard of these sessions, but she didn't know anyone who was actually invited.

“People started freaking out that they weren't getting invited,” she said. “I don't know how to explain this. It's all hair-on-fire right now.”

On the city side, Warnick said he didn't know how the licensing commission organized those feedback sessions, or if they were well-attended. But, he insisted that there was “no rush to this process” and the licensing board was not trying to finalize the rules soon.

The licensing board is under the purview of the city manager. The three commissioners include a commission chair, the fire chief and the police commissioner, and are not publicly elected. Although they do not edit their rules on a set schedule, changes have been published roughly every 10 years since the late '90s.

At Monday night's city council meeting, councillors expressed concerns about the way the proposed rules were communicated.

“I think this is nuts,” said councillor Marc McGovern. “... If [the board] really wanted to start a conversation, there was a better way to do that than redlining the current rules with things they say they're not advocating for.”

He co-sponsored a policy order led by councillor Patricia Nolan calling for more “inclusive and robust” community engagement on any proposed licensing changes.

“Even if we don't have the direct authority to change things, we have the responsibility to make sure that changes are done in a way that is ... transparent ... and respectful of all stakeholders,” said Nolan in an interview.

During discussion, councillors turned their attention to the licensing board itself, which they do not oversee.

Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui asked if the board might be expanded. She advocated for the inclusion of the city's Community Development Department which, amongst other things, offers services to small businesses.

The number of licensing board seats is determined by the state and currently fixed at three. But by the end of council discussion, the policy order gained a co-sponsor and was edited to include even stronger language disapproving of the new rules. It was ultimately referred to the Economic Development Committee for a hearing where, crucially, business owners would be able to share their feelings with the License Commission.

For more on liquor laws, scan the QR code.

LOCAL

Rediscovering the Orwell of the United States

“Atrocities of the Mind: Essays on Violence and Politics in the American Century,” by Dwight Macdonald, selected and introduced by John Summers.

University of Chicago Press, 2026

Dwight Macdonald was hailed as one of the greatest essayists of the 20th century when he died in 1982. He should be a model writer for today’s anxious America, as we are reminded in a new collection of his work edited by John Summers, “Atrocities of the Mind: Essays on Violence and Politics in the American Century.” Macdonald, a descendant of the founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, was a pedigreed populist who came to call himself a conservative anarchist. He was a writer at Fortune, founded Politics magazine, and then wrote for The New Yorker. Christopher Lydon, the host of “Open Source,” interviewed Summers and gave Cambridge Day permission to excerpt their conversation:

Christopher Lydon: It seems to me Dwight Macdonald becomes our American version of [George] Orwell, which is to say the stylish prose guy we still love for a mix of both affection and asperity he brought to looking at his country. Here’s Dwight Macdonald on returning to New York in 1957 after a year in Europe.

“We are an unhappy people, a people without style, without a sense of what is humanly satisfying. Our values are not anchored securely ... There is a terrible shapelessness about American life. These prosperous Americans look more tense and joyless than the people in the poorest quarters of Florence. We have more of everything a human being can conceivably, and inconceivably, want ... yet we are ... not happy.”

Why not? is always his nagging question and especially, why are we so violent?

John Summers: You’ve given his answer — because we are so violent. The nation at this point is basically still on war footing. Macdonald was very interested in this concept called the permanent war economy. He was very critical of the New Deal for not solving the Depression; the only thing that solved the Depression was war ... and the nation remained kind of on edge in the Cold War period with the mass-consumption economy. He talked about consumerism as a kind of narcotic. It doesn’t exactly put you to sleep; it puts you on edge.

CL: He writes [citing James Agee writing about poor Americans], “Why is it things always seem to go against us? How were we caught?” How has it now happened to all of us so that ours has become, in a scant two years, a nation hated and feared and despised in the way Hitler’s Germany and Stalin’s



Mary McGrath

Open Source host Christopher Lydon (left) with historian John Summers.

Russia were. ‘In what way were we trapped? where, our mistake? How might all these things have been different if only we had done otherwise? If only we might have known? How did this all sink so swift away?’”

Sounded to me like 2026. He wrote that in Vietnam War time, 1967. For me, the pleasure of Dwight Macdonald is that he feels so alive in our world, yours and mine.

JS: Yes, I think he does. He’s the guy who is reading the magazines, he’s reading the newspapers, he’s talking to a lot of people, and he’s trying to figure out what he thinks about things, what is happening, and he approaches political questions and ethical questions, not as a geostrategist or a movement leader, but from the standpoint of an informed citizen.

He has a wonderful essay called “Politics Past.” He looks back on his career in the 30s as a tepid communist fellow traveler at first, then as a Trotskyist, then as a pacifist and anarchist, then as a liberal anti-Stalinist. And he hangs up politics, and he says, ‘you know, I’m sort of done with all this.’ And almost as soon as he finished writing this, he’s out in front of the Waldorf Astoria in New York with the War Resisters League, and he’s the oldest person on the picket line. He was a seeker, and he was willing to change his mind.

CL: You know, it’s a kind of enviable but incredibly challenging role he’s given himself to be philosophical and literary and political all at once.

JS: He was a creature of magazines; he never wrote a proper

book; he was one of the great American essayists. So in these gyrations of political affiliation ... he did take a lot of grief from a lot of his contemporaries for changing his mind. And he was often not taken very seriously. And yet, it’s this very quality — when you begin a good essay, you don’t really know where it’s going to end. But when you read his essays, you’re reading someone who is not exactly thinking out loud ... but trying to convince himself what he thinks. And he had this quality of lightheartedness and self-irony that’s very rare in a political writer.

CL: Norman Mailer said ... you could disagree with him on all sorts of things, but you never doubted his fundamental honesty.

JS: That’s right, his moral honesty. Yes, it’s a high compliment. And Hannah Arendt said the same thing.

CL: That’s high praise from a very critical mind. Here we are deep in Trump time, and we don’t have anybody out there who sounds anything like as awake and critical as Dwight Macdonald does. Let me read a short bit of an essay he called “The Bomb.” He wrote it in 1945. Hiroshima was barely cool.

“It seems fitting that the bomb was not developed by any of the totalitarian powers ... but by the two democracies, the last major powers to continue to pay at least ideological respect to the humanitarian democratic tradition. It also seems fitting that the heads of these governments by the time the bomb exploded were not Roosevelt and Churchill, figures of a certain historical and personal

stature, but Attlee and Truman, both colorless mediocrities, average men elevated to their positions by the mechanics of the system. All of this emphasizes that perfect automatism, that absolute lack of human consciousness or aims, which our society is rapidly achieving. As a pile of uranium, once the elements have been brought together, inexorably runs through a series of chain reactions until the final explosion takes place, so the elements of our society act and react, regardless of ideologies or personalities, until the bomb explodes over Hiroshima. The more commonplace the personalities and senseless the institutions, the more grandiose the destruction.”

JS: Yes, the key word that leaked out to me in that passage is automatism, which was his focus in his essays, the first of which is called “The Responsibility of Peoples,” which is about the “Final Solution” before it was called the Holocaust. Macdonald was the first American writer or intellectual of any stature to write about this subject. ... [T]he phenomenon that he identifies is this sense that society has taken on this quality of mechanical automatism, that it just reproduces itself, regardless of human will, regardless of human evolution. He says something to the effect of, never in centuries has the individual been so powerless. And yet at the same time, so much horror has been done in the name of the individual by the state.

CL: Macdonald had a sort of midwife’s role in the birth of anti-poverty programs in America after the early ’60s. President Kennedy

had not read “The Other America” [Michael Harrington, 1962] about the poverty that afflicted one in four Americans in that era. What President Kennedy did read was Dwight Macdonald’s New Yorker review of that book. And then it seemed that everybody read it. “The problem is obvious,” Macdonald summed up: “[T]he persistence of mass poverty in a prosperous country. The solution is also obvious: to provide out of taxes, the kind of subsidies that have always been given to the public schools (not to mention the police and fire departments and the post office) — subsidies that would raise incomes above the poverty level so that every citizen could feel he is indeed such. ‘Civus Romanus sum!’” — meaning, “I am a Roman citizen,” in Latin. Until our poor can be proud to say “Civus Americanus Sum.” “I’m an American.” “[U]ntil the act of justice that would make this possible has been performed by the three-quarters of Americans who are not poor, until then, the shame of the Other America will continue.”

JS: President Kennedy read Macdonald’s review in The New Yorker, and he asked Walter Heller, who was the chairman of his Council of Economic Advisors, to do something about this. And policy was beginning to be developed when Kennedy was killed, and then Lyndon Johnson at his State of the Union address a few months later declared war on poverty. So it was the most consequential essay he ever published.

Macdonald died in 1982, and at the time he was hailed as one of the great American essayists of the time, of the 20th century.

CL: We don’t hear people talking about, ‘did you read that essay or had you catch that critique?’ I don’t know where I’d look for it today. We do have a lot of Substacks, we have a lot of magazines, N+1, for example, which I think is aspiring to the standing of Dwight Macdonald, the voice, the independence. Is that hopeful?

JS: Well, perhaps, yes, it’s good it exists and other magazines like it exist. But one thing that’s happened is there is a chill. There is a censorship in the air now that there wasn’t then. I think people are a lot more afraid to say what they really think. Macdonald took a lot of risks and within his community he took a lot of jibes, but ultimately he was respected for his honesty. It’s much harder to get that kind of reception now. There’s no question that Macdonald would have been writing about Gaza and writing about it in terms of the mass victimization.

Christopher Lydon is the host of the “Open Source” podcast. You can hear the longer version of this conversation at radioopensource.org.

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

CRLS will see 14 athlete alumni play college sports

By REBECCA GOODMAN

Last week, 14 seniors graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School with commitments to play their sports at the collegiate level.

Sophia Juanes Seto will be running NCAA Division I track and field at Cornell University in the fall. At CRLS, Juanes Seto runs the one and two-mile outdoor events, and holds the school's two-mile outdoor record, which she set while finishing second in the state in the Division I championship meet on May 29th, noted CRLS director of athletics Tom Arria, who said via email "it broke her previous record set in 2024 by 14 seconds."

Though Juanes Seto has been running track since she was in eighth grade, she didn't decide she wanted to run in college until her junior year. Juanes Seto said her CRLS coaches were very supportive through the recruitment process.

The 2026 recruitment cycle was historic for a boys' soccer team that went to the state quarterfinals. "For the first time in program history, we're sending [four] students to play in [the] NCAA," outgoing CRLS boys soccer coach Niko Emack said via email. [Disclosure: Emack is a member of Cambridge Day's board.] The four are Andre Baraglia, brothers Michael and Rhys Brown and Angel Nunez. Baraglia will play at Hunter College, which won the Division III championship in 2024, while the other three will play at Emerson.

When Michael Brown, who will be playing Division III soccer at Emerson College, was a mentor for freshmen at CRLS, his main piece of advice for them was to join a sports team. Brown feels strongly that high school sports are a valuable way to gain "connections and community."

Henry Thompson-Silbey has played on one of CRLS's smaller teams, rugby, since his freshman year. "We haven't had the best seasons because of [a] lack of players," Thompson-Silbey said, explaining that for a 15 on 15 sport, they've usually only had 18-22 players. This year, however, the team had 28 students playing, and Thompson-Silbey felt he became closer with many of his teammates.

"It's been really fun to ... grow the team," Thompson-Silbey said.

Support from the school

Arria described the school's "responsibility" in the recruitment process as being to "guide" students and to "help them have a better understanding" of the process.

The school hosts a college recruitment information night each November, and invites stu-



CRLS Athletic Department

From left: Rhys Brown, Angel Nunez and Michael Brown, who committed to playing soccer at Emerson College.

dents from all grades to attend. Last year's event had a panel featuring a college coach, a senior who had already been offered an athletic scholarship, and an alum who had received a Division I scholarship. Rounding out the panel was Jordan Roldon, a school guidance counselor and the varsity girls volleyball coach, who "knows the landscape of the college recruitment process and the eligibility center very, very well," Arria said. Additionally, the department keeps coaches informed on the recruitment process so they can support students as needed.

Andre Baraglia, who is committed to play soccer at Hunter College, described the recruitment process as "a lot of emailing."

For Arria, the emphasis is on helping students choose the right "environment."

"We talk about the idea of making sure you're picking the right school for you," he said, to make sure that "if you don't have athletics, you're still going to want to be at that school."

For Oliver Henke, playing baseball in college was "always a goal" of his.

"It wasn't something that I always knew was going to happen, but I always did everything I could to make it a possibility," Henke said. Henke will be playing NCAA Division III baseball at Swarthmore College.

Farewell to a community

For many of the athletes, it will be hard to say goodbye to the CRLS athletic community.

"This [was] my 12th and last season as Falcon," Juanes Seto said. "I'm definitely gonna miss the people on the team," she

added, noting that they "have a really good team culture."

"I've been playing with the same group of kids for like my whole life," Henke said. He described how special it was to "play at St. Peter's Field in front of everyone who has coached you throughout your life."

Outside of high school sports, "you're never going to be in the same classes with all your teammates, take that bus ride every day, be at practice every single day, eat lunch with your teammates every day," said Brown.

"It's just such a privilege to be able to represent the city that I've lived in my entire life and that I love so much," Henke said.

The full list of student commitments:

- Ada La Master — University of Washington crew
- Andre Baraglia — Hunter College soccer
- Angel Nunez — Emerson College soccer
- Emma Shaw — Colby College crew
- Fio Eddy — Harvard University soccer
- Henry Thompson-Silbey — University of Rhode Island rugby
- Michael Brown — Emerson College soccer
- Miel Henry — Suffolk University track and field
- Nina Mazereeuw — Amherst College swimming
- Oliver Henke — Swarthmore College baseball
- Owen Goldstein — Tufts University lacrosse
- Rhys Brown — Emerson College soccer
- Sophia Juanes Seto — Cornell University track and field
- Stefan Alexandrov — Wheaton College baseball



CRLS Athletic Department

Members of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin track and field team. Sophia Juanes Seto, who will run at Cornell, is seated in the center.

Cambridge 7/8 lacrosse wins championship



Courtesy of Joe Adiletta

Members and coaches of the Cambridge-Arlington 7th and 8th grade boys Division 2 Select Lacrosse team after its semi-final victory over a team from Lexington on June 11, 2026.

By JOE ADILETTA

A second-half surge propelled the Cambridge-Arlington 7/8 grade boys' Massachusetts Youth Lacrosse Division 2 Select Lacrosse team to the division championship on Friday, June 19.

Trailing North Andover 4-2 at the half, the Arlington-Cambridge Demolition Crew, or AC/DC, as the team is known, had a tremendous second half, scoring eight straight goals while allowing none, to win the game 10-4.

It was the second straight game in which the second-seeded AC/DC came from behind to win. In the semifinal against Lexington

it had trailed by five goals at one point before winning in overtime. In its semifinal, North Andover had defeated the top seed, Shrewsbury-Marlborough-Hudson.

But it could not overcome AC/DC's defense, anchored by its goalie, Cambridge resident Eli Bachelor. The AC/DC had the overall best defense in the league, giving up the fewest goals.

Offensively, the team was led by Cambridge's Logan Tambiah, who scored three goals. Cambridge resident Ryder Kavet scored two, as did Arlington's Sam Shoss. J.J. Yan, Bodi Wright and John Greable, Arlington residents all, each scored a goal.

Community View

Courtesy of Anthony Galluccio



Seated in Front: Al Vasallo, Kaitlin Gallo, Mo Taylor, Rachel Henke
Back Row: Lula Amanuel, Lwam Maharishi, Lou Depasquale, Luana Do Santos, Zihaam Jama, Nada Elfathy, Corrine Augustine, Jayden Correia, Joe Derege, Anthony Galluccio, Kamai Green, Tyler Carvello, Izzy Adams, Xavi Santos and Jasen Thomas.

Not pictured: Ada LaMaster

Scan the QR code to submit your photos from around our community.



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