



**WILD THINGS PAGE 7**  
 The silverfish is neither silver nor fish

**METRO PAGE 4**  
 World Cup a kick for sales at area restaurants and bars

# CAMBRIDGE DAY

THE WEEK OF JULY 9 – JULY 16, 2026
 FREE

## Fatal shooting renews ShotSpotter debate

By TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY

A shooting on July 4 that left a city employee dead has sparked debate about whether it would have made a difference if the city were still using ShotSpotter, an acoustic detection system the City Council ordered removed in May. There is, however, a question about whether the system would have been able to detect gunfire that day.

Cambridge residents and officials have asked whether ShotSpotter would have allowed first responders to more quickly reach Xavier Bautista after he was shot, possibly saving his life. Councillor Tim Flaherty, former mayor Anthony Galluccio, the Cambridge Police Patrol Officers Association and the Cambridge Police Superior Officers Association are among those who have said ShotSpotter could have brought help faster.



An undated photo of Xavier Bautista, a Cambridge Department of Public Works employee found dead of a gunshot wound on July 4.

Local police unions released a joint statement on Monday stating that the City Council's vote to remove ShotSpotter was to blame for the death of city employee Xavier Bautista, asserting "... there was no opportunity for the victim to receive emergency aid for approximately 60 minutes."

Councillor Ayah Al-Zubi, who had brought the order to remove ShotSpotter, rebuffed these claims, saying that it is "a question for medical experts and not political statements made in the immediate aftermath of a family's loss."

"I don't think it makes sense to get into ShotSpotter after this," Al

Zubi said. "I do think that it makes sense to want to search for answers, but I don't think that their immediate claim that this death was compounded by the council's decision is fair. I think it's premature."

Spencer Piston, a political science professor at Boston University, said the system was unlikely to have picked up the gunshot had it still been in use, noting that its terms of service say it adopts a fireworks suppression mode for 48 hours before and after Independence Day. That may mean it would have identified the shot as a firework and not reported it.

Still, supporters of ShotSpotter, an acoustic detection system that monitors for gunfire-like sounds that had been in use in Cambridge since 2014, have seized on the incident to call for its re-establishment.

Flaherty, one of two city councillors to vote against removing ShotSpotter, said knowing about

the fireworks suppression didn't change his opinion "not even a little bit."

"It's still activated, it worked in Boston," Flaherty said. "It doesn't fail to notify."

There were multiple shootings in Boston over Independence Day weekend. Cambridge Day was not able to verify whether ShotSpotter was involved in the Boston police response. Last year, Cambridge also had an instance of gunfire on the Fourth of July, but ShotSpotter was not mentioned in the scanner reports for the incident.

Galluccio said the City Council's vote was an overreaction to concerns about the technology being used by federal agencies such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "We're reacting so strongly to anything [Trump] does that we victimize our own community," he said.

See FATAL SHOOTING, page 3

## Cambridge fencer finishes stellar season



Natalya Cafasso (right) with United States fencing teammate Leehi Machulsky at the FIE Junior & Cadet World Championships in Rio de Janeiro in April.

By EVAN VEZMAR

Cambridge fencing phenom Natalya Cafasso finished the international competition season on an all-time high, earning medals at the April 2026 International Fencing Federation Junior & Cadet World Fencing Championships in Rio de Janeiro. She

won second place in the cadet (under-17) event and earned a top eight finish in the junior (under-20) event, which gave her a final world ranking of number three for junior women's épée. Capping off the junior season, Cafasso also earned a third-place finish with the USA team in the junior event.

Cafasso said the World Championships presented some unexpected challenges: extreme heat and humidity in Brazil as well as an abrupt change in venues when a building burned down on the eve of the tournament.

Taking challenges both on-strip and off-strip head-on made it an even bigger reward for being ranked third in the world for junior women's épée.

"I'm definitely very happy with my placing, and I think that I'm glad I've gotten more established into the fencing world," she said.

She knows, though, that next season will bring higher-caliber competition. She's turning 17 this year and can no longer compete in cadet competitions. "It does put a little bit of pressure for next year to stay to those same standards because I have to maintain the points that I get this year. It's going to be a lot more difficult with my expectations," Cafasso said.

She got a taste of her longer-term future this spring as well, competing for the first time in the senior international circuit at the Budapest FIE Grand Prix and the Colombia Grand Prix in Medellin.

See FENCER, page 11

## Tenant tries to avoid eviction by declaring bankruptcy



Cambridge Housing Authority headquarters.

By SUE REINERT

A tenant living in a low-income housing development in Cambridge is trying to avoid eviction for unpaid rent by filing for bankruptcy, possibly a first-time strategy for renters in Cambridge public housing.

"While I cannot speak to every individual record, current [Cambridge Housing Authority] staff cannot recall another instance in the past 20 years where a resident filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in response to a nonpayment eviction," said Clara Fraden, CHA chief executive officer.

The Cambridge tenant has lived at Roosevelt Towers, a family development on Cam-

bridge Street, since 2018. She fell behind on rent in 2024 and was on medical leave from her job. Cambridge Day is withholding her name because she is not a public figure and bankruptcy court records can reveal detailed financial and personal information.

The tenant started missing rent payments in 2024, and by December 2025, she owed \$7,143 in back rent and was facing eviction, according to records of her eviction case in state Housing Court. A judge issued an eviction judgment, but CHA agreed to let her stay if she paid off the debt through monthly additions to her rent.

See TENANT, page 4

**BUSINESS PAGE 5**  
 Underrepresented entrepreneurs make their pitch at CIC

**FILM PAGE 8**  
 A tribute to Donnie Yen, plus: Somerville Film Fest, New England films, and more

**FOOD PAGE 9**  
 Dear Annie owner will close, then start something new • Charlie's Kitchen update







Fatal shooting

From Page 1

Vice mayor Burhan Azeem, who had voted present when the issue was brought into the council, said there needed to be more discussion about alternatives to ShotSpotter. “When it comes to public safety, so much of the conversation is just focused on how can we protect people from the city,” Azeem said. “But I also think that we need to also have a focus on how can we keep the public safe.”

City councillors who voted to remove the technology called for a full investigation before revisiting ShotSpotter.

“Based on what we know today, I don't believe we can draw definitive conclusions about what occurred or whether any one technology would have changed the outcome,” Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui wrote in a statement to Cambridge Day. “Right now, my focus is on supporting Xavier's family, our city employees, and our community as we grieve this devastating loss.”

Councillors Patty Nolan and Marc McGovern also called for patience, saying it was not possible yet to know if his death could have been prevented. Bautista was found slightly before 5:30 a.m., and appeared to have been shot about an hour earlier. McGovern said while “it is understandable that people are asking whether [ShotSpotter] would have made a difference, the investigation is still in its early stages, and we simply do not have enough information to know whether ShotSpotter would have detected the gunfire or, if it had, whether it would have changed the outcome.”

“A dimmer place”

Bautista, 32, had been a city employee for two years. He worked for the Department of Public Works in the Solid Waste Division, helping to maintain public squares and streets as well as public area trash and recycling programs. He had a five-year-old son with his girlfriend, and his family started a GoFundMe page with a goal of \$25,900 to help them with memorial costs. By Wednesday evening more than \$18,000 had been raised.

Family members had posted on the page that “Anyone who knew him remembers Xavi for his playfulness, his huge smile, & his unconditional love for his family & friends. You couldn't be serious around Xavier. He brought so much joy into our lives, and the world is a dimmer place without him in it.”

Technology options debated

Nolan, who voted to remove ShotSpotter, but had said at the time she would be in favor of a technology that could reduce civil liberties issues such as the potential for eavesdropping without a warrant. She also supports more widespread use of security cam-



Chloe Taft

Flyers warning about ShotSpotter remained on a sign post at Norfolk and Broadway, near where Xavier Bautista was found dead of a gunshot wound.

eras.

When asked if the City Council had any plans for new public safety measures. Al Zubi and Azeem said that was an ongoing conversation.

The debate about ShotSpotter's usage has been ongoing throughout the United States. A number of other cities have removed ShotSpotter, citing concerns over accuracy, policing of Black and brown neighborhoods, and data transparency and ownership. A University of Chicago study found Chicago police responded on average four times quicker to emergencies after ShotSpotter was uninstalled. SoundThinking, which produces ShotSpotter, has close ties with the Department of Homeland Security, which has funded the technology's adoption in many places.

Concerns about the possibility of audio recordings being shared in criminal prosecution or with DHS were raised in the two city council meetings in May that ultimately led to the removal of ShotSpotter. “It leaves the city government open to massive liability risks,” Piston said.

In response to these concerns, the Cambridge Police Department stated the data gathered by ShotSpotter is overwritten every 30 hours. Still, Piston noted that ShotSpotter's contract states it is able to use the data for any purpose. It has been introduced as evidence in trials, including a 2017 case in Massachusetts, Commonwealth v. Denison. The court ruled that the recording violated the Massachusetts Wiretap Act and could be not allowed as evidence

The ruling makes it appear that every recorded conversation from ShotSpotter was in violation of the Wiretap Act, said Piston. But Flaherty said it shows that “the fear that evidence obtained from ShotSpotter would be used in a criminal prosecution is unfounded.” He said he believed there were ways to ameliorate privacy concerns.

ShotSpotter devices were originally placed mostly within the Port neighborhood where Black and brown communities were. Critics of Shotspotter said there was a possibility for negative interactions between the community and the police force.

Flaherty, Galluccio and Azeem

all acknowledged the concerns that ShotSpotters were placed predominantly in Black and brown communities. Some activists had pointed to this as a form of racism. But officials said residents in these areas had supported having the devices in place.

On Wednesday night, an in-person community meeting was held at the Cambridge Senior Center. For a preliminary report, see story at right.

For more on this developing story, scan the QR code.



Rebecca Goodman contributed to this story. This story is part of a partnership between Cambridge Day and the Boston University Department of Journalism.

Community members criticize city officials in meeting

By CHLOE TAFT AND TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY

Cambridge residents demanded that city officials be accountable and improve public safety in the Port neighborhood following the shooting of Xavier Bautista, a Cambridge resident and Department of Public Works employee, at a July 8 meeting.

Over 200 attendees packed into a meeting room in the Cambridge Senior Center. The meeting started with brief remarks from Cambridge Mayor Simbul Siddiqui, Acting Police Commissioner Pauline Wells, Middlesex District Attorney Marian T. Ryan, and City Manager Yi-An Huang, followed by two hours of questions, moderated by Mo Barbosa, senior director of Health Resources in Action, a nonprofit that works on addressing violence and other community issues in Cambridge.

In addition to Siddiqui, six other city council members attended: Ayah Al-Zubi, Marc McGovern, E. Denise Simmons, Jivan Sobrino-Wheeler and Cathie Zusy.

More than half the residents in attendance questioned the City Council's decision to remove ShotSpotter, an automated gunshot detection technology. They asked why residents of The Port neighborhood, where the shooting took place, were not consulted. And they demanded city

officials share specific plans to reduce future crime.

Bautista's family members shared their frustration with what they saw as city officials' lack of action and failure to acknowledge the reality of danger in the Port. A majority of the community members in attendance, including Bautista's family, expressed anger and disappointment with city officials.

When Ryan and Huang separately emphasized Cambridge is a safe city — “I would echo what the DA has said, that Cambridge is a safe community,” Huang said — it sparked an outcry from residents. Huang acknowledged that “we also see these things happen, and I think what I would say is the conversation that we have been having at the city council is that we need to address the violence in our community.”

Councillor Simmons, who is from The Port and was one of two councillors who voted to retain ShotSpotter in May, criticized the characterization of Cambridge as “safe,” along with members of Bautista's family. “I respect what you said, but when you say the city is safer, just say maybe for you, but not for Black and brown people,” said Simmons.

For the rest of this story please scan the QR code.



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Source: MLS PIN statistics for "Market Pulse"

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# METRO

## Tenant

From Page 1

But she stopped making the extra payments and missed some regular rent payments, too. The agreement provided that if she defaulted, CHA could immediately move to carry out the previous eviction judgment, without starting the legal process over.

At that point, the tenant declared bankruptcy under Chapter 7 of the federal bankruptcy code, which can eliminate many types of pre-bankruptcy debt and is meant to give people overwhelmed by debt a fresh start. At the same time, filing for bankruptcy can penalize people who later seek to borrow money, get a job, or rent a home.

The CHA tenant's bankruptcy petition in early March immediately halted all court actions to collect debts, including the authority's request to carry out her eviction. But the CHA has asked US Bankruptcy Court Judge Janet E. Bostwick to lift the bankruptcy stay of its eviction attempt. If the judge agrees, the tenant could once again be facing loss of her home, though there are legal uncertainties about possible special treatment of public housing tenants that might prevent that, a lawyer at the National Consumer Law Center with expertise in bankruptcy said.

The filing has delayed the housing authority's move to evict the tenant. Two hearings on the CHA request have been postponed, and lawyers for the two sides told the judge on May 27 they are negotiating. The next hearing is July 21, which means the bankruptcy filing has kept the tenant in her apartment for about five months.

Her bankruptcy lawyer, Alex Mattera of Pierce Atwood in Boston, called CHA's insistence on evicting the tenant "very aggressive," since the authority isn't likely to recover back rent even if the tenant is evicted. In a filing opposing the housing authority's motion to lift the stay, Mattera said the tenant is "indigent, elderly, and without the ability to secure alternative housing." The tenant "has put aside" enough money to pay the full rent "from and after" March 5, the date she filed for bankruptcy, Mattera said.

Mattera is representing the tenant for free as part of his law firm's volunteer legal service.

Fraden said she couldn't discuss an individual tenant's circumstances, to protect privacy, but she denied that the authority's stance is aggressive, saying that eviction "is a last resort." Authority staff members "work extensively with residents to prevent displacement — including outreach, referrals to rental assistance, processing rent reductions when eligible, and offering opportunities to resolve issues before legal action is considered," she said.

Residents pay no more than 30% of their income as rent, and if their income drops, "they are eligible for interim rent adjustments," she said. "These protections are



Clara Fraden

designed to keep housing affordable, even during periods of financial hardship."

"CHA also has an obligation to administer its programs fairly and consistently. We are proud to provide deeply subsidized housing, and ensuring fairness requires that we apply program requirements and lease obligations consistently across all households," Fraden said. "When significant arrears accrue over time, we must evaluate the situation based on the totality of the circumstances and compliance with the lease, regardless of whether a bankruptcy proceeding affects the underlying debt."

The tenant's income has declined as she took paid medical leave from her job as a receptionist at a health care organization. The court records don't indicate whether she asked for lower rent and CHA reduced it; her monthly rent is \$1,281 but her monthly expenses totalled \$3,007, her bankruptcy filing said. Her take-home pay is \$2,030 a month plus \$514 in paid family and medical leave, the filing said. Her largest obligation is \$105,576 in student loans.

Though bankruptcy may be a novel strategy for Cambridge public housing tenants, at least six Boston Housing Authority tenants have filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy petitions since 2001 to stop eviction for nonpayment of rent, according to court records. Available online court records indicate the filings erased their back debt but didn't stop the housing authority from seeking money owed from after their bankruptcy filings. John Rao, senior attorney focusing on bankruptcy, consumer credit and mortgage servicing at the National Consumer Law Center, said that "any tenant could file (for bankruptcy) and discharge back rent but if they want to stay in their apartment, that's not a good approach" because the landlord could simply move for eviction after the bankruptcy case ends. But it may be different for public housing tenants, Rao said.

"What makes the public housing situation unique is a provision in the code that says the government cannot discriminate against a consumer who filed for bankruptcy based on the fact that they filed," he said.

A court decision in Vermont found that this rule applied to leases, Rao said. Still, this interpretation is not "settled law" in Massachusetts, Rao said. And it's not clear whether it would apply to the CHA tenant, who faced an eviction judgment before she filed for bankruptcy, he said. Mattera, the Cambridge tenant's lawyer, has not raised this argument so far in her case.

## World Cup a winner for local businesses

BY GREG LEVINSKY

Boston's major sports teams captured 10 titles during Olde Magoun Saloon's first 24 years of business, but none of those championship nights matched a three-hour window last week.

As the U.S. soccer team put away Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Round of 32 of FIFA World Cup 2026, patrons put away enough food and drink for a collective record-breaking performance of their own. Fans rejoiced as the U.S. closed in on a 2-0 win, and Olde Magoun's finished off the highest-grossing three-hour period ever.

"This has been just a fantastic run," said Greg Coughlin, Olde Magoun Saloon's owner.

Located at 518 Medford Street in Somerville, Olde Magoun's is one of the countless local businesses benefiting from the World Cup.

At Phoenix Landing, perhaps the pre-eminent soccer bar in Cambridge, owner Kevin Treanor said the watch parties, the wave of soccer madness and the expanded alcohol hours and public consumption zones have been "a real boon for area businesses." He said the 1 p.m. games during the group stages were "an event every time." The Landing opened in 1995 at 512 Massachusetts Avenue and Treanor said "this is the best I've ever seen Central Square."

The City of Cambridge has so far hosted six free outdoor watch parties, which both directly and indirectly boosted nearby businesses. Dubbed "Cambridge United," the city has shuffled locations and ties to the matches held at Boston Stadium in Foxboro, the next of which is Thursday, July 9. Establishments surrounding the watch parties see upticks in business, and some of the events included a Cambridge-Somerville Black Business Network Caribbean Nites Market where vendors set up outside the watch parties akin to a farmer's market vibe.

### Not just good for bars

Nefisa Siraj, a Cambridge resident, owner of Cini Coffee and participant in the Cambridge-Somerville Black Business Network Caribbean Nites Market, said she sold nearly three times as much product during the first outdoor watch party. Chai and hibiscus tea sell well.

"This year, I've made more than the last seven years," Siraj said. "This month, it's been very high." Many imbibers took advantage of the city's newly approved outdoor drinking zones with drinks purchased during the watch parties across from approved businesses in parts of Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard Square, Central Square, Inman Square and Kendall Square. The zones opened following a bill



Julia Levine

The Phoenix Landing in Central Square.

signed by Gov. Maura Healey, and extending open hours until as late as 3 a.m., through July 31.

The Lilypad, normally a music venue at 1353 Cambridge St. in Inman Square, set up shop June 19 during that square's Cambridge United day. The \$4,000 in alcohol sales in one day matched their usual business in two weeks.

"Glad I witnessed something that may never happen again," owner Gill Aharon said in an email. "It was such a happy day.



Tom Meek

Tables outside Phoenix Landing for a watch party during the 2026 World Cup.

People were so nice and well behaved. You could feel joy on a large and collective scale."

### A hunger for gathering

Pardis Saffari, the city's director of economic development and opportunity, estimated crowds for the city's watch parties have ranged from 500 to 5,000. "What we've seen is definitely a desire for community and connectivity," Saffari said. "What a lot of people have appreciated is an opportunity to get outside and meet their neighbors."

The outdoor shows culminate with the World Cup Final July 19 in East Cambridge near the CambridgeSide mall. Hotels and short-term rentals also benefitted, said Saffari, who looks forward to reviewing citywide meal consumption data when it becomes available.

Even decidedly non-sports bars see the World Cup boost, as long as they play along.

Aeronaut Brewing in Somerville shows matches on a large screen inside its tap room during normal operating hours, save for when it overlaps with existing programming. Marketing man-

ager Ashlyn Edwards said fans of all countries descend upon Aeronaut in various arrangements — sometimes a small group of friends supporting a specific country, or larger, multi-group supporters sections.

"There's such a big overlap between beer drinkers and soccer fans, so we knew it would be a good opportunity," said Edwards, who declined to share specific numbers on matchday sales. "Besides that, we're trying to keep our programming as best

as we can. "We'll probably have a postmortem with the team after, but we're definitely looking forward to the women's World Cup next year."

Olde Magoun's Coughlin also owns Blackmoor in Boston and LongCross in Medford. He said his portfolio saw a 26 percent increase in business this June from last. Magoun's, which slows down during the summer, enjoyed an even higher bump. When the Scottish descended upon Boston, many ended up staying in short term rentals nearby.

"Magoun's was inundated with them," Coughlin said.

He knew the World Cup would increase business, but the steady bump from even the first day of play caught him by surprise. Boston serving as a host city helps too, Coughlin said.

"We're hitting record numbers," Coughlin said. "Great atmosphere, just packed, standing-room only. In 22 years it's been unbelievably busy, and this is right at the top."

Tom Meek contributed to this story.



■ Do you know of a business opening or closing in Cambridge or Somerville? Send news to [business@cambridgeday.com](mailto:business@cambridgeday.com).

BUSINESS

Social impact startups have pitch night at CIC

By TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY

Two startups, one pioneering burn care for patients and the other educating teens about menstruation, were picked as the winners at a recent social impact pitch event at Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC).

Prior to the public pitch night, where the audience cast vote for their favorite presentations, the entrepreneurs had pitched to a panel of judges, whose choice was also announced at the event hosted by Venture Cafe June 25. The judges picked SilkMed, which is creating a spray on silk dressing for burns, while the audience picked MyCycleIQ, an app to manage around menstrual cycles.

Reducing pain for burn patients

Silkmed grew out of Sebastian Useche's pursuit of a master's degree in Innovation and Management at Tufts. The program encourages students to find a problem and create a business plan around how to solve it. Useche had shadowed the medical director at Brigham & Women's Hospitals burn clinic and observed patients of all ages "crying, shaking in pain" during the process of recovery.

"It seemed worse than the actual accident," Useche said. "That's something that stuck with me."

Useche met David Kaplan, a Tufts professor who studies biopolymer engineering, and was fascinated by his work. He quickly realized that it could be used to help burn patients by lessening the pain associated with removing dressings, which can adhere to the wound. Kaplan's technology underpinning SilkMed, which incorporated July 3, 2024.

One audience member who voted for it was Adrianna Gugel, an applicant for the next early growth stage cohort at CIC. "They're building a better mouse-trap for burn patient care, and I think that's awesome," Gugel said.

Changing the period cycle

MyCycleIQ founder Samanda Jean, who was the audience's pick. Jean has been cycle syncing, the process of aligning your workout, diet and lifestyle with your menstrual cycle, for over six years. To understand her health, she had been using her FitBit to make sure she was pushing herself properly each day.

However, she noticed that around her luteal phase, the second half of the menstrual cycle that spans from ovulation to the first day of the period, she'd get depressed and tired. Her FitBit didn't account for this when it gave her an overview of what her workouts should look like for the day. So, she started developing an app.

At first, the app was designed as a supplement to things like Fit-Bit. However, as she went through



Courtesy of Sebastian Useche

SilkMed CEO Sebastian Useche (left) and cofounder and CTO Zachary DiMuccio.

the early growth stage of the social impact program, she decided that the app needed to pivot to a different mission.

She saw the effects the lack of menstrual health education can have on someone. So, she decided to focus her app on teenagers and

prioritizing their understanding of their menstrual health.

The app gives teens a way to log their periods and understand their cycle and the symptoms that come with it.

Accelerating through obstacles

This year marked Cambridge Innovation Center's fifth social impact cohort, fledgling companies run by historically disadvantaged entrepreneurs within Massachusetts. The entrepreneurs can go through two distinct programs, early growth stage, a three-month program where companies have a product and are working to gain customers, and the other a six-month growth stage, where companies with customers work to expand their operations. Start-



Courtesy of Cambridge Innovation Center

Samanda Jean, founder of MyCycleIQ, presenting at the Cambridge Innovation Center's social impact pitch night.

ups from the early growth pool often continue to the six-month growth stage.

Useche, 28, is originally from Ecuador and moved to the Boston area when he was 16. He said he has appreciated the area's diversity and inclusiveness, but applied

for the CIC program because he had faced challenges, such as visa compliance, as an entrepreneur from an underrepresented demographic. He said the program had helped him build a network that eased his problems hiring a team at SilkMed.

He also said being in a community with other early-stage entrepreneurs had helped him through challenges company founders face. "People truly like to be there for each other and help as much as they can," Useche said.

To read the rest of this story, scan the QR code.



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# EVENTS

**Tuesday, July 21, 6 p.m.**  
Danehy Park, 99 Sherman St., in Neighborhood 9 just east of Fresh Pond.

**Summer Concert Series: Nora Meier**

Free. Nora Meier’s debut album, “Outfield” was released in October 2024. Spectrum Culture called the album “a gently percolating but still laid-back brand of folk-pop,”

**Saturday, July 11, 6 to 10 p.m.,**  
The Rockwell, 255 Elm St., Davis Square.

**2026 Somerville International Film Festival**

Free. This festival brings diverse international films to showcase the best regional and international filmmakers. This year: “Blood & Guts” (United States) by Carlye Rubin and Katie Green. There is also a short film showcase featuring seven such works. Continues on July 12.

**Thursday, July 23, 7 p.m.**  
Porter Square Books, 1815 Massachusetts Ave., Porter Square.

**Elizabeth Preston and Perrin Roosevelt Ireland read from their debut books**

Free but RSVP. Science journalist Preston’s book, “The Creatures’ Guide to Caring” is a journey through the evolution of caretaking on Earth, from animal parents to modern-day humans while environmentalist Ireland details the sex roles and relationships of animals in “Poking the Squid.”



Scan here for more events.

**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.

**Sunday, July 12, 10 a.m. to noon**  
Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn St., West Cambridge.

**Madge Evers demonstrates “Printing With the Sun: Capturing the Beauty of Nature With Cyanotypes”**

\$15. Cyanotypes are one of the oldest photographic printing processes in the history of photography. Evers talks about her book, shares her own history with the cyanotype process and introduces its 19th-century origins. She will then conduct a live demonstration of how the process works.

**Friday, July 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
Harvard Museum of Natural History, 26 Oxford St., in the Baldwin neighborhood near Harvard Square.

**Collecting Wonders: Tomorrow’s Discoveries**

\$15 to \$20. A collaboration between the Harvard Museums of Science & Culture and the university’s three natural history research museums (the Museum of Comparative Zoology, the Harvard University Herbaria and the Mineralogical and Geological Museum), this new exhibition showcases rare objects from the collection vaults that people continue to study to uncover new knowledge. Open 7 days a week through April 2027.

**Monday, July 20, 7 p.m.**  
The Comedy Studio, 5 John F. Kennedy St., Harvard Square.

**Comedy Benefit for Dave MacDonough**

\$34. Comedians Matt Kona, Andrea Henry, Dan Boulger, Mike O’Brien, Sean Rosa, Dana Cairns, Josh Day, Ted Pettingell, John Tyler, Shea Spillane, Kaitlin Buckley and Carolina Soto perform at this cancer benefit for fellow comedian Dave MacDonough.

**Monday, July 13, 7 p.m.**  
Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard Square.

**Chloe Chapin takes stock of menswear in “Suitable: The Sartorial Revolution and the Fashioning of Modern Men”**

Free. The American historian, costume designer and fashion scholar examines why American men’s fashion was standardized from the time of the nation’s founding and how it became a form of social and political power. Fashion and design curator Michelle Finamore joins.

**Tuesday, July 14, 7:30 p.m.**  
Cantab Lounge, 738 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square.

**Songwriter Showcase Series**

Free. This showcase connects singer-songwriters in the Boston area, giving them the space to perform their own music and support each other. This event includes an hourlong open mic slot during which any musician can show up and perform a couple of songs.

**Wednesday, July 22, 6 p.m.**  
Cambridge Main Library, 449 Broadway, Mid-Cambridge.

**Ben Wikler and Danielle Allen discuss “This Is The Plan: How to End America’s Meltdown and Save Democracy”**

Free. Harvard Book Store and the Cambridge Public Library present Wikler, political organizer and strategist who served as the chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin from July 2019 to July 2025. His new book provides lessons from his time at Wisconsin’s Democratic party to map out a plan to dictator-proof American government. Harvard University’s Allen joins.

Urban Park Roof Garden at Kendall Center, 325 Main St., Kendall Square.

**Wednesday, July 22, Noon**

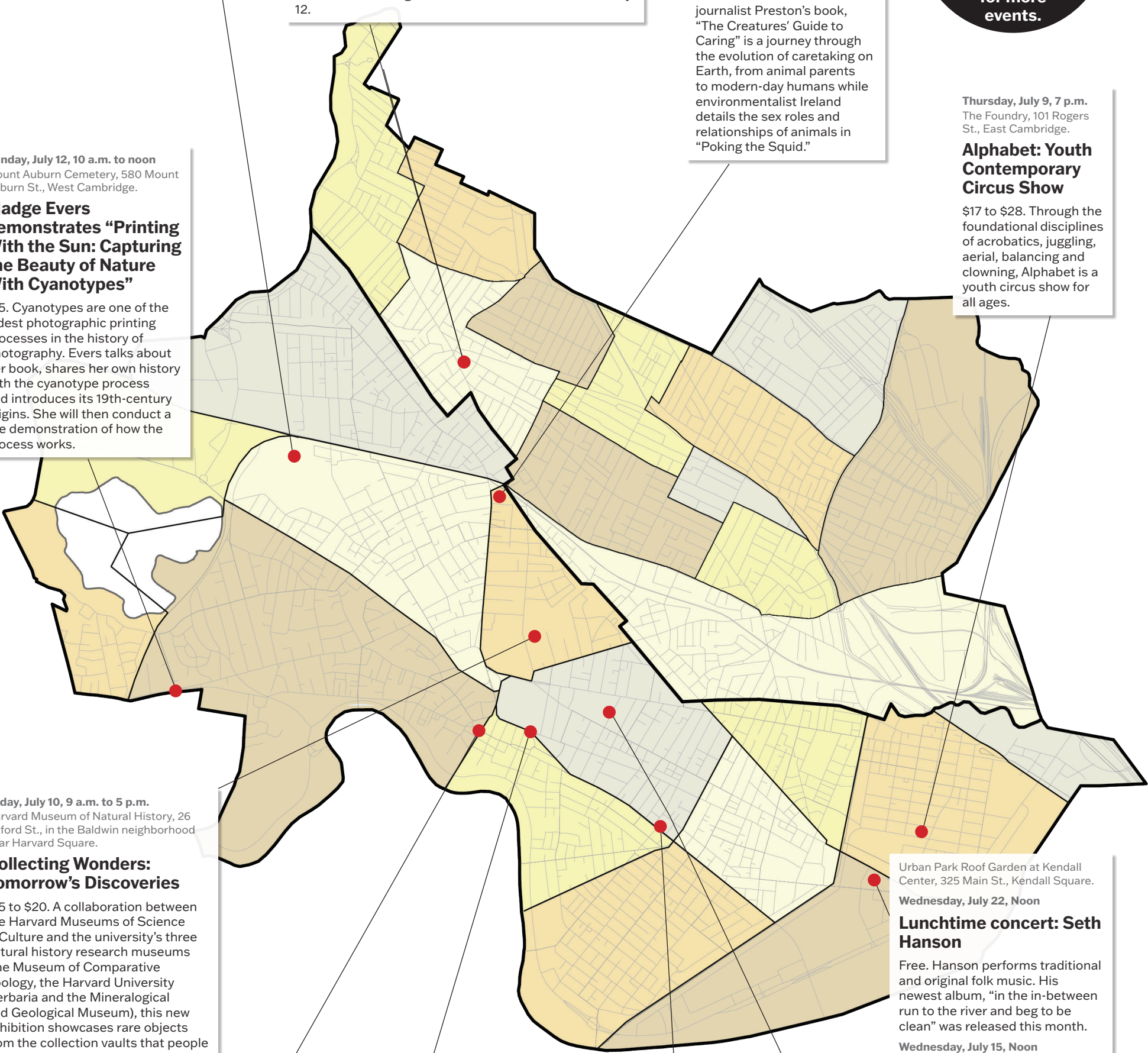
**Lunchtime concert: Seth Hanson**

Free. Hanson performs traditional and original folk music. His newest album, “in the in-between run to the river and beg to be clean” was released this month.

**Wednesday, July 15, Noon**

**Lunchtime concert: a day without love**

Free. A day without love is the moniker of Brian Walker, who has toured across all 50 states, Canada, England and the European Union performing his multi-genre project.





■ 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](mailto:photography@cambridgeday.com).

# WILD THINGS

## A different kind of book-worm

By JEANINE FARLEY

Way back in 1665, Robert Hooker wrote of the “small, Silver-coloured Book-worm” that chews through books and papers. He was writing about silverfish, which despite its name is a silver-grey cockroach-like insect you may have seen scamper across a dark bathroom or basement floor when you switch on a light.

These nocturnal, wingless insects get their name because of their color and how they wiggle like fish when disturbed.

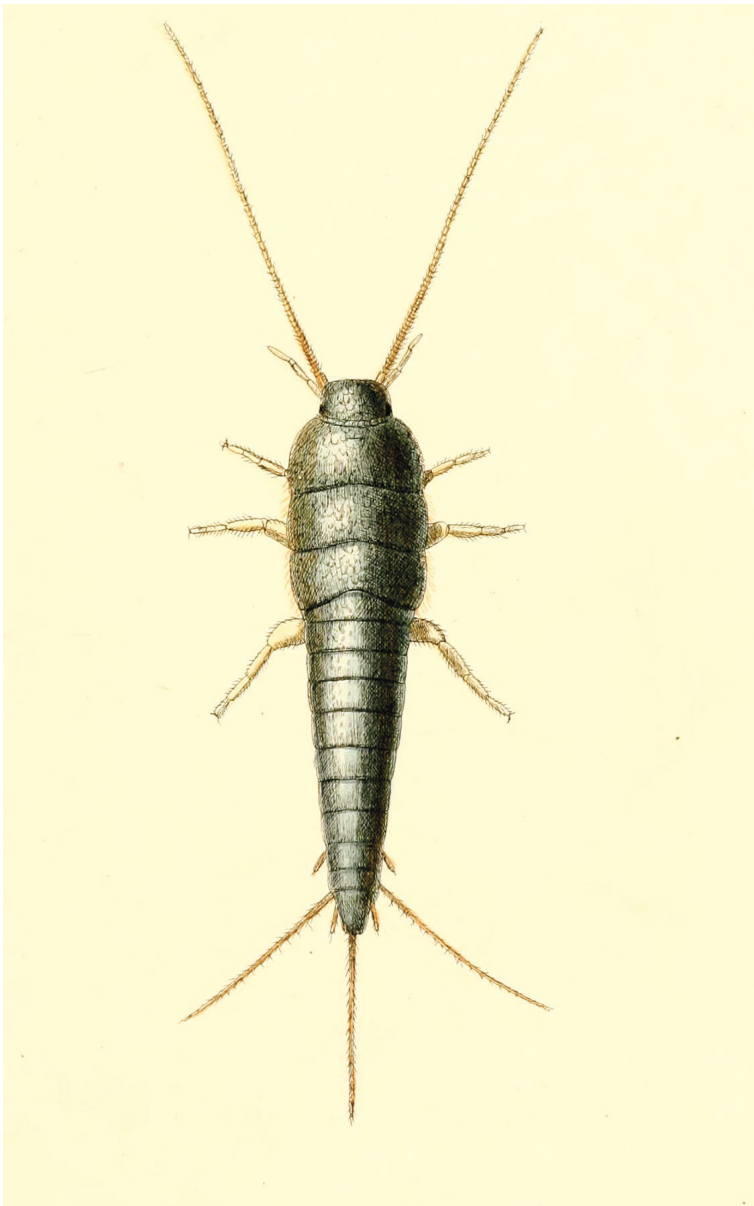
Hooker wasn’t the only one to notice these critters’ taste for paper.

In 1902, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) wrote that silverfish were “one of the most troublesome enemies of books, papers, card labels in museums, starched clothing, and occasionally stored food substances.” They were “not often seen and most difficult to capture,” the Department said, and were “one of the most serious pests in libraries, particularly to the binding of books,” and frequently ate off “gold lettering to get at the paste beneath” or gnawed off the “white slips glued on the backs of [library] books.”

Despite the relatively recent invention of their favorite food, silverfish have been around for a long, long time. They belong to an ancient line of insects whose fossils date back more than 400 million years, which means they are almost twice as old as the first dinosaurs. Today’s silverfish retain many ancient body features.

Silverfish have flat bodies and a pair of antennae as long as their body. They have small eyes that can detect light and dark. They hide when exposed to light, which is why you see them scampering away when you turn on a light in a dark basement. Three long bristle-like tails extend from the abdomen. The body is covered in shiny delicate scales that rub off easily. But they are difficult to catch, so you will probably not be testing this property.

Silverfish are found the world over in dark, humid places like



Sir John Lubbock

**Silverfish have three tail-like appendages, as shown in this sketch from 1873.**

inside caves or under rocks, beneath dead leaves or inside tree bark. They often congregate near food sources, so if you see one, there is likely an entire population nearby.

Their scientific name, *Lepisma saccharinum*, gives a clue about their diet: saccharinum refers to sugar, and hence they are sometimes called sugarfish. Silverfish eat carbohydrates or sugars, including starches and cellulose. It’s also why they eat some types of paper, which goes beyond book bindings to also include foods like onionskin, flour and breakfast cereal but also wallpaper paste (They do not eat newspaper, cardboard, or brown wrapping paper, for some reason). They also eat

protein, such as dried beef or dead insects and sometimes munch on fabrics, including linen, silk, rayon, and cotton.. Although silverfish have chewing mouthparts, they do not bite people. If water is available, they may be able to survive for almost a year without eating!

Unlike most insects, silverfish do not undergo metamorphosis. They hatch from eggs into tiny white insects that do not pupate to grow wings. Adults and babies look different only in size. Youngsters molt half a dozen times as



Christian Fischer

**A silverfish on a wall, October 10, 2013.**

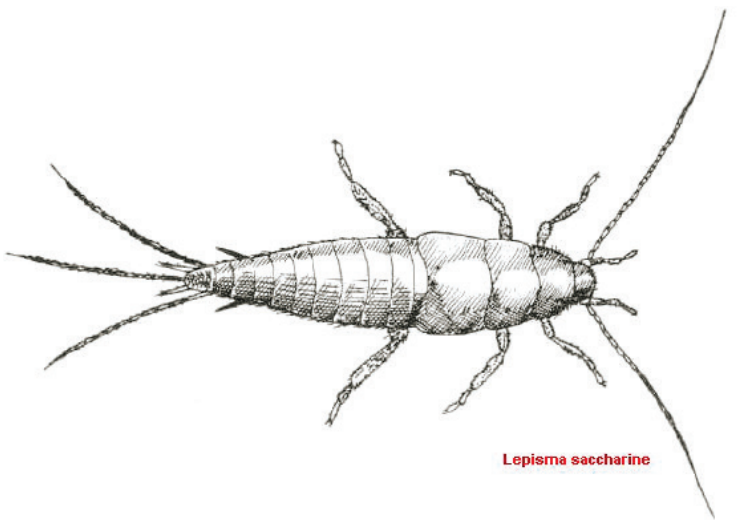
they grow until they reach maturity at half an inch. They continue to molt as adults, up to 30 times during their lifespan of several years.

To get rid of these pests, the USDA used to recommend placing cardboard covered in starch paste “liberally poisoned with arsenic” in bookshelves, mantels, and the bottoms of drawers. This process could lead to “complete relief” from silverfish. Of course, today we know that the Environmental Protection Agency classifies inorganic arsenic as a human carcinogen linked to lung, bladder and skin cancers, which makes

this approach unusable.

Although they can live for several years, and there are ways to keep them at bay. Since they thrive in humid places, dehumidify damp rooms, run fans and do not leave damp towels or mats on the floor. Store flour, cereal, pasta and so on in sealed containers. Get rid of damp papers in the basement. Do silverfish pose a health risk? Not really. Although unpleasant, their waste does not transmit diseases.

Most importantly, keep important papers or books in plastic bins placed off of damp basement floors.



Lepisma saccharine

**Silverfish have long antennae, which they can regenerate if needed**



Even Dankowicz

**A silverfish in the Baldwin neighborhood of Cambridge, March 10, 2025.**



**Silverfish are about half an inch in length and they do not bite.**

Pedro



# FILM

## LOCAL FOCUS



Donnie Yen in "John Wick: Chapter 4."

## A bonanza of big screen showings

By OSCAR GOFF

Among the great artists who’ve called Boston home is the martial arts master **Bow-sim Mark**, who in 1976 founded the Chinese Wushu Research Institute, one of the first tai chi schools in the United States. Sifu Mark remains active to this day from her home in Newton. One of her sons is international movie star Donnie Yen. To celebrate the institute’s 50th anniversary, the **Brattle Theatre** has programmed a weekend-long program of films featuring Yen. Friday’s selection is Yen’s breakout film, **“Drunken Tai Chi”** (1984), directed by storied fight choreographer Yuen Wooping. Yen choreographed his own fights in Saturday’s film, the Wilson Yip-directed **“Kill Zone”** (2005). Both films will be accompanied by a live martial arts demonstration , and screened in double feature with one of Yen’s highest-profile Hollywood pictures: **“John Wick: Chapter 4”** (2023). Yen’s performance as blind martial arts master Caine nearly steals the spotlight from Keanu’s legendary killing machine. It’s an overdue tribute to an undisputed local legend.

The action will be different at the **Somerville Theatre**, which has a full docket of repertory screenings. Friday offers a rare 35mm screening of **“Alien”** (1992), David Fincher’s stylish and grimy entry into the venerable horror-sci-fi franchise. Saturday brings its **“Kurt & Jodie”** series to a grim but gripping close, with Russell in a 70mm version of Quentin Tarantino’s **“The Hateful Eight”** (2015), and Foster in Roman Polanski’s **“Carnage”** (2011). Saturday evening brings Frank Henenlotter’s horror-comedy classic **“Frankenhooker”** (1990), tied to **GASH’s Villain’s Ball** at the **Crystal Ballroom**. Finally, Saturday’s Midnight Special is a 35th-anniversary screening of **“Terminator 2: Judgment Day”** (1991), which postulates a gloomy (or is it promising?) outcome for AI. Putting together these films in just over 24 hours is a testament to the Somerville’s ace programming team.

Or, you can get out of the air conditioning and into the fresh air, thanks to a pair of outdoor screenings of modern family classics. On Friday, **MIT Open Space**, in association with the programmers at the Brattle, presents Wes Anderson’s stop-motion masterpiece **“Fantastic Mr. Fox”** (2009), kicking off a biweekly summer series titled **“Animated Animals.”** Next Thursday, **SomerMovieFest** brings Richard Linklater’s **“School of Rock”** to Somerville’s **Lincoln Park**, starring Jack Black at his guitar-wailing best. Both films are free and, of course, open to cinephiles of all ages.

For those who prefer their cinema under the radar, a pair of locally programmed showcases fits the bill. On

Friday and Saturday, the **Somerville International Film Festival** takes up residence at the **Rockwell**. Highlights include **“Blood & Guts”** (2025), a documentary about the husband-wife-daughter horror filmmaking collective The Adams Family; Spike Kittrell’s Boston-shot indie **“All My Friends”** (2026); and a slew of international short films. Then, on Thursday, the stalwarts of **Grrl Haus Cinema** return to the Brattle for a **New England Local Showcase**, a collection of 11 shorts by local women, trans, genderqueer, and non-binary filmmakers. Whichever program you attend, you’re guaranteed to come across something you’ve never seen before.

In an ongoing astonishment of movie riches, there’s also an homage to Roger Ebert’s Stanton-Walsh Rule: “No movie featuring either Harry Dean Stanton or M. Emmet Walsh in a supporting role can be altogether bad.” To celebrate what would be Stanton’s 100th birthday, the Brattle kicks off on Sunday a new week-long series titled **“The Stanton Rule: A Harry Dean Stanton Centennial.”** The series begins on Sunday with a double feature of two of Stanton’s earliest roles, in Monte Hellman’s neo-western **“Ride in the Whirlwind”** (1966) and the Paul Newman hit **“Cool Hand Luke”** (1967). Stanton won over a new generation of fans in 1984 as the hilariously hard-nosed mentor to Emilio Estevez’s snotty antihero in **“Repo Man,”** screening Monday through Wednesday. Part of Stanton’s appeal was his tendency to pop up in unexpected places, like the ‘70s downer gem **“Cisco Pike”** (1971, screening Tuesday), which casts him opposite Kris Kristofferson, Gene Hackman and Warhol superstar Viva, and the odd-ball indie sci-fi comedy **“UFOria”** (1984, Wednesday). The first leg of the series is rounded out by Stanton’s final film (and only his second leading role), the charming and affectionate **“Lucky”** (2017). The first, and many others, will screen next week. True to Ebert’s word, there isn’t a missable film in the bunch.

Finally, on Thursday, the **Somerville Public Library Central Branch** welcomes the experimental New York electronic ensemble **Apostrophebeats** for a live score to a silent classic. **“The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari”** (1920) is an early masterpiece of horror cinema, a German expressionist nightmare about a sinister hypnotist who holds a village under his thrall. The film’s hand-painted sets remain striking, and its allegory of creeping fascism is, sadly, as relevant as ever. The film’s woozy surrealism will surely only be enhanced by the Apostrophebeats’ score, which the band describes as “unique, one-time-only improvisations of experimental soundscapes and motivic variations.” By the end, you may feel as dazed as Dr. Caligari’s notorious sleepwalker himself.

## REVIEWS

### When Washington fought for the British

Happy 250th, 'Merica, from Angel Studios, which brings us this founding father and first president origin story. We might not all be in the flag-waving mood, what with MMA on the South Lawn, war with Iran and ICE raids (though maybe that gets your patriotic fervor going), but this tells a chapter of Washington’s life you might not know, his early rise from Virginia surveyor to major of a militia detachment under British command.

The time is the 1750s, a quarter-century before Washington will take command of the rebel army on the Cambridge Common. The young patriot-to-be, played by William Franklyn-Miller with bland stiffness (perhaps requisite to the role), is tasked with a reconnaissance mission in the Ohio River Valley, where the French are busily erecting forts and laying land claims. Washington and his unprepared troops get their tricorn hats handed to them.

The French, aided by Indigenous warriors, had already adopted guerrilla tactics — shooting from the wooded hills at the red coats lined up in the meadow below waiting to engage in “proper battle.” Washington serves as an advisor to General Braddock (Andy Serkis), the British commander brought in to clean up the brink-of-war mess. Washington warns him of the new way of warfare in the New World, but Braddock’s hubris and dismissiveness ultimately spark the French and Indian War of 1754-1763, and the cocksure tactician’s own demise.

The movie is neither as jingoistic nor Christian-leaning as the family values studio’s earlier projects, “Sound of Freedom” (2023), “Cabrini” (2024) and this year’s “David.” There’s no triumphant payoff to “Young Washington.” It more illustrates the budding resolve of the man who would later cross the Delaware and become page



William Franklyn-Miller as George Washington.

one in United States lore. It’s interesting and informative history, but not great filmmaking — the dialogue’s stilted, the acting at times is hyperbolic and the directional timing is off.

The best line comes from Half-King Tanacharison (Ryan Begay), leader of a small band of Seneca warriors who embed with Washington for that ill-fated recon mission but refuse to re-up, telling Washington, “When you are finished killing each other we will reclaim our land.” In the mix in small parts are veteran actors Ben Kingsley (Virginia’s lieutenant governor), Mary-Louise Parker (George’s mom) and Kelsey Grammer (Lord Fairfax). As the end credits roll, Grammer, out of costume, pleads with viewers to make “Young Washington” the number one movie in America by scanning a QR code to “pay it forward” — buy a ticket so some other American can saunter in for free and learn some history adjacent to the ongoing semiquincentennial celebration. A big ask, given the new Spielberg movie, Minions and “Toy Story 5.” —TOM MEEK



Playing at Apple Cinemas  
Cambridge and AMC Assembly  
Row 12



Olivia Wilde, Seth Rogen, Penélope Cruz and Edward Norton in a scene from “The Invite.”

and cool. Smooth and boyish Hawk (Edward Norton), a retired firefighter, seems far too comfortable in his own skin. His partner, Piña (Penélope Cruz), is a sultry firebrand whose leading questions would sound impertinent coming from anyone else.

It doesn’t take long for Hawk and Piña to hone in on the tension between Joe and Angela, and the pair probes and widens the rift. The four consume mood-altering quantities of tequila and marijuana, and about halfway through, there’s a reveal that goes beyond the critics’ spoiler code limit. “The Invite” has an energy and seamlessness that feel innate and natural, but the main reason that the frisky, First-World, mid-life crisis has any teeth is its cast and the material’s edgy irreverence.

—TOM MEEK



Playing at the Kendall Square  
Cinema

### “The Invite”

Questions of happiness and fulfillment take center stage in “The Invite,” a barbed comedy about a couple at a bitter crossroads in their marriage. Angela (Olivia Wilde) and Joe (Seth Rogen) are further challenged by their upstairs neighbors who, over the course of a single dinner, amplify every marital tension with passive-aggressive relish. Wilde, the actress who served notice as a filmmaker with the puckishly insightful “Booksmart” (2019), then faltered with the 2022 “Don’t Worry Darling,” gets back to her funny-not-funny roots with this adaptation of the 2020 Spanish film “The People Upstairs.”

The tart script by Will McCormack and Rashida Jones feels like it was written for the nuanced personalities of this cast. Rogen centers the ensemble with his large and loud everyman, Joe, a failed musician who teaches music at a middling conservatory. Angela is a soul adrift. What defines them most as a couple — and holds them together — is their preteen daughter and their collective unease with their station in life. They also haven’t had sex in nearly a year, and that’s why the dinner invite to the newish couple upstairs is such a loaded gambit. Joe wants to confront them about the raucous sex that keeps them up at night, while Angela admires the woman’s ability to have vigorous and vocal orgasms.

The upstairs couple arrives, relaxed



■ 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](mailto:business@cambridgeday.com).

WHAT WE'RE HAVING

Goodbye for Charlie's Kitchen?



Tom Meek

What had been the beer garden behind Charlie's Kitchen is now cleared out.

By TOM MEEK

Social media was rife recently with photos of Charlie's Beer Garden being cleared out, along with speculation about what it meant for the future of Charlie's Kitchen, one of the oldest dining establishments in Harvard Square.

Charlie's was devastated by a water leak earlier in January when a dishwasher malfunction spewed over a gallon of water per second, as restaurant owner David T. Oshima told the Harvard Crimson.

Charlie's has remained closed during negotiations between the insurer and the building's owner, Paul Overgaag. Both Overgaag and Oshima said the damage affected all four floors of the Harvard Square classic, ruining electrical systems, damaging walls and floors and more. Overgaag estimated it will cost several hundred thousand dollars to repair.

Clearing out the beer garden is a separate but related matter. Overgaag owned Charlie's Kitchen, the building that Charlie's occupies and the structure formerly known as the Red House, but he did not own the property that the beer garden occupied. That property is owned by the Banker Real Estate Company which leased the garden to Overgaag in 2010, when he first opened the outdoor patio. When Oshima took over the operation of Charlie's from Overgaag in 2024, the beer garden was leased to him. Banker Real Estate said in an email that the garden area was cleared out because the business closed, and the lease was mutually terminated.

Oshima grew up locally and ran the Hawaiian infusion gastro pub, Cornerstone, in what had been R.F. O'Sullivan & Son. He



Tom Meek

The former Red House is being renovated and will re-open as the Cox Hicks Club.

closed that to seize what he saw as a dream opportunity to run Charlie's, started by Charlie Lambrose back in 1951. The dream has become something of a nightmare. "It has not been an enjoyable time," Oshima said. "I have had to dismantle things piece, by piece." He said, though, he still has hope that he can restart Charlie's.

He said the GoFundMe campaign posted on the front door of Charlie's is not to defray the cost of the damage but to help employees who abruptly found themselves unemployed, some of whom had worked there for 20 years. To date the fund has raised over \$20,000.

Prior to the calamity, Oshima had been pursuing a course of action similar to Overgaag's when he bought the business and property back in 1996. Overgaag took Lambrose's classic diner fare menu and added lobster rolls and craft beer, also making it into a nightlife go-to spot with live music, trivia and the beer garden. Overgaag transferred the

Red House to his daughter Molly and son-in-law Ryan Lindbergh, who are reimagining it as the Cox Hicks Club. It's named after former residents of the 200-plus year-old building, which was originally a residence. It's currently being restored with a keen eye on historical preservation. They plan to open the club later this summer.

What happens next with Charlie's remains uncertain. Banker Real Estate said there was no immediate prospective tenant for the garden space.

Other changes in the vicinity involve the IHOP in the 16-18 Eliot Street building owned Raj Dhanda's Charles River Holdings. It has permanently closed, with signs posted in the window encouraging customers to visit its Soldier Field location in Brighton. Two eateries in that building, Too Hot and Gyu-Kaku Japanese BBQ, remain open, though the Curry Chapter Indian restaurant still has a "temporarily closed" sign in its window and its windows are papered up.

FOOD

Dear Annie to be replaced with something new, owner says



Tom Meek

Dear Annie's dining experience is centered around a communal table.

By TOM MEEK

Dear Annie owner Lauren Friel shocked the local dining community when she posted on Instagram that it would be ending nightly service as of July 31. Friel posted that "Dear Annie as we know her—in both name and being—will cease to exist."

Friel opened the Porter Square wine-bar and restaurant during COVID-19, and earned mentions on 2022 'best of' lists in the New York Times and Bon Appétit. Cambridge Day applauded its homey, casual ambience and savory seafood sausage. Last year it was a set location for the Robert Pattinson-Zendaya dark romance, "The Drama," though scenes shot in the restaurant did not make the final cut.

Among the reasons Friel cited for closing were financial pressure and culinary trends toward luxury steakhouses like Ruth's Chris and the Vermillion Club. "Those of us who still care deeply about food and wine and the transportive nature of communing over both are all going the way of the dodo" she wrote.

Her statement also noted that she is a new mom. "This decision isn't just about cash flow; it's about my life and what I want out of it," she said. "Dear Annie could probably exist in its current form, but it would mean not seeing my kid, and that's not what I'm interested in right now. There's a whole think piece here about what it means to be a mother in this industry, but who has time to write that?"

Friel is also the proprietor of Rebel Rebel wine bar and wine shop in Somerville's Bow Market, which will remain open. And Friel isn't leaving the Dear Annie space, but said she intends to re-open in the fall with a new dining concept. She will close the space for August and then re-open with something akin to a pop-up model, saying "I have a long (long) list of wild events we'll be hosting in our next life. Call it a salon. Call it a club. Call it a lodge, maybe? Whatever it is, we'll see you soon."

Steve Welsh, owner of Oggi's Gourmet in Harvard Square, is experimenting with a similar format, bringing in different chefs and serving event specific menus. Recently, he hosted Chop Bar at Oggi, serving up Afro-Diasporic street food from chef Kwasi Kwaa (formerly of the Comfort Kitchen in Dorchester), who drew on his Ghanaian childhood for culinary inspiration.

That model involves prefixed menus with presold tickets though a ticketing/reservation system like Eventbrite, making headcounts and thus supply purchases more predictable.

Other culinary notes from Porter Square saw Tampopo close June 30, as expected, with long lines filling the Lesley Building on each of the last few days. And a bit further up in the Porter Square Shopping Mall — recently rebranded The Mix — Cafe Zing reopened with seating, though still in its old locale. The move to its new digs next door now looks to be August instead of this month.



Marc Levy / file

Dear Annie owner Lauren Friel was excited about the License Commission giving her a liquor license for her establishment in 2020.



# Preservation awards keep history current

By CHLOE TAFT

Even as Cambridge’s landscape continues to change, some community members are working to honor the city’s past. With its annual preservation awards, the Cambridge Historical Commission recognizes local restoration projects from the last year, acknowledging the city’s history as an essential part of its future.

This year, the commission honored 14 recipients ranging from homeowners and volunteers to local businesses and other large-scale restoration, rehabilitation and adaptive use projects.

For Samantha Elliott, the assistant director of the historical commission, the city’s buildings are a part of its identity.

“Everywhere is unique, but we think Cambridge has a really great history” and the projects honored are part of preserving “that historic context and that unique identity that Cambridge has,” Elliott said. She said whether expanding its archives, doing research or preserving buildings, “it all really ties back to place-making and really helping to preserve that place.”

The Cambridge Historical



Courtesy of Cambridge Historical Commission

**Architectural details and stonework from the days when it was the Porter Square Theater were covered by plywood board (at left end of photo).**

Commission, founded in 1963, began awarding community members for preservation efforts in 1997. Every year, projects are nominated at a public hearing and the commission selects around 15 to be recognized with a historic plaque. This year’s celebration was held June 11 at the Pool Theater in Harvard University’s restored Adams House.

The commission’s historical work has to coexist with efforts to support the city’s modern chal-

lenges, Elliott acknowledged. “Our goal going forward is to find ways to marry up current needs and do the best we can to preserve the historic [and] unique character of Cambridge to continue to move forward in history as we’ve been here for almost 400 years.”

## An array of projects

Among the winners was Douglas Okun, the architect on a project to uncover the facade of the former Porter Square Theater at

2000 Mass. Ave. “The marquee sticking out from the arch had been covered for 45 years, and so, as part of the restoration of other parts of the building, we took the plywood off and uncovered a beautiful arch,” Okun said.

While he undertook this project on his own, Okun said he is grateful for the historic commission, which he called “a tremendous asset” for the city.

The commission directly supports some projects, such as the one undertaken by Elliott Reinert, manager of the Christian Science reading room at 23 Church Street. Reinert received a grant funded by the Community Preservation Act to restore the building’s historic exterior lighting. The restoration was completed in November.

Reinert said he hopes the restoration will brighten up Cambridge. “This end of the street is pretty dull, dark, so the church is here to serve the community and so we saw this as not only restoration and sort of honoring the architect who had a brilliant idea, Calvin William Galvin . . . but also giving a gift to the town.”

“We just hope everyone will enjoy it,” Reinert added.

## Campus renovation

Another winner was Lesley University’s South Campus reno-

vation at 99 Brattle St. Formerly the Episcopal Divinity School, Lesley started buying its buildings in 2008 and completed its acquisition in 2018 when the seminary merged with New York’s Union Theological School. Lesley combined Reed Hall, a former library built in 1873, and Burnham Hall, a dormitory constructed in 1879, into a center for several programs, education, counseling, psychology and the visual arts.

Todd Andrews, the principal in charge of the project, said he wanted the restoration of both buildings to meet current needs while respecting their history. He praised Lesley leadership for a strength of vision that “wasn’t just simply to restore the buildings, but it was to restore purpose.”

He also thanked the commission for its help. “We spent so much time working with the commission throughout the process, and listening, evaluating, and refining to ensure that we collectively landed on something that we thought was just an appropriate response to the current needs, while still honoring the past,” Andrews said. “It was a thrill to get honored.”

Sara Burks, the commission’s preservation planner, says the contributions of Cantabrigians will inform Cambridge’s future. “Historic preservation as a field does a good job of documentation of the history and the physical resources of the built environment, and then that information is a tool to use for the community to determine what’s important to them to keep and what is bound to change,” Burks said.

“You can’t stop change from happening,” she added, “but you can think thoughtfully about it and make some priorities for what aspects of the existing environment you would like to retain.”

- 2026 Cambridge Preservation Award Winners:**
  - Cambridge Housing Authority, Dan’s Place on Norfolk St. (see photos above)
  - St. Mary’s Convent on Norfolk St.
  - Lesley University’s Episcopal Divinity School on Brattle St.
  - 26 Trowbridge St.
  - Lowell Memorial Park
  - Wadsworth House at Harvard University
  - Engineering Sciences Lab at Harvard University
  - 85 Brattle St.
  - 29 Maple St.
  - 137-139 Cherry St.
  - 23-25 Ellery St.
  - 9 and 11 Mt. Auburn St.
  - Former Porter Square Theater at 2000 Massachusetts Avenue
  - Former Cambridge Electric Light Co. store at 23 Church St.

Chloe Taft is reporting this summer for Cambridge Day as part of a partnership with the Georgetown University journalism program.



Courtesy of Cambridge Historical Commission

**The former Porter Square Theater entrance restored.**

ADVERTISEMENT

pepper spray bringing in psych...

says

By Sue Reinert September 13, 2025

Cambridge's police commission says police won't use pepper spray again in a situation like it's 18-hour standoff Aug. 1-2 with a barricaded suspect, when the chemical drifted accidentally into the home of a family living on a Broadway and forced out residents.

Keep reading...

Spicy spaghetti at Geppetto

By Tom Meek September 15, 2025

Is lobster best left pretty much on its tasty own? A strong argument to the contrary is on the menu at Geppetto, Will Gilson's fine Italian concept.

Keep reading...

Sculptures by Marcus W. Clarke up at Gallery 263 give an irreverent take on American

Libraries and school needs

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# CRLS track program on the national stage

By DERRICK TOUBA, JR.

Cambridge Rindge and Latin School sent eight athletes to the New Balance National Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Franklin Field at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia from June 18-21. The Falcons competed against the best high school track and field programs in the country across three events.

Senior Sophia Juanes Seto headlined the trip as CRLS's sole individual competitor. A Cornell University commit and multiple-time all-state competitor in the two-mile, Juanes Seto is one of the most decorated distance runners in CRLS history. She capped her senior season with two top-three finishes in the mile and two-mile at the MIAA Division 1 Track and Field Championships. It was her fourth career trip to the national meet, a distinction men's head coach and women's assistant coach said no other CRLS track and field athlete has achieved. Two years ago, she earned All-American honors as part of a CRLS girls 4x1-mile relay that finished third in the country

After a demanding senior season competing at the highest level, she finished 41st in the two-mile at Nationals with a time of 10:43.91, short of what she was aiming for.

"The outcome is not what you expected," Prince said. "But she understood she belonged there, and that was the key."

The girls' distance medley relay team, where runners race 400m, 800m, 1,200m and 1,600m, also competed in the championship division, finishing 23rd with a time of 12:16.35. Prince put together a squad that

had proven itself all season, describing it as "a combination of some of our more exceptional girls." Neva Hartman, who placed seventh individually in the 800-meter run at the MIAA Division 1 state championships, led off for the Falcons at 400m. Sloane Judson ran the 800m leg and Stella Van Praagh followed at 1,200m before Juanes Seto anchored the relay against some of the top programs in the nation. Juanes Seto is the only senior on the squad.

On the boys side, the 4x1-mile relay team made program history by qualifying for the championship division. It was the first time a CRLS boys squad had ever competed in that event at Nationals. Kieran Eilcher, Gael Berzin, Ben Richards and Leon Ibanez-Fraile finished 23rd with a time of 18:22.89. Ibanez-Fraile, a junior who finished in the top 15 in both the mile and two-mile at the MIAA Meet of Champions this spring, anchored a relay group that Prince said had the talent to contend for All-Amer-

ican honors, which go to the top six finishers.

On paper, "they should have been the sixth-place team," he said. "You can bring paper, but you've still got to do the job."

Prince, who has coached at CRLS since 1995 and was one of the most-decorated runners in school history, said the experience of competing at that level for the first time was invaluable. The entire relay group returns next season, and the team was talking about coming back stronger before the meet was even over.

"Lessons learned sometimes from failure," Prince said. "There's success there, they made it. So we'll leave with that. Prepare for next time. That's all."

With nearly the full roster returning and a senior class that set the bar high on its way out, Prince is not hiding what he expects next year.

"The expectations are going to be higher next year for outcomes, but we'll get them there," he said. "Be ready."



Cambridge Rindge and Latin track

**Members of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin girls' distance medley relay team, from left: Neva Hartman, Sloane Judson, Sophia Juanes Seto and Stella Van Praagh, at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals at Franklin Field in Philadelphia.**



Augusto Bizzi

**Natalya Cafasso (left) competing in the cadet women's épée final at the FIE Junior & Cadet World Championships in Rio de Janeiro in April.**

## Fencer

From Page 1

Most of the fencers are adults who have competed for years, some at the Olympic Games. Cafasso said she struggled more than she would have liked in the senior competitions, but if she's going to make the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028, she needs the exposure to more adaptable and patient fencers.

"The senior fencing style is super different from juniors or cadets; it's the biggest jump from tactics and the way they approach the matches," Cafasso said. "My hopes are very high, and I'm just trying to stay on my schedule. I'm not trying to think about [the Olympics] too much, because I know that can get in my head very fast and put pressure on me, so I'm trying to just fence in every competition."

Natalya's father, Martin Cafasso, echoed Natalya's point about focus, but also said he had to help her find balance.

"I need to be a cheerleader, I need to be a manager, I need to be a protector. Her time is very precious ... so I'm trying to find ways that she can stay a kid and have a normal life, or as long as it can be, and still be able to compete around the world where she is," Martin Cafasso said. "She needs to take

ownership of this trip if she wants to do it." With the international season behind her, she finished up her sophomore year at Cambridge Rindge and Latin while practicing most days at her club, Olympia Fencing Center, then headed to the U.S. National Championships in Portland, Ore. June 27 to July 6.

Nationals did not go as well as she would have liked after a grueling season that saw her fly more than 95,000 miles to compete in tournaments. She's also begun the process of being recruited by colleges. But she remained the number-one ranked U.S. junior.

After the National Championships, Cafasso will get a break from competition until the international and national competition circuits begin again in October. She is looking forward to the July and August break as a time for recovery and refocus ahead of a busy and important competition season. She noted that mental strength particularly matters to ensure she is ready for the fall.

"Within the summer, I'm excited to have a little bit of a break from training every single day, because I think the more I do it every single day, I think I lead to some amount of burnout," Cafasso said. "I think that would be very helpful for me to recuperate and come back the next season even stronger."

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### Cambridge Housing Authority Request for Proposal for Construction Management Services For the Redevelopment of Corcoran Park Phase 1

The Cambridge Housing Authority acting as Owner's Project Manager for the Cambridge Affordable Housing Corp. (hereinafter, "Owner" or "Awarding Authority") is requesting proposals for **Construction Management Services for Project 1301 Redevelopment of Corcoran Park Phase 1**. The Owner intends to award contract for Construction Manager Services with a Guaranteed Maximum Price contract for the above referenced project.

Proposal forms and contract documents will be available at [WWW.PROCORE.COM](http://WWW.PROCORE.COM) on **Monday July 6, 2026, at 10:00 AM** (may be downloaded and viewed electronically). **The interested offerors will need to RSVP to CorcoranParkPhase1@**

**cambridge-housing.org for access to Procore and the RFP documentation.**

The deadline for submitting a proposal for Construction Management Services for Project 1301 - Redevelopment of Corcoran Park Phase 1 is Thursday September 3 at 2:00 P.M.

The Redevelopment of Corcoran Park Phase 1 consists of the demolition of four existing two-story buildings containing 29 residential units on approximately 66,702 square foot parcel with two (2) new four- and three-story buildings containing 67 units. While the Phase 1 portion of the site will be vacant the balance of the site and the adjacent homes will be occupied. The estimated construction cost for the

demolition, new construction and related site work is approximately \$39 million with construction with an estimate construction period of 20 months.

The Owner is seeking a Construction Manager with sufficient prior comparable experience and expertise, strong bonding capacity and financial strength and strong references to serve as the Construction Manager for the Corcoran Park project under a Guaranteed Maximum Price Contract. Please refer to the Proposal forms, and Contract Documents available on Procore. It is the offeror's full responsibility to examine these documents thoroughly in preparation for their response to the RFP

A Pre-Proposal site visit for all interested offerors will begin at Corcoran Park, Cambridge, MA 02138 on **Tuesday July 14, at 1:00 PM**. All offerors are invited and encouraged to attend. To RSVP please contact **Chris Doran** at:

CorcoranParkPhase1@  
cambridge-housing.org

There will be **two deadlines to submit** questions on this project.

The first deadline is **Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 2:00 PM**. At this stage, the issued Bid Set is a 60% Construction Documents. Questions submitted during this round should be limited to general topics, including the RFP process, contract requirements, project schedule, site visit observations and contract administration items. Technical Drawing and specification-related questions will not be accepted during this time; those will be addressed in the second RFI period following issuance of Addendum No. 1. On **Friday, July 24, 2026**, Addendum No. 1 will be issued which will include the 100% Construction Documents, along with responses to questions received during the first bidder question

Please submit all **FIRST ROUND** of General Questions through the Bidder Question Form using the link below:

<https://bit.ly/Corcoran-RFI-1>  
The second deadline for

questions is **Friday, August 7, 2026, at 2:00PM**. During this period, bidders may submit all questions related to the project which includes the technical question related to the drawings and specification. Any addenda resulting from the second round of questions will be issued by **Wednesday, August 26, 2026**.

Please submit all **SECOND ROUND** questions through the Bidder Question Form using the link below:

<https://bit.ly/Corcoran-RFI-2>

This is a qualifications-based RFP. Price is only one factor in the selection process. Please refer to the Request for Proposal to review the selection criteria. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informality in the proposal process if it is in the public's interest to do so.

If you have any questions or require directions to the pre-proposal site visit, please email or call

Chris Doran at CHA at [cdoran@cambridge-housing.org](mailto:cdoran@cambridge-housing.org), (781) 964-6765.



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