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through our skies

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MIT reopens building after
poison scare

CAMBRIDGE DAY

THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 FREE

Prime time: The view from Tuesday's election



Ruth Tam

Olivia Gilligan-Corsetti started her day at her mother's house in Somerville.

By CAMBRIDGE DAY STAFF

For a State House candidate, primary day began the way it does for many in Cambridge and Somerville: Dunkin' at dawn.

As Olivia Gilligan-Corsetti was picking up her iced coffee at the location on Highland Ave, she spotted a familiar face: her opponent Ben Ewen-Campen, who was also getting his fix.

"Of course we'd both be here," she said, smiling.

By 7 a.m., she was in front of her mother's house, next to the Somerville Armory. Passing out signs with her name on it to volunteers, she made sure her mother and friends knew where to go.

"Honestly, I'm close to tears," she said after her team dispersed. "I wish I could share with my dad that I'm running for office." Gilligan-Corsetti's father died in 2018 of cancer,

a loss that she says fueled her political work. A first-time candidate, Gilligan-Corsetti is handling much of today's logistics herself and had a time-staggered map of where she'd be in Somerville over the course of the day.

"We knocked on over 7,000 doors and I'm going to need new shoes after this," she said. "I'm just really excited to find out what happens."

Poll workers hustled

Kevin Smith, warden for precinct 1 in ward 5, arrived at 6 a.m. to make sure the site was running smoothly by the time the first voter came through the door. It was his job to make sure the machine ingesting ballots was set up, that all the poll workers were in place, the ballots were ready, and the signage was up before the site opened at 7.

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Decker, Uytterhoeven win; Lander faces recount



Bruno Muñoz-Oropeza

State Rep. Marjorie Decker between supporters outside the Graham and Parks polling place the morning of Sept. 1.

By CAMBRIDGE DAY STAFF

Official results out of Cambridge showed that incumbent Marjorie Decker prevailed in her primary election for the 25th Middlesex District's state house seat.

With 99% of votes counted, Decker's total was 4,104 votes to challenger Evan MacKay's 3,599 votes. The race was a closely watched rematch between the two, after Decker's 41-vote victory in 2024.

In accepting her victory, Decker wrote, "Competitive elections make our democracy stron-

ger, and I'm grateful to live in a community where people care deeply enough about our future to show up and participate. I appreciate my opponent's call to congratulate me, and I'm grateful they helped bring more people into the democratic process. I wish them the very best moving forward."

"Now the campaign is over, and the work continues. I'm ready to get back to the State House, hold government accountable, fight for our community, and keep delivering the kind of progress that makes people's lives better."

"Thank you, Cambridge, for your trust. I am humbled, grateful, and ready to get back to work."

In a statement, MacKay congratulated Decker on her victory, saying to supporters "Although we did not win this election, we built something real."

"We took on the political establishment and built a movement that could not be ignored ... We look forward to working with Representative Decker and our community in advancing the commitments made during this election."

See STATE HOUSE page 3

It's back to school, and for School Committee back to meetings

By JULIA CARPI

The first day of the new school year also saw the first School Committee meeting, at which wearable smart technology was banned in schools and the Massachusetts' Protect Act was supported.

Superintendent Dave Murphy said he visited each of the district's 17 schools Tuesday, and described the day as "incredibly joyful" despite "hiccups" mainly related to

bus delays. Murphy said 71 percent of buses were on time on the first day. That's a small improvement from rates from the beginning of the last school year. Bus delays have come up before in Cambridge, with updates to the district's bus tracking software made last year.

The first day of school saw rain and coincided with the state primary election, which may have contributed to traffic and delays. The three buses that were most

delayed on Tuesday improved significantly on Wednesday, a district spokesperson confirmed. The district will continue to monitor delays throughout the coming weeks. Last year, the worst delays came slightly after the first day of school, which is why Murphy said he was wary of drawing early conclusions about Tuesday's data.

Absenteeism less chronic

Rates of chronic absenteeism

at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School reached 36 percent in the 2024-25 school year, a concern for the district. Murphy said that figure fell 12 points in the 2025-26 school year. (Rates for the first day of school were not available, but Murphy said attendance is usually high at the beginning of the year.)

New tech guidelines

Murphy and Heather Francis, the district's Chief Academic

Officer, presented new technology guidelines, which included an opt-in policy for take-home Chromebooks for sixth graders. That means sixth graders will leave their laptops at school unless families specifically request otherwise. The opposite will be true for students in grades 7-12, where families can ask that devices be kept at school.

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Simon's says farewell (for now)
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Chefs say flounder won't fall flat with diners

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Full results from the State House elections in Cambridge and Somerville

CAMPAIGN 2026

Prime time

From Page 1

“We have a very good crew here,” he said, noting that in his decade of experience as a poll worker, he had worked with everyone present before.

Because he works long hours for primaries and elections, Smith voted early at City Hall.

“I come from a voting family,” he said. “I remember coming as a kid with my parents because they voted here.”

Outside the Armory, supporters of candidates for State House and State Senate were gathering with signs. They outnumbered early morning voters, who were barely trickling into the Armory’s polling center.

Storms ahead

Over in Cambridge, House Representative candidate Evan MacKay said they were feeling “excited” after voting at Graham and Parks School.

Despite the rolling rain clouds, the clash with the start of the school year, and the busiest moving day of the year, they said “it’s a perfect day.”

The last few months were an intense rematch between MacKay and the incumbent representative, Marjorie Decker, who won the 2024 primary by 41 votes, after MacKay petitioned for a recount.

“A big goal of this election is to bring more intention to the status quo of the state legislature,” MacKay said.

Decker, also at Graham and Parks School, said that this time around, she’s been excited to talk about her work.

“We ignored [MacKay’s accusations] two years ago, because we wanted people to just focus on the



Ruth Tam

Kevin Smith, warden of the warden for precinct 1 in Somerville's ward 5.

record.”

Transparency was a big topic in MacKay’s challenge of Decker. But, MacKay said they also talked about whatever mattered to voters – anything from light pollution to time zones.

Public servants on public corners

It almost seemed that if sitting politicians weren’t running for higher office, they were out on the streets supporting one who was.

As rain began falling in Cambridge, one of its city councillors Ayah Al-Zubi posted up on the intersection of Inman and Harvard with an umbrella in one hand and a sign for House Rep. Mike Connolly in another.

Noting that there is sometimes a divide between Cantabrigians

who grew up in Cambridge and those who move here, Al-Zubi noted that Connolly never made her feel like an outsider.

Despite the clouds, there were moments of levity.

A dark car pulled over and a window rolled down. “Is that Ayah?” Cambridge city councillor Tim Flaherty’s voice was identifiable from the driver’s seat as he turned to face his colleague on the council. “Why aren’t you holding a sign for Tim Flaherty?”

Rainy day turnout

Primary elections bring out politicians. But do they bring out voters?

At the Somerville Armory, early-morning voter Rob Desimone said it was his duty to vote, and that it was a privilege, adding that he votes in every primary. He voted for Matt McLaughlin for state senate, the only candidate who he said came to his door. Fliers, he said, were a waste of money and time. “If someone knocks on your door and talks to you, you can relate to them,” he said.

But DeSimone did not seem to be in the majority. About 32 percent of registered voters in Somerville voted.

In Cambridge, poll workers at Valente Library described turnout in one word: “awful.” There had been just over 40 votes cast at that site by noon. Ultimately, about 29.6 percent of Cambridge’s registered voters voted.

Beth Burke, the warden there, has been working elections for decades, since she was 18 years old. She said turnout has been especially low this year, which she attributed to the weather and the nature of a primary with uncontested categories.

At Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Shavonne Noble and Caidence Reed, a mother and daughter team working at the polling station, described the turnout as “consistent, but a little slow.”

Noble has volunteered as an election warden “since I was 18, so for 25 years now.” She got into

it because her mother had been an election warden, too. When asked if her daughter was going to take up the family mantle, Noble laughed. “I would hope so!”

Timing is everything

It’s not just the rain that dampened voter turnout. It was also the first day of school in Cambridge, as well as the busiest moving day of the year.

Even if the weather and schedules cleared, would turnout be higher?

Primaries tend to appeal mostly to political junkies, said Erin O’Brien, professor of political science at UMass Boston. Primary voters are “unrepresentative of the general population,” she said. “I think you have to be a higher information voter, and you tend to be more partisan and politically engaged.”

And while many local elections at the state level are contested this year, most of the higher-profile seats went uncontested. Even the occasionally heated U.S. Senate primary between incumbent Ed Markey and challenger Seth Moulton appears to have lacked what political strategists prize above all: a sense of urgency. “It’s a pretty apathetic contest, but for the true believers,” O’Brien said.

Plus, September 1 is when many residential leases turnover as streets become a frenzy of backup beeping, three-point turns and discarded couches, which could depress turnout further. “It’s such a weird date to have a primary,” O’Brien said.

As the polls closed at the end of a frenetic day of campaigning, state Rep. Marjorie Decker was asked for her thoughts. “My thoughts are ‘yay!’” Decker said. “I’m excited to see my kids again, excited to take my dog for a walk again.”

Julia Carpi, Brianna Earle, Bruno Muñoz-Oropeza, Noah Hirsch-Rechter, John Chronopoulos and Ruth Tam contributed to this report.



Noah Hirsch-Rechter

Shavonne Noble, in her mid-40s, and Caidence Reed, 8, are a mother and daughter team assisting election operations at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School.

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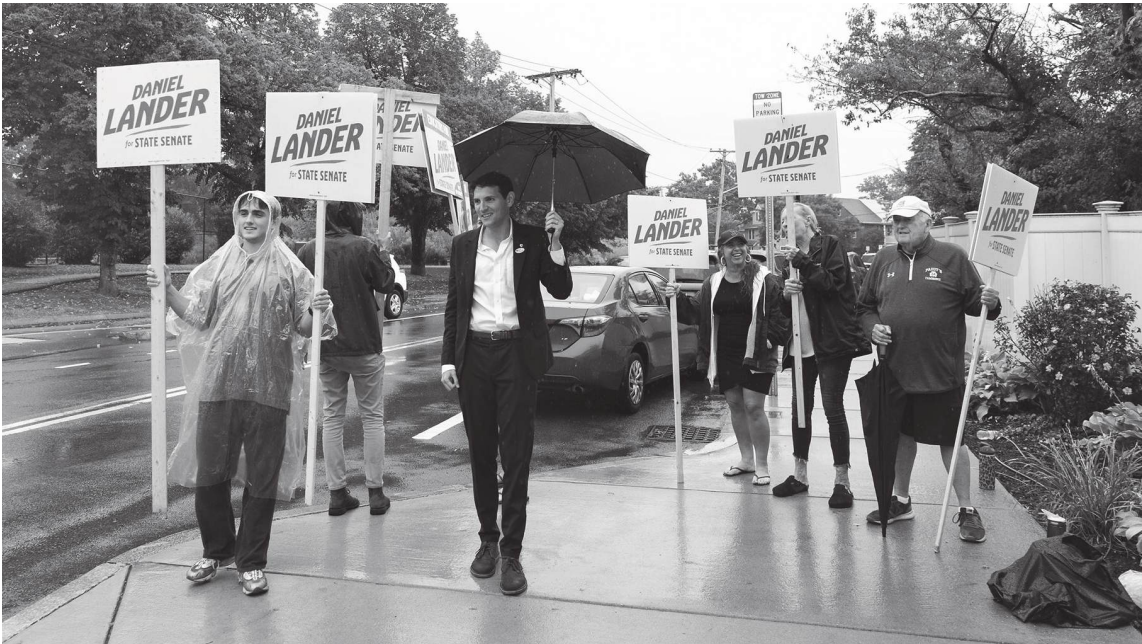
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CAMPAIGN 2026



Daniel Lander (center) with supporters.

Bruno Muñoz-Oropeza

State house

From Page 1

The race for state senate between incumbent Sen. Will Brownsberger and Daniel Lander is still too close to call. Brownsberger’s preliminary and unofficial vote count was 12,129, Lander’s 12,132. In Cambridge, Lander had 1,862 votes to Brownsberger’s 1,614. The three-vote lead for Lander means a recount will happen. (Disclosure: Lander’s mother, Lori Lander, is on the Local News Fund Advisory Board at the Cambridge Community Foundation, which has given financial support to Cambridge Day.)

Uyterhoeven declares victory

With 37 percent of the vote, current state house Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven won in the primary for the 2nd Middlesex District in the state Senate.

Uyterhoeven received 12,335 votes, besting fellow state house Rep. Christine Barber’s 10,142 (30.4 percent), Cambridge vice mayor Burhan Azeem’s 6,073 (18.2 percent) and Somerville city councillor Matt McLaughlin’s 4,171 (12.5 percent).

“We scared the s*** out of the status quo tonight,” she told supporters at a gathering at Sally O’Brien’s on Tuesday night.

In other results from the primary, state Rep. David Rogers was declared the winner by the AP in his race against Nomita Ganguly, joining Will Mbah and Ben Ewen-Campen in the victory column.

Rep. Mike Connolly handily defeated challenger Neil Miller,



Taylor Coester

State Rep. Dave Rogers outside the Belmont Fire Department.

with nearly 76 percent of the vote in the majority Cambridge district.

With 87.5 percent reporting, Rogers received 6,906 votes and Ganguly 2,867. Ganguly in her concession speech, said “I want to congratulate Rep. Rogers on his

was projected to win his race to represent the 27th Middlesex District in the State House, ahead of Olivia Gilligan-Corsetti. The AP declared Ewen-Campen the victor



Alex Degterev

Erika Uyterhoeven gives her victory speech at Sally O’Brien’s Bar and Grill in Union Square.

re-election. He ran a very decent campaign and I’m grateful for that.”

Mbah won his primary race to represent the 34th Middlesex District in the State House overt Paul Ruseau and Chris Oates. Preliminary results from Somerville have Mbah has 3,745, to 1,924 for Ruseau, a Medford School Committee member, and 1,250 votes for Chris Oates, a political risk consultant. Mbah received 54.1 percent of the votes cast. There is no Republican candidate so the primary race effectively decides who will represent the district after the November election.

Mbah will join his fellow Somerville City Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen on Beacon Hill. Earlier tonight Ewen-Campen



Taylor Coester

Turnout wasn't high but there were lines at times.

shortly after 9:00 p.m. Unofficial tallies from Somerville had with 7,116 votes and Gilligan-Corsetti 3,068 votes.

At her watch party, Gilligan-Corsetti said “I knew when I decided to run that it was a real uphill battle. I was coming into the race late and going against someone who was established.” She said “I have people I’ve known my whole life, say, ‘well, you’re not going to win. But you’ll learn things.’ And when folks came to me and said, like, thank you so much for running, it reminded me of the reason we put ourselves out there. The crazy people who run for office, yeah?”

In the context for Middlesex District Attorney, Marian T. Ryan handily defeated David Solet, who worked for her for 20 years. In the Governor’s Council races, both incumbents were projected to

win, with District 3’s Mara Dolan garnering 74.6 percent of the vote to Margie Palladino’s 25.4 percent with nearly 94 percent of the vote counted, and District 6’s Terrence Kennedy garnering 58.2 percent of the vote over challenger Diann Bayliss, with almost 98 percent of votes counted.

The AP also declared Sen. Ed Markey the victor over Rep. Seth Moulton to claim the Democratic nomination for Senator. In the Republican primary for governor, Michael Minogue had garnered almost 76 percent of the vote with more than 94 percent counted. Minogue will face Gov. Maura Healey in the general election.

Jennifer Chen, Taylor Coester, Alex Degterev and Ruth Tam contributed to this report, which also used material from The Belmont Voice.

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Two Generations of Cambridge



Taylor Coester

(L-R) Willie Boag and Ian McGregor hold signs supporting Burhan Azeem for state senate outside Somerville’s John F. Kennedy School polling site during the state primary election.



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EDUCATION

MIT reopens building after poison scare



Beyond My Ken / CC BY-SA 4.0.

MIT's Building 18, formally known as the Camille Edouard Dreyfus Chemistry Building, was designed by I.M. Pei and built in 1964-70.

By **MICHAEL F. FITZGERALD**

MIT reopened its Building 18 on Monday, Aug. 31, more than four days after closing it due to potential for poisoning by dimethyl mercury.

MIT had evacuated the building Wednesday night after a “single individual in a chemistry laboratory” went to a local emergency room and claimed to have synthesized dimethyl mercury but had spilled the substance.

The Cambridge Fire Department responded to a call just after 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, surveyed meters in the area and found no danger to the public. Building

18 is in a part of the MIT campus bounded by Ames Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Memorial Drive and Vassar Street. It is formally known as the Camille Edouard Dreyfus Chemistry Building.

On Sunday, MIT's Emergency Management Department said the building had been effectively decontaminated and could be safely re-opened. A suite in a residence hall was also decontaminated. The residence hall was never closed.

MIT said dimethyl mercury “was not part of any MIT research program, and its presence in the lab was unauthorized.” The lab

was identified in internal emails as the Wendlandt lab, which is led by Alison Wendlandt, an associate professor of chemistry at MIT whose research includes methods for synthesizing chemical catalysts.

Dimethyl mercury is extremely dangerous to humans. In 1997, a researcher working with it died a few months after being exposed to a few drops of the substance. Its main practical application is in calibrating nuclear magnetic resonance equipment.

The individual who went to the hospital had an initial blood test that showed no signs of mercury exposure.

Your View: Photos from our community



Cambridge won the Lou Tompkins All-Star League, going 18-1. From left: Head Coach Anthony Galluccio, Liam Anderson, Logan Sherwood, Dilan Jiwa, Josh Silber, Ari Maslan, Steph Alexandrov, Cam Roof (holding trophy), Oliver Henke, Henry Kelsey, Hugo Davis, Campbell Callahan, Ben Howell, Oliver Song, Assistant Coach Noah Maslan. (Front row) Xavi Santos, Nikko Santos. Not pictured Tate Schoenau, Jasen Thomas, Ethan Frank, Monte Phelps and Armando Levitt.



Julia Carpi

Members of the Cambridge Education Association fill the public seating area before the June 16, meeting of the School Committee. One union contract was approved at Monday's meeting.

Committee

From Page 1

Chromebooks are mostly not used in K-5 classrooms, with exceptions for students with specific needs. “We just really don't think that [young] students should be using one-to-one devices,” Francis said.

Other restrictions on technology use are underway.

A working group is set to issue district-wide guidance on artificial intelligence by October, Murphy said, which may feature a “strict boundary” on things like staff usage of AI tools.

The School Committee also took up a motion related to AI on Tuesday, one that bans the use of wearable smart devices on school grounds.

The motion, co-sponsored by Members Arjun Jaikumar, Luisa de Paula Santos and Caitlin Dube, the committee's vice chair, initially prohibited the use of smart glasses, but its language was amended to include other “surreptitious recording devices,” like Apple watches.

A motion affirming the Massachusetts Protect Act, a statute aimed to protect students from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement(ICE) agents while at school, also passed unanimously. The motion mostly echoes state law, with additional requirements for staff training on interaction with anti-immigration officers.

The motion was amended to ensure it would not instruct district personnel to break the law if a student is arrested by an ICE officer on school grounds, a concern raised by Member Elizabeth Hudson. “I do have a real problem with us having policy that's unclear and policy that creates potential liability,” Hudson said.

While the agenda for Tuesday's meeting included an update on the vacant 158 Spring Street building, the topic was not discussed.

Another loose end is ongoing contract negotiations with the district's largest labor union, members of which are currently working under expired con-

tracts, an issue both Jaikumar and de Paula Santos referred to in interviews. While no contract with any of the Cambridge Education Association's five bargaining units have been finalized, other groups have settled on agreements with the district. The food service workers con-



Courtesy of Arjun Jaikumar

Arjun Jaikumar

tracts were officially approved at Tuesday's meeting.

The meeting also featured a report from the student school committee representatives, Imme Goode and Maia Shen, at their first committee meeting.



Luisa de Paula Santos

They primarily discussed college application season, adjustments to the district's cell phone policy, and consent workshops aimed at sexual safety and appropriate “locker room talk” for student sports teams.

Tuesday's meeting seems to have hit on what will be some of the main concerns of the school year, but Jaikumar said there are many things still left unaddressed, like the committee's evaluation of the superintendent and the 158 Spring Street vacancy.

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

Tax breaks for five climate tech firms

By MADISON LUCCHESI

Somerville’s Form Energy received the majority of a \$6 million tax incentive for job creation granted to five climate tech innovation companies in Cambridge and Somerville.

Form, which produces high-capacity batteries used for storing renewable energy at utility scale, earlier this year was identified as the recipient of a billion-dollar contract for energy storage from Google, and recently received \$750 million in venture capital to help expand its battery factory in West Virginia.

Form received \$5.6 million in credits from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, which gave \$27.2 million in tax incentives to 18 companies across the state to create more jobs. In addition to Form, four other local companies received grants. Pascal Technologies and Mantel Capture in Cambridge as well as Eden Geopower in Somerville received \$100,000 in tax credits. Somerville’s Vertical Semiconductor received \$120,000.

Some recipients also receive incentives for capital investment, specifically for leasing or buying facility space.

MassCEC selected companies with a clear business plan, evidence of continued revenue gains, and were creating technology that would hinder the impacts of climate change and emissions throughout the world,” said Mike Condon, the director of economic growth and partnership at MassCEC, in an interview with Cambridge Day.

Condon said MassCEC’s grant program, modeled after the Mass Life Sciences Center’s program, is a way to help grow and retain climatetech companies in Massachusetts.

Form Energy

The Somerville-based company Form Energy produces iron-air batteries designed to deliver electricity for 100 hours to create a reliable electric grid year-round.

The \$5.6 million incentive allowed Form to hire new employees, bringing the company’s employee count to 240.

Form was originally developed at MIT before it was further developed at the Somerville climatetech incubator Greentown Labs as well as the Cambridge incubator The Engine.

Eden Geopower

Eden Geopower, located in Somerville, developed a “first-of-its-kind” electric reservoir stimulation technology, which uses electric pulse drilling to increase the recovery of natural resources in the ground.

Overall, the technology aims “to extract natural resources out of the ground, whether its critical minerals, geothermal energy, geologic hydrogen,” said Desi



Courtesy of Mantel Capture

Part of the team at Mantel Capture, one of the five recipients of a \$6 million tax incentive.

Hambrock, Eden Geopower Chief of Staff.

The \$100,000 tax incentive allows Eden Geopower “to execute our goals more quickly” by hiring more employees, Hambrock said. Overall, Eden’s goal is to develop and generate “energy and resources in a way that is very low cost, but at the same time, has huge environmental impact,” as is the goal of all climatetech companies, Hambrock said.

Mantel Capture

Part of the team at Mantel Capture, which has developed a system to trap greenhouse gases before they enter the atmosphere.

Mantel Capture in Cambridge created a carbon capture system that uses molten borate salt to capture greenhouse gases in industrial boilers, kilns, and furnaces before they enter the atmosphere.

The MassCEC incentive will be “super helpful” as Eden builds a bigger team at its facility at 750 Main Street in Cambridge, said Danielle Rapson, the chief operating officer of Mantel Capture. Particularly, tax incentives “really help” Eden give their interns full-time jobs, she said.

Vertical Semiconductor

Located in Somerville, Vertical Semiconductor, which was originally started at MIT, is developing a semiconductor power chip that reduces energy losses in data centers.

CEO and co-founder of Vertical Semiconductor, Cynthia Liao. The power chip, made with vertical gallium nitride, essentially makes power systems “much more efficient,” said Cynthia Liao, the co-founder and CEO of Vertical Semiconductor.

The power chip reduces energy losses inside a data center by about 80 percent, Liao

said. She said right now, 20 to 30 percent of energy in a data center never makes it to the center’s computers.

Liao is “super excited” about the \$120,000 tax incentive because it allows Vertical Semiconductor to create new semiconductor engineering and research and development positions and offer stipends for employees who relocate to Somerville.



Courtesy of Vertical Semiconductor

CEO and co-founder of Vertical Semiconductor, Cynthia Liao.

Pascal Technologies

Pascal Technologies is developing efficient, non-polluting refrigerants that allow HVAC systems to put less strain on the electric grid.

More efficient refrigerants are needed because “as the world needs more and more cooling, the amount of super-polluting fluorinated gas refrigerants used in these systems will increase while the extra energy usage will strain our electrical grid,” said Adam Slavney, co-founder and CEO of Pascal Technologies.

Tax incentives generally allow the Cambridge-based company to “offset the high cost-of-living,” Slavney said. The MassCEC incentive specifically allowed Pascal to hire an additional employee, bringing its total employees to 15.

Simon’s says farewell, for now



Martina Nacach Cowan Ros

Simon Yu (center, behind bar), owner of Simon’s Coffee Shop, in December 2025.

By ALEX DEGTEREV

Simon Yu of Simon’s Coffee will hold a farewell event for his shop’s long-time space from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 31. Yu announced the event Sunday on Instagram and in a flier posted on the door of the shop.

Simon’s Coffee has been at 1736 Massachusetts Avenue for more than 20 years, but the building it is in will be torn down to make way for Old North Development’s six-story mixed-use project. Yu has created a community of customers he calls neighbors and friends.

Yu expects to continue running a coffee shop in the neighborhood, across the street at 1741 Mass Ave, which is mentioned in other farewell signage on the coffee shop’s storefront. But he could not confirm a re-opening date because an agreement has not been finalized and signed. He said people who come to the farewell event will be offered coupons to use in the new location. Attendees can also take posters and decorations that cannot be moved and write their names on the soon-to-be demolished walls.

“I’m privileged and honored to serve the past 20 years of community here. We all grew up together,” said Yu earlier in August.

Though he could not yet share details about the shop’s new home, Yu was ecstatic that Simon’s would remain a part of the neighborhood. “I’m very happy that we can continue the shop’s legacy, and continue offering the same products and services,” he said.

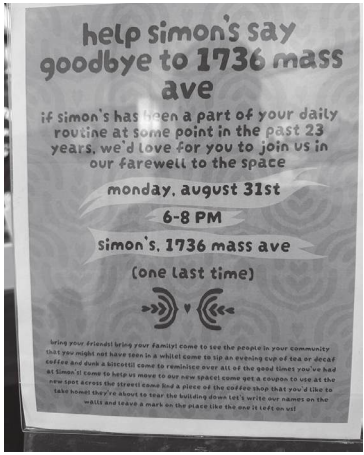
While “the culture and feel” may be different where Simon’s lands, Yu said Simon’s people will be the same and he expected no employees would be laid off.

Yu said he was in a far better position now than he was a year ago, when he learned that he had to vacate the space. With a likely path forward, Yu said he has been able to take a breath and look at the move through a different, less stressed-out, lens. “Everyone has to close a chapter and move onto the next one.”

Yu said his kids, two of whom

are still in high school and are hoping to go on to college, asked whether they would be forced to forgo their plans. “I was joking with my kids, now dad can work 10 more years for you guys.”

Longer-term, Old North’s team has been in active discussions with Yu to bring him back once the development is complete, expected to be in two years. They have signaled previously that they expected to sign an agreement offering Yu a below-market lease. One of the project’s lead developers, Adam Siegel, told Cambridge Day that Old North would cover the cost of building out Yu’s shop in the new building.



Tom Meek

The sign on the door of Simon’s Coffee shop, announcing its closure.

Yu called Siegel and partner Brendan Seaver “very approachable” and said he sincerely appreciated their focus on bringing Simon’s back, something he “wouldn’t expect” from many large developers. Though an agreement has not been signed to seal a return move, Yu said he expected the sides to settle on a deal that was of “mutual benefit” for both parties. Another tenant in the building, Keezers and Le Couturier House of Alterations, has moved to a different location with a five-year lease.

He has also been given a bit more time to keep his stuff at the 1736 location past the utility cuts which are expected next week, though he does need to be out before demolition begins in the first few weeks of September.

EVENTS SEPT 3 TO SEPT 17

Friday, Sept. 11, 6 p.m.
Davis Square, Somerville.

Somerville hosting Annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Free. On the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, the City of Somerville will host a moment of silence, invocation and benediction by Father Paul Coughlin, as well as remarks by Somerville Mayor Jake Wilson and Veterans Director Jerome Thomas. A bagpipe tribute follows, and attendees will be given individual roses to place on the 9/11 Memorial. The ceremony includes a presentation of and retiring of the colors (national, state, and unit flags) by the Honor Guards of the Somerville Police and Somerville Fire Department.

Friday, Sept. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Harvard Square.

“Rhincoceros”

\$95 to \$152. Eugène Ionesco’s landmark play is staged in a new adaptation based on Derek Prouse’s seminal translation. Tony Award winner Diane Paulus directs her final production at the Loeb Drama Center about a Sunday morning when friends and colleagues transform into rhincoceroses and one is forced to decide: will he follow the crowd or stand his ground? Running through Sept. 27.

Sunday, Sept. 6, 5 p.m.
Cambridge Common, near Harvard Square.

Bread & Puppet Circus

Free. Presented in partnership with Cambridge Arts, Vermont’s Bread & Puppet Circus performs with puppets big and small, stilt dancers, paper maché beasts and a brass band.

Friday, Sept. 11, 8 to 9:30 p.m.
Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Spring Hill.

Level Up Circus

\$15 to \$40. Inspired by video games, Level Up Circus takes from timeless classics to indie gems, local performers bring favorite games to the stage. Experience a celebration of video games through dynamic aerial performances and mesmerizing stage acts.



Thursday, Sept. 10, 5 to 7:30 p.m.
Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Central Hill.

Civic Day

Free. This family-friendly event kicks off with free pizza and activities on City Hall Concourse. It aims to provide community members with interactive opportunities to learn about Somerville’s local government, programs, services and ways to get involved.

Monday, Sept. 7, 8:30 to 10 p.m.
Lilypad, 1353 Cambridge St., Inman Square.

Jerry Bergonzi Quartet

\$15. Bergonzi brings his tenor sax mastery to this seated show with Luther Gray on drums and special guests on trumpet and bass.

Saturday, Sept. 5, Beginning 2 p.m. (runs through Monday)
Club Passim, 47 Palmer St., Harvard Square.

Labor Day Campfire Festival

Tickets by the day are \$20; a weekend pass is \$35. Passim’s quirkily named, twice-a-year, four-day homegrown festival of Americana, bluegrass, blues, Celtic, country, folk and related musical styles stays hybrid in its 25th year, with more than 50 artists performing live and remotely throughout the weekend.

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.
The Comedy Studio, 5 John F. Kennedy St., Harvard Square.

The Comedy Studio and Cambridge Nites present: Black Girl Magic

Free. Tooky Kavanagh, Bethany Van Delft, Amma Marfo, Dorothy Whitfield, Pamala Zabala and DJ Rayvino headline this line-up of comedians.

Monday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m.
Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Ave.

Nikolas Bowie and Daphna Renan on “Supremacy: How Rule by the Court Replaced Government by the People”

Free. Bowie and Renan, law professors at Harvard Law School, explore the Supreme Court and the power it holds to decide what the U.S. Constitution means and to strike down any act of Congress that violates the justices’ dictates. The authors discuss whether this power was seized by the Court and if this power weakens democracy. Harvard Law School Professor of Constitutional Law Tomiko Brown-Nagin joins.

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2 p.m.
Central Square Theater, 450 Massachusetts Ave., Central Square.

“Eleanor”

\$27 to \$103. In this portrait of Eleanor Roosevelt, Elliot Norton Award winner Paula Plum returns for this one woman show where Eleanor revisits her marriage to Franklin Roosevelt, her activism and her role in shaping modern human rights. Running through Oct. 4.

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

Wednesday, Sept. 9, Noon to 2 p.m.

Midday Music and Free Bike Tune Ups

Free, but reserve. Enjoy live hip-hop and R&B music curated by The Cambridge Hip-Hop Collective and free safety checks with a bicycle technician.

Tuesday, Sept. 15, 5 to 7 p.m.

Voterfest

Free but reserve. This celebration of democracy on National Voter Registration Day includes music, treats and family-friendly activities, including face painting. Student volunteers help you register to vote or update your voter registration. Hosted in partnership with the PKG Center for Social Impact.

Monday, Sept. 7, 8 to 10:30 p.m.
Remnant Satellite, 877 Cambridge St., Wellington-Harrington.

Royer Family Band

Free. The Royer Family Band performs traditional bluegrass old-time country.

■ 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



Nighthawks have tiny beaks and large eyes.

Listen for migrating NIGHTHAWKS

By JEANINE FARLEY

Common nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) are crepuscular birds that eat flying insects. You'll spot them swooping and wheeling like aerial acrobats to catch bugs in mid-air. They are closely related to whip-poorwills with the same teeny beaks that open wide into surprisingly enormous insect-catching mouths.

Common nighthawks are famous for two sounds. The first is a call often transcribed as a *peent* or *beard* sound. The other is a resonant booming noise that the male makes during courtship. The male climbs and then steeply dives. Near the bottom of the dive, air rushing over his wing feathers produces a vibrating boom, which sounds like a bellowing bull or a bullfrog. Listen for these sounds here.

Despite the name nighthawk, these birds are neither hawks nor are they nocturnal. They are most active when insects are most active — at dawn and dusk. Birders often call them bullbats for their batlike behavior and bull-like courtship noise. They are members of the nightjar family. The name nightjar originated in Europe: night refers to the birds' activity near nightfall, while jar refers to the jarring call of the European nightjar. They have historically been called goatsuckers, from European myths that these birds sucked milk from goats at night(!?)

Nighthawks are ground-nesting birds that lay eggs on open fields, burned-over woodlands, pastures, or along stony beaches. In 1927, ornithologist Edward Howe Forbush noted of a ground nest:



Gavin Keefe Schaefer

Ground-nesting nighthawks blend into their surroundings.

The eggs so closely resemble the rock, earth or gravel, on which they rest, and the young so simulate in appearance clods or horse droppings covered with mold that they seem to escape the eyes of their enemies. The mother sitting on her eggs is almost invisible, as her plumage blends into the colors of her environment, and she will sit there with eyes nearly closed until almost trodden upon.

A female nighthawk does not actually build a nest. She selects a nesting site but doesn't do anything to it except for laying two eggs. When the female pulls or pushes the eggs under her body to incubate them, the eggs shift position—sometimes moving five or six feet from their original spot during the approximately 18-day incubation period.



Natalia Kuzmina

Common nighthawks are about 9 inches long with a 21-inch wingspan.



Robert W. Hines, UFWS

Nighthawks catch flying insects in their gaping mouth.

watchers counted 432 migrating nighthawks on August 22, 2000. Since then, there has been only one migration-watch day that observers didn't see nighthawks—and that was way back in 2008.

If you want to see migrating nighthawks cavorting in the sky, you might want to join a watch party at Mount Auburn Cemetery, with Mass Audubon, the Brookline Bird Club or the Boston Birding Festival.

If you prefer to look more informally, head to open areas near Fresh Pond or the Mystic River on a warm evening with lots of insects. Beginning about 30 minutes before sunset and continuing until 30 minutes after, scan the horizon for the silhouette of long-winged birds flying erratically. You may spot white flashes on the



Brian Rusnica

A nighthawk soars above Cambridge, August 28, 2020.

wings. Listen for the nasal peent. The birds may circle repeatedly over a patch of insects or linger over floodlit fields. Good luck!



Tom Koerner, USFWS

A ground-nesting nighthawk in Wyoming.

FILM

LOCAL FOCUS



Amanda Goodwin and Ellen McElduff in “Working Girls.”

Silver anniversaries on the silver screen

BY OSCAR GOFF

In terms of heart, visual invention, and critical acclaim, few animated features of the 21st century can rival Hayao Miyazaki’s “**Spirited Away**” (2001). The film, which follows 10-year-old Chihiro as she stumbles into a labyrinthine bathhouse filled with witches, spirits, and other fantastical creatures, is revered not only as a masterpiece of children’s film, but of world cinema as a whole. To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the **Brattle Theatre** is screening it in a week-long run, in both subtitled form (screening in 35mm) and dubbed (in a new 4K restoration). It will be accompanied by a series of additional animated films celebrating milestone anniversaries. Also ringing in a quarter century are “**Metropolis**” (2001, screening Sunday and Wednesday), animator Rintaro’s psychedelic riff on Fritz Lang’s silent classic, and Satoshi Kon’s “**Millennium Actress**” (2001, Monday and Thursday), a fractured and deeply personal journey through the life of an aging silver screen star. The series is rounded out by a 50th anniversary screening of “**Allegro Non Troppo**” (1976, Friday and Saturday), Italian animator Bruno Bozzetto’s outrageous spoof of Disney’s “Fantasia.” And if that’s not enough, head over to **AMC Assembly Row**, where Katsuhiro Otomo’s cyberpunk landmark “**Akira**” (1986) kicks off a 40th anniversary IMAX run on Friday.

The **Harvard Film Archive**’s tribute to Graham Greene reaches its centerpiece this weekend with arguably the most famous cinematic realization of the author’s work. Written directly by Greene for the screen (though his initial treatment would later be published as a novella), Carol Reed’s “**The Third Man**” (1949) holds a central place in the film noir canon. Joseph Cotten plays Holly Martins, a down-on-his-luck pulp author who travels to Vienna, where his old friend Harry Lime has promised him a job — only to find that Lime has apparently died under mysterious circumstances. Though his involvement was kept a secret at the time of the film’s release, “The Third Man” is today best remembered for the fact that Lime is not only alive but played by Cotten’s “Citizen Kane” costar Orson Welles. Welles’ Lime is one of the most devilishly memorable villains in movie history, his infamous “cuckoo clock” monologue (rumored to have been rewritten by Welles himself) as chillingly relevant as ever. “The Third Man” screens Friday through Sunday in a gorgeous, brand new 35mm print.

In today’s accelerated culture, it’s difficult for a film to organically amass “cult classic” status through old-fashioned

word of mouth. An exception is Mike Cheslik’s “**Hundreds of Beavers**” (2022), which returns to the **Somerville Theatre** Saturday in a one-night-only back-to-school engagement. Armed with nothing but a digital camera, ample imagination, and a number of plush mascot costumes, Cheslik and actor/co-writer Ryland Tews tell the story of Jean Kayak, a hapless fur trapper who runs afoul of — you guessed it — hundreds of beavers, all played by actors in ridiculous suits. “Beavers” is one of the most rambunctious comedies of recent years, an homage in equal parts to silent cinema, Warner Brothers cartoons, and point-and-click computer games. Its gleefully dorky sense of humor has earned it a fiercely devoted army of fans; attendees Saturday night should expect a sea of flannel shirts, call-and-response quotes, and, almost certainly, a beaver costume or two.

On Monday, the Somerville joins forces with the Boston Sex Workers and Allies Collective for a screening of Lizzie Borden’s landmark independent film “**Working Girls**” (1986). Inspired by stories from real-life sex workers among the cast of Borden’s “Born in Flames” (1983), “Working Girls” is remarkably ahead of its time in its portrayal of the oldest profession. Its characters, a group of sex workers working out of a Manhattan apartment over the course of a single night, are neither judged nor glamorized; they see their work as a job like any other, with all the highs, lows, and long stretches of boredom that entails. Following the film, the Somerville will welcome BSWAC members Violeta Félix and Mary Carol for a discussion of the film’s portrayal and impact, and of the struggle to improve conditions for sex workers around the world.

Since 2019, the **Taiwan Film Festival of Boston** has provided a vital local outlet for stories and voices from Taiwan and the Taiwanese diaspora. On Thursday, the 2026 edition of TFFB kicks off at the Somerville with the feel-good sports documentary “**Hero! Hito!**” (2025). The documentary, from director Lungnan Isak Fangas, tells the remarkable comeback story of Chinese Taipei, the team which represents Taiwan in international baseball. Once ranked among the bottom of international teams following a gutting loss at the 2013 World Baseball Classic, Chinese Taipei, led by coach Tseng Hao-chiu, dedicated themselves to proving their doubters wrong, ultimately winning an upset victory in 2024. TFFB continues through Sept. 21 in venues across the Boston area (including the Coolidge Corner Theatre, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Brattle), then pivots to an online festival through Oct. 11.

REVIEWS



Courtesy of MUBI

A still from “Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma.”

“Teenage Sex and Death at Camp Miasma”

In this latest art-horror curio from Jane Schoenbrun, the alt-indie hand behind psycho-chillers “We’re All Going to the World’s Fair” (2021) and “I Saw the TV Glow” (2024), the “Friday the 13th” film franchise and gender politics get skewered with bloody orgasmic gusto. There is plenty of sex and death, as the title promises, with the bloodshed bringing the joy more than any muted, intoned, crest of pleasure. A head gets cut off and an arc of crimson red gushes 30 feet into the air, so over-the-top it’s comical. The effects are gorgeously framed by Eric Yue, who worked with Schoenbrun on their previous projects.

Camp Miasma is somewhere in the wooded Pacific Northwest at a lake, which was many years ago the setting of a slasher film starring Billy Presley (Gillian Anderson) as an ingénue. It becomes a long-running series of films and Presley, the “final girl,” now lives as a recluse at the site.

Enter Kris (Hannah Einbinder, “Hacks”), a young queer indie film director hired to reboot the franchise. Kris hopes to recruit Billy for her project (think Jamie Lee Curtis or Neve Campbell). The set up’s clearly self-referential — and part of the backdrop is that the original films have become criticized for their treatment

of gender — namely trans. Kris — a clear stand-in for Schoenbrun—is an adoring fan of Billy’s and given the cold foreboding nights (it’s winter) the two end up smoking weed, watching old “Miasma Camp” videos and working on Kris’s failures at sex — she’s in a polyamorous relationship, but appreciates companionship more for the intellectual than the physical.

Much is asked of Einbinder in range — goofy, sexy, witty but shy — and she pulls it off, but it’s Anderson, with her bumper-bangs-and-victory-rolls updo (and menacingly aloof cattiness) that drives the film and alluringly so. It’s an intoxicating and immersive performance that holds the film together as it slips into alter realities and other strange and wonderfully murky segues. We see plenty of Little Death (Jack Haven) the being at the bottom of the lake, who when hungry, rises from the depths in a Devo Hazmat suit with a ceiling air vent for a mask, and eviscerates any and all with a double-bladed spear. The cherry on the top is seeing Eva Victor (“Sorry Baby”)’s cameo as a punked-out ’80s DJ — mohawk and all — with sassitude.

— TOM MEEK



Playing at Kendall Square

“The Whisper Man”

This flatfooted serial killer chiller starring Oscar winners Robert De Niro and Michael Keaton comes off as little more than a lazy, B-tier hack of Jonathan Demme’s 1991 genre classic, “The Silence of the Lambs,” where an incarcerated killer (Keaton) holds the profiling keys to the copycat du jour on a spree. I wouldn’t be surprised if AI was used in the origin of the unoriginal script, and — as if taking a cue from the title — everyone in the cast talks in hushed tones. The strange, sanctified silence carries so deep into the film I began to wonder if director James Ashcroft didn’t have a bag man on set to dole out sedation meds.

De Niro and Michelle Monaghan play the cops trying capture a serial killer who is copying Keaton’s Hannibal surrogate, in jail for killing 12-year-old boys by mummifying and entombing them. De Niro’s grandson has gone missing — his son (Adam Scott who with this and “Hokum” seems to be drifting toward underdeveloped dark fare) writes crime novels based on De Niro’s detective’s past accomplishments. Many of the interview scenes with Keaton’s killer look shot in



Courtesy of Netflix

A still from “Whisper Man.”

separate locales or on separate days, but maybe that’s just the result of the stilted dialogue and flat interaction. Much time is spent in dark basements and interrogation rooms — did the state of New Jersey decide to operate the grid at half capacity? It’s all poppy cock that gains traction too late, after an almost inert build up. Nearly every scene feels ripped directly from the “Silence of the Lambs.” It’s got a lot of the pian timber, but no bite.

— TOM MEEK



Streaming on Netflix

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

FOOD

WHAT WE'RE HAVING

Chefs say flounder won't fall flat with diners

By TOM MEEK

Did you know flounder, the freaky pancake-fish with both eyes on top of their heads, are not born that way? They hatch with their eyes on both sides, like a typical fish, but as they grow, one eye migrates to the other side — a literal wandering eye. The strange maturation process is an adaptation that allows the flounder to lie flat at the bottom of the ocean; cover itself in sand, bulging eyes exposed; and ambush prey (shrimp and small fish) as they swim by.

It's a quirky pescatarian curio, but also a tasty fish that you don't see in restaurants as much as you'd think, given its abundance in New England waters. That's why the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries has launched a campaign celebrating the fish, with 10 area chefs featuring a flounder dish this month.

The fish's catch quotas are well below the allowable amount (which varies by type of flounder) versus, let's say, cod, perpetually near quota. The fish is also cheaper and more sustainable than many other proteins. "We go through so much cod, it's also getting to be cost prohibitive. I think a fillet of cod wholesale is more than I pay for beef — significantly," said Chef Will Gilson, owner and proprietor of Puritan Oyster Bar in Inman Square and a member of the state's Flounder Chef Council.

Three of the council's participating eateries are on this side of the Charles River: Catalyst and Row 34, in addition to Gilson's Oyster Bar. For the promotion, Gilson is serving coconut-and-sesame-crusted sole lettuce wraps with pickles, herbs, and a green curry aioli: "Adult fish sticks," as he playfully calls them. Jeremy Sewall at Row 34 in Kendall Square will offer blackback flounder with lentil and rice pilaf, blue crab, and a caper butter. Further up Main Street, William Kovel at Catalyst is plating an American plaice — a kind of flounder — meunière (flour-dusted) with braised leeks, haricot vert, and a grenobloise sauce (browned butter, lemon juice/zest and capers).

Plaice (or dab) is the same fish Gilson uses for his crispy wraps and one of five kinds of flounder that live in our immediate New England waters, in addition to yellowtail sole, blackback (also known as winter flounder or lemon sole), grey sole (or witch flounder), and summer flounder (commonly known as fluke). Kovel only offers his plaice Tuesday night through Thursday, and the Chefs Council campaign offerings run through the end of September.

Gilson, who is busy opening a new restaurant — the Puritan Tavern in his hometown, Grafton — says he'll likely keep the lettuce wraps on the menu after the cam-



Courtesy of Puritan Oyster Bar

Coconut and sesame crusted sole lettuce wraps with pickles, herbs and green curry aioli.



Elissa Garza

American Plaice Meunière, braised leeks, haricot vert, Sauce Grenobloise.

paign ends. The crisp wraps, he notes, are gluten-free.

Kovel surmises that flounder doesn't have the reputation it deserves because of its thinness and delicacy. "You don't see a lot of dabs on menus, and you don't see a lot of yellowtail flounder because they take a lot of finesse to cook." He considers flounder a quality white fish on par with cod and halibut, a close relative. "It just melts," Kovel said. "It's awesome." Lemon sole was one of his first dishes when he opened 15 years ago. "It's one of my favorite soles to work with," he said.

I've always been a fan and miss the über-fresh European Dover sole the Fishmonger in Huron Village used to sell; my sauté pan was forever an improvisational

landscape with capers, paprika, white wine, lemon juice, and but-

ter, plenty of butter. But if you're not sold on sole, you still might be

intrigued by its place in history. The flounder once posed a challenge to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

In 1871, biologist St. George Jackson Mivart challenged Darwin to explain how a partially migrated eye could benefit the fish.



Courtesy of Puritan Oyster Bar

Chef Will Gilson of Puritan Oyster Bar.

Darwin responded the following year in "The Origin of Species" that each step in the migration helps the flounder see better.



Courtesy of Catalyst

Chef William Kovel of Catalyst.

Eye moving to the left or right, it doesn't much matter. This month, you can dine on a fine sole dish and feed your culinary soul. It may not be pretty; but then again, have you ever looked at a cod or a monkfish?

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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 at Gallery 263 give an irreverent take on American Christianity

By Claire Ogden September 14, 2025



Scan to add to join

ARTS

Cambridge therapist keeps dancers moving

By LYNNE WEISS

Some unsung stars of the American Repertory Theater’s recent production of dance thriller “Black Swan” were the backstage team of physical therapists led by Melissa Buffer.

The show was “a very intense production due to all the dancing” and because it had 24 actors, said Buffer, 43, and the founder of Cambridge’s Artistic Athlete Health Collective.

Melanie Moore, who played the demanding lead role, “received services outside the typical need,” said Buffer, who often brings in a massage therapist, and will consult with acupuncture, dry needling and chiropractic practitioners. “Black Swan” included a whole mental health team as well.

Buffer oversees physical therapy for the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T), as well as other local theater companies, and works with individual dancers, theater performers and circus artists.

Buffer started dancing as a child and discovered dance medicine while in college at Northeastern University. She then pursued a degree in physical therapy in graduate school, during which she did a clinical affiliation with a physical therapy office, Performing Arts Physical Therapy, located in New York’s theater district. Every afternoon they went to the theater to spend a couple of hours getting performers ready for their show. On days with matinees, she was there between shows, too. Her later training included cases with the late Lyle Micheli, a pioneer in the field of dance medicine, and with the Boston Children’s Hospital dance medicine team.



Photos: Olivia Moon Photography

Melissa Buffer works with dancers, directors and choreographers to assess the individual needs and recommended modifications for her clients.

The focus of her work is prevention; “very few dance-related injuries are acute,” said Buffer. Before a show opens, she and her team evaluate everyone in a company. They look at the requirements for each track, or role, and make suggestions for how performers might prepare for the show. They might also suggest modifications. For example, they might suggest a wider toe box in footwear or make recommendations for how long

certain shoes are worn. All such modifications are made in consultation with the director and the choreographer.

Injuries can still happen. Carmen Rizzo, a long-time client who recently had solo shows at Cambridge’s The Dance Complex, as well as a show at the Foundry, earlier this year woke up with a painfully swollen ankle the day before a show opened. Unable to walk properly, she warned the director that an understudy might need to step into her role. Then she reached out to Buffer. “She was able to pop it [her ankle] back into place and I had no further problems. It’s so much quicker and easier to see someone who actually knows what’s going on,” Rizzo said, referring to Buffer’s understanding of the challenges faced by dancers.

Claire Lane of Detritus Dance, currently an artist-in-residence at Mount Auburn Cemetery, is another long-time client of Buffer’s. After Buffer recently observed a rehearsal of a show Lane was preparing for, she provided a warm-up plan that included breathing techniques to employ the full power of the diaphragm to support movement and stamina and exercises for the feet.

Dancers are not the only performers who benefit from Buffer’s services and insights. For actors in non-musicals, Buffer will suggest adjustments to how people sit to balance the stress on their backs. Buffer says that one of the most challenging shows from a physical therapy standpoint was A.R.T.’s 2022 production “Life of Pi.” It had life-sized puppets and

a raked stage, one that is slanted for greater visibility but presents a physical challenge for actors. Actors Equity, the union representing actors, requires that performers working on such a stage receive a rake orientation, another service Buffer provides. Emma



Buffer works with dancers, directors and choreographers to assess the individual needs and recommended modifications for her clients.

Watt, associate producer at the A.R.T, said that for performers, the functioning of their bodies is critical to their work. “It’s a cliché to say that their bodies are their instruments,” Watt says, “but it’s true.”

Before each performance of “Life of Pi,” Buffer held a puppetry call to mock through the movements. “I would remind people to lift with their shoulders, try to grip it like this instead of this.” The puppetry in “Life of Pi” required many repetitive movements to replicate animal behaviors. Watt

described the close collaboration between Buffer and Jill Johnson, the movement advisor for that production. Buffer and Johnson worked together to create warm-up routines and an icing protocol to protect the health of the performers.

In their most recent contract negotiation, Actors Equity stipulated that any actor or company member in any Equity production has the right to request physical therapy at any point in the production. Buffer hopes more companies will see PT training and injury prevention as part of a show’s infrastructure, just like costuming, lighting, staging, and dramaturgy. She also encourages musicians and the crew for the back of the house — the people who build sets, string lights, and manage the stage during the performance — to avail themselves of physical therapy.

Buffer’s work with local performers extends beyond her services to A.R.T. “The mission behind my health collective is to bring what has been available to a very few elite institutions to regular performing artists,” Buffer explained. Because dancers are often underpaid and overworked, they don’t always have access to the health care support they need. Lane appreciates Buffer’s efforts to provide lower-cost services through programs like her Resilience and Recovery classes, which offer small-group physical therapy sessions. Buffer, she said, “is trying to bridge the gap, meet artists where they are at whatever stage they are at, to make sure services are accessible and affordable.”

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Cambridge Body Art Regulations Revisions

The Commissioner of Public Health for the City of Cambridge has revised the “Cambridge Public Health Department Body Art Regulations” under the authority of M.G.L c.111 s.31. Revisions include reordering the sections for clarity and readability; clarifying the source of legal authority; adding definitions for clarity; clarifying required licenses; changes to exemptions and prohibited activities; updates to body art practitioners requirements and disinfectant and sterilization procedures; changes to protocols for the preparation and care of the procedure site; changes to informed consent and release forms; new requirements

for single-use items and body art establishment documentation; changes to establishment requirements and professional standards; changes to practitioner license requirements and apprenticeship programs; and changes to the enforcement of body art regulation.

For a copy of the proposed revisions, contact the Cambridge Public Health Department at 781-870-0687, or pschult@cambridgepublichealth.org, or visit the department’s website at www.cambridgepublichealth.org. Detailed information about the revisions to the regulation can be found in the Tattoo and Body Art section in the drop-down bar “I want to...” found on the top of the website.

Public comments will be open for 21 (twenty-one) days after the first publishing of this notice, closing on 9/25/26. Comments can be sent to Paul Schult and Bhumika Kamthey at pschult@cambridgepublichealth.org and bkamthey@cambridgepublichealth.org.

■ Charts created by John Chronopoulos

CAMPAIGN 2026

24th Middlesex Election Results

David Rogers
6,906 Votes ✓ 70.7%

Nomita Ganguly
2,867 Votes 29.3%

Source: Associated Press

25th Middlesex Election Results

Marjorie Decker
4,104 Votes ✓ 53.3%

Evan MacKay
3,599 Votes 46.7%

Source: Associated Press

26th Middlesex Election Results

Mike Connolly
5,069 Votes ✓ 75.8%

Neil Miller
1,617 Votes 24.2%

Source: Associated Press

27th Middlesex Election Results

Ben Ewen-Campen
7,116 Votes ✓ 69.9%

Olivia Gilligan-Corsetti
3,068 Votes 30.1%

Source: Associated Press

Suffolk & Middlesex Election Results

Daniel Lander
12,132 Votes 50.0%

William Brownsberger
12,129 Votes 50.0%

Source: Associated Press

2nd Middlesex Election Results

Erika Uyterhoeven
12,335 Votes ✓ 37.0%

Christine Barber
10,142 Votes 30.4%

Burhan Azeem
6,073 Votes 18.2%

Matt McLaughlin
4,171 Votes 12.5%

Source: Associated Press

34th Middlesex Election Results

Will Mbah
3,745 Votes ✓ 54.1%

Paul Ruseau
1,924 Votes 27.8%

Christopher Oates
1,250 Votes 18.1%

Source: Associated Press

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