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Our Canada geese stopped migrating. It's our own fault.

METRO PAGE 3
Somerville tries to mesh its values with bigger backyard 'cottages'

CAMBRIDGE DAY

THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 22 – OCTOBER 29, 2026 FREE

Somerville income growth highest in Mass.

By NATHAN METCALF

Somerville hasn't been Slummerville in a while, but now the city's median household income is higher than Cambridge's, according to recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Driving that shift: Somerville's median household income grew faster than any Massachusetts municipality with at least 20,000 residents from 2014 to 2024.

Median household income in Somerville, as measured by the Census Bureau's American Community Survey five-year estimates published in January 2026, increased from $66,866 in 2014 to $132,572 in 2024, or 98.3%. The figures are not adjusted for inflation, meaning the increase does not represent a doubling of residents' purchasing power.

The change extended well beyond the median. In 2014, approximately one-third of Somerville households earned less than $50,000 annually. In 2024, that number was down to just 16%, according to Tom Galligani, the city's director of planning and strategy. The proportions were almost reversed when looking at households earning more than $200,000, which in the same period grew from 14% to roughly one-third. Those figures are also not adjusted for inflation.

See INCOME GROWTH, page 3

The top 15 Massachusetts municipalities (population >20,000) ranked by median household income growth, 2014-2024

Rank	Municipality	County	Population	2014 Income	2024 Income	Growth
1	Somerville	Middlesex	81,036	$66,866	$132,572	98.3%
2	Walpole	Norfolk	26,388	$90,332	$171,500	89.9%
3	Malden	Middlesex	65,906	$55,523	$100,606	81.2%
4	Marblehead	Essex	20,413	$100,709	$182,132	80.8%
5	Boston	Suffolk	666,442	$54,485	$97,344	78.7%
6	Lawrence	Essex	88,736	$34,496	$60,433	75.2%
7	Lexington	Middlesex	34,295	$137,456	$238,444	73.5%
8	Randolph	Norfolk	34,878	$63,259	$109,573	73.2%
9	Belmont	Middlesex	27,175	$105,859	$183,137	73.0%
10	Hingham	Plymouth	24,283	$103,350	$178,390	72.6%
11	Cambridge	Middlesex	118,796	$75,909	$130,748	72.2%
12	Revere	Suffolk	60,012	$50,900	$86,969	70.9%
13	Fall River	Bristol	94,082	$33,763	$56,673	67.9%
14	Wilmington	Middlesex	23,336	$100,536	$168,152	67.3%
15	Everett	Middlesex	50,045	$51,056	$85,218	66.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010–2014 and 2020–2024 five-year estimates, Table B19013.

Graphic by Nathan Metcalf / Cambridge Day

City council defers Israel contractor divestment vote



Jane Petersen

Cambridge city councillors, pictured Monday at the start of a marathon public comment session, delayed votes about the policy orders on Tuesday.

By JANE PETERSEN

After more than six hours of public comment during Monday's city council meeting, the business part of the meeting convened at 9 a.m. Tuesday. After an hour working through the city manager's agenda and a handful of other policy orders, councillors finally were able to publicly comment on a pair of policy orders filed by Councillor Ayah Al-Zubi calling for the city to divest its financial positions with companies contracted by the Israeli military.

The orders were co-sponsored by Councillor Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler. The first requested the Cambridge Retirement Board and the trustee that runs Other Post Employment Benefits fund to divest accounts that hold the pensions and benefits of city employees from a list of companies identified by Palestinian rights advocates as providing assistance to the Israeli government's oppression of Palestinians. These include weapons manufacturers, companies that make technology or AI used to calibrate weapons systems, and oil and gas companies. The second recommends ordinance language that would bar the city from entering contracts with companies on the list, which if passed would be sent to the ordinance committee.

Discussion was brief. After Al-Zubi and Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler introduced the first order, it did not receive a vote because a charter right, the council's method of delaying vote, was invoked by Vice Mayor Burhan Azeem.

Azeem justified his action because there were a number of agenda items to address and less than an hour before the chamber had to be cleared to prepare for an 11:30 a.m. Health and Environment Committee meeting.

See PROTESTS, page 2

Original Starship Enterprise model boldly goes to MIT Museum



Summer LaRose

Berit Smith (left), Henry Smith (center) and Victor Parkinson (right), exhibit docent, exchange Vulcan salutes as John Smith crouches to view the original Starship Enterprise model.

By ANNA ALBRECHT

The MIT Museum has long been home to models and technology that test the limits of knowledge and understanding, but few have generated the fervor of its newest addition: the original Starship Enterprise model used in the opening sequence of the 1960s TV series "Star Trek."

Only 33 inches long, the model served as the opening image in an era of television that helped shape the science fiction genre. At the end of September, the model arrived for the first time in a museum on the East Coast during the inaugural MIT Future Fest, where Eugene (Rod) Roddenberry, son of "Star Trek" creator Eugene (Gene) Roddenberry, spoke on a panel.

"Our visitor experience director said it is the first time people come in asking to see something very specific," said Deborah Douglas, senior director of collections and curator of science and technology. "They want to see this model."

Timothy Hills, a 66-year-old "Star Trek" fan from Wenham who said he has "been in the fandom since, goodness, the '70s," spent the model's first weekend at the museum dressed in both Spock and Captain Kirk uniforms that he and his mother had made decades ago. Upon seeing the model, he said, he knew it was "not just pop culture history but world history."

Hills brought some of his "Star Trek" collectibles and relics, to show them to other fans who approached and asked to take pictures.

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It's official: Amigos School will move to Spring Street in 2028

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The Mushroom Shop moves to Cambridge's specialty row

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Boys' cross country and boys' soccer looking like champions; CRLS roundup

CAMBRIDGE NEWS INC.

LOCAL

Residents fret over parking lot sale

By NATHAN METCALF

The Cambridge Redevelopment Authority's purchase of a portion of the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House's parking lot for $3.5 million, with plans to develop mixed-income homeownership housing, has drawn mixed reactions from residents of The Port who have used the property as a gathering place for generations.

The property at 42 Pine St., roughly 8,000 sq. ft., is expected to accommodate at least 10 condominiums, at least two of which would be designated as affordable to meet the city's 20% affordable housing requirement. However, the agency has yet to determine the number of units, building height or final design, and construction likely won't start before October 2028.

"We're still really trying to understand how that best fits," said Kyle Vangel, CRA's director of projects and planning. "Is there townhomes? Is there more sort of apartment-style building? Is there a combination of both?"

The sale will provide Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, a 124-year-old community organization headquartered at 71 Cherry St., with funding to renovate its food pantry and the historic childhood home of its namesake, the transcendentalist writer and women's rights advocate. While some residents welcome new housing, others fear increased density, worsening parking shortages and the loss of a longtime neighborhood gathering place.

Vangel said the property offers an opportunity to create housing without displacing existing residents, a priority for the CRA given the scarcity of available land in Cambridge. "One of the things we like about this site is that it's underutilized as a surface parking lot right now," Vangel said. "It's a chance to add housing without having to subtract any housing."



Nathan Metcalf

Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House at 71 Cherry St. in Cambridge's Port neighborhood. The historic building was the childhood home of writer and women's rights advocate Margaret Fuller.

Preserving the future

For Selvin Chambers, 63, CEO of Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House, the sale is more than a property transfer. Born on Suffolk Street, Chambers grew up in the Port, spending 22 years in the Washington Elms housing development and much of his childhood at the neighborhood house. In the 1970s, he attended a breakfast and homework program run by the Black Panthers, learned boxing in the building's basement and practiced with a neighborhood drill team in the parking lot now slated for redevelopment.

Today, Chambers sees the sale as an opportunity to preserve the institution that helped raise him. "As an organization that's been around for 124 years, our goal is to make sure that we last another 124 years," Chambers said. "This is personal for me. This is not just about a job."

Most of the $3.5 million will go toward transforming the food pantry into a larger, more modern facility with additional space for community programming. Whether the existing structure can be expanded or must be rebuilt remains undetermined, pending a structural assessment.

Chambers hopes the sale proceeds will attract additional funding to renovate the historic house itself, preserving what one resident once called the neighborhood's "community living room." "We want to really stay true to having a place that is valued and stays true to the needs of the community, even as the community and the facilities around the community change," he said.

A gathering place at risk

Daniel Jeffs, 46, an Eaton Street resident since 2007, sees the development as part of a broader transformation of the Port, a historically Black and working-class neighborhood where rising living costs have inflamed tensions and threatened longtime residents with displacement.

Jeffs recalled generations of Caribbean immigrant families, many of whom have since moved away. Today, he said, luxury housing and highly paid technology workers share the neighborhood with lower-income residents who depend on institutions such as Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House. "There's people showing up, like Chinese grandmas on bikes for the food pantry, and then there's guys going to work at Google on their e-scooters at the same time," Jeffs said.

Jeffs argued that 10 to 12 new units would overwhelm an already crowded neighborhood and questioned whether reserving 20% for affordable housing justified losing the parking lot. "I've lived here a long time and I've seen the pattern of, okay, we have to build housing, but it always ends up being built in our neighborhood," he said.

Opposition predates the CRA's purchase. In 2021, neighbors circulated a petition urging the city to buy the property for a public park. At a June 2026 Board of Zoning Appeal hearing, the board's chair estimated it contained 135 signatures.

Jeffs and two other nearby residents interviewed by Cambridge Day who requested anonymity worried that losing parking spaces could push Cambridge Health Alliance employees and Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House staff onto surrounding streets.

CHA spokesperson David Cecere confirmed that the health system's allocation of 14 parking spaces at the Windsor Street Care Center will drop to eight on Nov. 15 and end March 1. CHA is encouraging employees to use the First Street Garage, with shuttle transportation to the care center. Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House will retain staff parking, according to Chambers.

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

Protests

From Page 1

"I thought that [more] discussion would be helpful since we were time limited," Azeem said. He said he was supportive of "many proposed elements of the initial order," although he has been wary of the council delving into matters of foreign policy, and doesn't want to single out Israel.

What councillors said

Al-Zubi addressed criticism that the council shouldn't involve itself in matters of foreign policy.

"Where our workers' retirement money goes is our business, and where we invest our money … should speak to our residents' values," Al-Zubi said. She also pointed to other council initiatives like those aimed at greenhouse gas mitigation as another example of the city acting with a global mindset.

She also said the policy order named Israel because of the level of harm she said it was perpetuating, and because of its special relationship to the United States. "I'm not making [Israel] look bad. I'm speaking the truth," she said. "The United States has put sanctions on countries like China, Syria, Iran, and Russia, but gives blank checks to Israel."

Sobrinho-Wheeler likened the policy order to another order that was passed in 1980, calling for the city to divest from South African companies during apartheid.

Azeem disagreed that calling out Israel directly was necessary. He began his comments saying that he found yesterday's public comment period, in which multiple Jewish people from the area expressed their increasing concern about celebrating their faith openly "deeply moving" and that it contained "very concrete examples of antisemitism in our city." But he also noted the exceptional role Israel plays in U.S. foreign policy and said he did not that warranted a call-out in this particular policy order.

In expressing his charter right, Azeem said he wanted to revisit the policy order in a special meeting when they had more time to work on the language.

Al-Zubi then proposed her second policy order related to government contracts, which would require language to be advanced to the ordinance committee. Councillor Patty Nolan invoked her charter right, also citing concerns about singling out Israel. "I can support divestment. Not this language," Nolan said.

Delaying the votes caused some consternation from a few dozen people in attendance, many of whom spoke in favor of the measures the previous night. One person yelled an expletive, another said "you are all complicit in genocide," and as they left the building a number of them chanted "Free Palestine" and "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

Special meeting to be set

Before adjourning, Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui filed a late policy order to hold a special meeting to address the two divestment policy orders sometime during the week of Oct. 26. The meeting will not include a public comment period, citing the public's "ample opportunity to comment on these matters on October 19, and still has the opportunity to submit written communication."

The order was co-sponsored by Sobrinho-Wheeler and Councillor E. Denise Simmons. Al-Zubi was the lone vote against it.

To read our story on the marathon public comment session, scan the QR code

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METRO

Somerville debates backyard cottages

By GANDHARVIKA GOPAL



Marc Levy / file

Triple deckers in Somerville.

Somerville is working to align local zoning with a state law that changes how the city will restrict the size of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), including what Somerville has termed backyard cottages. Instead of setting limits in height, width, and depth, the city will use floor area to maintain the scale of the cottages. But with a maximum of 1,750 square feet, the city is proposing a size nearly double what the state suggests.

"The law offers a 900-square foot size maximum … but it does further allow municipalities to set a more permissive limit," Senior Planner Kortney Cena said at an Oct. 1 public hearing.

Recent amendments proposed by Mayor Jake Wilson's office would adjust the current zoning standards to fit with state requirements, relaxing design restrictions and allowing a generous square footage limit to encourage much-needed housing supply. Now, the city council must consider what size is appropriate for an ADU, within the limited terms Somerville can regulate them.

Currently, the city allows ADUs up to 24-feet by 24-feet and one-and-a-half stories, but features like partially-exposed basements and roof forms that increase habitable space can result in backyard cottages closer to the proposed 1,750-square footage. While city staff described the proposal as "representative of the typical backyard cottage" in the area, many residents consider the current standards too large.

"The conversation the council is going to have is if we want to turn down the knob on the overall square footage, given the fact that [the state] has taken away one of the most logical ways for us to regulate this," Councilor Ben Ewen-Campen said in a phone interview. Ewen-Campen will shift to the state legislature next year.

State law limits options

The state law, which went into effect last year, requires that ADUs be allowed in any zoning district that allows a single-family residential dwelling. For Somerville, that includes both the Neighborhood Residential and Urban Residential districts, which make up about 60 percent of its land space.

The dimensional and design standards for ADUs in those areas cannot be more restrictive than they are for the principal building. This means that Somerville cannot regulate an ADU's size by width, depth, or number of stories to be more restrictive than what is permitted for the primary building on the lot. Instead, the city can regulate size based on the gross floor area.

For backyard cottages, the proposal would establish a maximum total floor area of 1,750 square feet. That's three times the allowed floorplate square footage under current zoning, which allows a 24-feet wide by 24-feet deep structure of one and a half stories. The new proposal would permit the same sizing for ADUs on lots with triple decker buildings. However, additions like partially-exposed basements and gabled roofs have resulted in backyard cottages closer to the proposed 1,750 square footage.

In addition to the maximum square footage limit, the proposal decreases the primary front setback from 60 feet to 10 feet. "We expect that changing that setback means we'll see less issues of lots that are uniquely shaped or lots with multiple frontages," Cena said. The proposal also simplifies the description of a backyard cottage and relaxes some design standards to align with the principal structure.

In developing the proposal, city staff conducted workshops with various departments, an analytical report of backyard cottages built in Somerville between February 2022 and July 2026, interviews with industry experts and focus groups with architects and developers.

"We learned that backyard cottages of their current size are in high demand in Somerville," Cena said at the hearing. She described them as one example of residential projects that remain in high demand during a time of stunted development growth. "They allow multi-generational living and allow new families or working couples an option that is a standalone unit in the city that's a little bit more affordable than other options."

However, Somerville has no way to dictate the affordability of backyard cottage units under the state law, which denies any requirement for occupancy, including income. With the city's limited purview over certain zoning standards, residents are concerned the buildings allowed under the proposal will be far from what most consider a backyard cottage and could hurt renters by encouraging condo-style development.

Residents fear ADUs will mean fewer rental units

"Everyone who rents in the city should understand that, unless you have money for a down payment for a luxury condominium, [this proposal] does not help you," attorney and former city councilor Bill White said in a phone interview. "If you currently rent and your building is sold, it will hurt you."

Earlier this year, White proposed amendments to limit backyard cottages to 900 square feet maximum and ensure ADUs have the same owner as the principal structure on a property. Those amendments did not receive a vote before the city council's summer recess and expired. After reviewing the mayor's amendments, White plans to resubmit his proposal this fall.

The mayor's amendments will create more units, White says, but "What kind of units? Luxury condominium units. At what cost? The removal of rental units."

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

Income growth

From Page 1

The city's transformation from densely populated working-class community into a desirable destination for young professionals has been underway for decades. But, the latest census figures suggest that its gentrification has accelerated dramatically over the past 10 years. With it comes a core question: Are longtime residents becoming wealthier, or are higher-income newcomers increasingly replacing those who can no longer afford to live in the city?

Meet the new neighbors

Galligani noted that approximately 70% of Somerville's housing units are occupied by renters, so the city can see considerable residential turnover. Anecdotally, at least, he said the newcomers represent "a different cohort of people, for sure."

Fueling the change, and income growth, has been Greater Boston's technology sector, followed by the Green Line extension. Development around new transit stations and in Assembly Row has strengthened the city's commercial tax base, Galligani said, helping fund public services. This is not just the case for Somerville. "You also see a huge increase from places like Malden, Medford, Arlington … so this is really a regional story, as much as it is a story about Somerville," Galligani said.

What's happening is an economic success story, said Jennifer Lawrence, executive director of the Somerville Chamber of Commerce. "There are more potential customers now. There's more disposable income. There's new commercial activity. There's been significant investment in the city," Lawrence said.

Change brings consequences

However, she cautioned that those benefits have not been evenly distributed. Rising commercial rents and operating costs have put pressure on independent shops and restaurants, threatening the survival of both longtime mom-and-pop businesses and immigrant-owned enterprises. "Economic growth and equitable economic development are not interchangeable," she said, adding that the chamber has conducted extensive outreach to immigrant-owned businesses to better understand their needs. "I don't want us to lose those long-term businesses that have been here for generations."

Living in Somerville has also become increasingly less affordable, said Ellen Shachter, director of the city's Office of Housing Stability. As higher earners compete for apartments, landlords can charge rents that longtime tenants may be unable to pay.

To read more about the challenges of gentrification, scan the QR code

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MARKET PULSE

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CAMBRIDGE		
CONDOS	SINGLES	MULTIS
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CONDOS	SINGLES	MULTIS
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Source: MLS PIN statistics for "Market Pulse"

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EDUCATION

Amigos School move will expand dual-language education

By JULIA CARPI

The School Committee voted unanimously at Tuesday night's meeting to adopt the recommendation of Superintendent David Murphy to move the Amigos School to 158 Spring Street by the start of the 2028-29 school year.

The committee applauded after the vote, which capped 16 months of discussion since the building's previous occupant, the Kennedy-Longfellow School, was closed.

"It's always good to take an opportunity to clap at these meetings," said David Weinstein, the committee's chair.

Murphy had put the Amigos school one step closer to relocation last Thursday night, making the recommendation at a special meeting of the School Committee. The final committee vote means that there could be significantly expanded access to one of the district's highest demand schools, and its only pre-K-8 dual-language program.

Planning for the move will begin this fall, with the Amigos School to relocate by the Fall of 2028, after an expected $14 million to $18 million in renovations. In the new building, the district will increase enrollment annually for three to five years after the building's opening until it reaches capacity. Amigos has 418 students, while the Spring Street building has capacity for 650.

The potential for a larger student body was a plus for Priscilla Allen, who has two kids at Amigos. "Being able to bring in more students from the waitlist is a huge opportunity," Allen said.

Members of the School Committee and Amigos staff praised the school's tight-knit community, its Spanish dual-immersion program and its performance outcome data, which improved the most of any district school on this year's state testing data.



The Amigos School in Cambridgeport will see a significant expansion in recreational space when it moves to 158 Spring Street.

Murphy, too, spoke highly of the school during his presentation.

"I'm thankful to the Amigos (community) for helping us to make this argument by being such a strong school," Murphy said. "And I believe that if this recommendation is approved, you'll be an even stronger one in the future."

Committee members were largely in support of the relocation. Committee Member Richard Harding called it a "promise kept" to the East Cambridge community and Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui said it is a "great opportunity."

Expanding access

The Amigos School has the second-lowest percentage of high-need students out of all the district's schools, at a little over 38%. The Baldwin School has the lowest high-need student population, at 31%. (The district uses high-need as an umbrella category for students who have disabilities, are English-language learners or are low-income.)

Committee Member Luisa de Paula Santos asked Murphy about district plans to boost high-need enrollment in the new Amigos building. Reevaluating the district's school choice system, particularly its socioeconomic status (SES) metrics, may be a part of the solution, Murphy said.

Socioeconomic status is considered alongside other factors like geographic proximity and family preference when a student is placed in a district school. Although more than 80% of families receive their top choice school, the demographic of families that do not get their preference is disproportionately low-income, Murphy added.

The school's new geographic location may also give residents of East Cambridge a better chance of being placed at Amigos, as will its expanded capacity.

Part of the superintendent's recommendation is to increase enrollment at the new Amigos building year-by-year, which he said would allow the district to provide additional staffing to the school over time.

"We would need a [paraprofessional] with a teacher for each classroom that we add. The paras are very important linguistic models in addition to the classroom teachers," said Sarah Marrero, Amigos School principal, on what staffing would be required in a larger school.

Parent excitement

Amigos parents reached by Cambridge Day were pleased by the prospective newer building.

"I'm excited that we're getting close to a final decision, because I think it has been very stressful for all the communities involved to live with uncertainty," said Paola Rebusco, who has a fourth-grader at Amigos. "I think it's great for the Amigos community, for East Cambridge, and for the city at large." Rebusco lives in East Cambridge and her child attended preschool at the former Kennedy-Longfellow School.

The district is renovating the Spring Street building's HVAC system, replacing windows and upgrading its plumbing and electrical infrastructure. Upgrades to community spaces such as the auditorium, cafeteria and lobby, though their scope will depend on available funds.

Priscilla Allen said she is worried about whether the renovations will be finished by the start of the school year in 2028. Rebusco said that she hopes the district keeps families apprised about the status of the work.

Member Harding requested new seats in the Spring Street auditorium, which Murphy said is in the plans. "My parents sat in those same seats that are in that building now," Harding said.

Future of Upton Street

Murphy also referenced the issues with the Amigos School's current home at Upton Street, which is overcrowded and in need of significant physical updates.

"There are significant facility deficiencies that, regardless of what we were to do, it would require some level of capital investment," Murphy said.

As an example of the limited outdoor space at Upton, Steven Rodenas, a fifth and sixth grade social studies teacher at the school, said that at recess Thursday, "I saw a frisbee flying over a football while some kids were trying to play soccer."

Allen said overcrowding at the Upton Street building's cafeteria means lunch periods are staggered, and that she's excited for her child to not have "lunch at 10 o'clock in the morning."

It is unclear how the district will use the Upton Street building after the Amigos move. Murphy mentioned it could accommodate preschool programming as part of a network of early-learning centers, which had been a possible option for the Spring Street building. Upton Street was also discussed as a potential new home for the High School Extension Program.

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BUSINESS

Roxy's Arcade closes after alleged financial misconduct

By SAMANTHA GENZER



Samantha Genzer

Roxy's Grilled Cheese in Central Square houses Roxy's Arcade, which closed Monday, at 292 Massachusetts Ave. in Cambridge. Roxy's Grilled Cheese remains open.

Roxy's Arcade in Central Square closed Monday after its owner said a former manager allegedly "misappropriated tens of thousands of dollars."

James DiSabatino, owner of Roxy's Grilled Cheese and Roxy's Arcade, wrote in an Instagram post that a senior manager had been terminated after the alleged financial misconduct came to light about two weeks ago. It is unclear when or whether the arcade will reopen.

The employee, whom DiSabatino did not name, allegedly failed to submit payments to vendors, leaving thousands of dollars in bills overdue, he wrote.

"Together, the missing funds and unpaid bills put our small business under enormous financial strain," DiSabatino wrote.

The former manager also allegedly entered into an agreement with the arcade's game vendor that "significantly increased" game-leasing fees. Fulfilling the agreement would have cost the business $22,000, DiSabatino wrote.

Ownership told the vendor it could not honor the agreement and proposed returning to its previously arranged rate, DiSabatino wrote. "This vendor refused to negotiate and is now removing all of the games from the arcade, forcing us to close immediately," he said in his post.

Roxy's Grilled Cheese remains open, however. The restaurant houses the arcade; signs on the arcade's door read, "Arcade is closed for a private event."



Samantha Genzer

In a phone call Monday evening with Cambridge Day, DiSabatino declined to comment further on the alleged misappropriation, citing legal concerns.

"We had to furlough 18 people," DiSabatino said. "We're trying to get back open as soon as possible."

A Cambridge Day reporter visited Roxy's Monday evening, and several employees said they had been told not to speak with reporters. "We are angry," DiSabatino wrote on Instagram. "Our staff, guests, and community have every right to be angry too. Our biggest concern right now is the people whose livelihoods depend on this place."

The Cambridge Police Department did not respond Monday to a request to discuss whether a report had been filed or an investigation opened into the alleged misappropriation.

Michael Monestime, executive director of Central Square Business Improvement District, said his organization is concerned for the workers "facing uncertainty because of the alleged actions of one employee."

"Roxy's Arcade is an important part of Central Square's nightlife economy," Monestime said in a statement to Cambridge Day. "It has supported drag trivia, a strong DJ culture, and a welcoming place where guests can sip, play and connect. Places like Roxy's help make Central a destination after dark and contribute to the creativity and energy of the neighborhood."

The BID launched a GoFundMe to help the affected workers, Monestime said. DiSabatino encouraged people in the comments on his Instagram post to suggest events and gatherings that could make reopening the arcade possible. Commenters proposed trivia and other game nights, live music, lessons and a Halloween party with a costume contest.

"We'll be back," DiSabatino said. "We're just trying to figure it out."

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

ADVERTORIAL

Which Craft? Cambridge has what you need for that homemade holiday touch

by KARI KUELZER



Courtesy of Alex Makes Art

Pumpkin Decoupage from Kendall/MIT Open Space's Fall Party.

Pumpkin carving, monster makeup, gluing stuffed animals to empty bottles of Wild Berry Gin. These are just the gateway drugs of the annual DIY binge that escalates predictably with holiday tablescapes, handmade gifts, and ornaments.

As the nights grow longer, life moves indoors. It's the perfect time to pick up a craft project that can keep your hands off the doomscroll for a few hours, or provide an excuse to gather with friends to share tools and materials.

When your candy-fueled ambitions kick in, proceed directly to Inman Square and hit Gather Here. Novice or expert, you'll find inspiration, materials, and community to help move your project to the next level.

Want to unwind after a busy day? Felt, carve, and collage with curated materials and make intergenerational connections at free crafting opportunities by Alex Makes Art. Craft n' Chill on Tuesdays throughout the season at Kendall Center or stop by for weekend crafts at the Canal District Kendall Winter Market in December. Tags Hardware in Porter Square sits demurely above a big chain craft store named after every man living on Long Island, NY. When you discover you need something so specific you don't even know what it's called, Tags is the place to go. Who knew that a cotterless lynch pin would solve everything?!

If you aspire to be someone who sends beautiful handwritten notes, remembers everyone's birthday, and wraps presents that are almost too pretty to open, head back to Inman Square and visit Albertine Press. You can also find something already lovingly made among their irresistible collection of small gifts.

If you just don't have the bandwidth, or enough room on your kitchen table for a full-blown crafting project, even a handwritten letter can feel extravagant in an age when we often communicate in emojis. Bob Slate is a fabulous place to find high-quality stationery, and their pen section lets you try out the merchandise until you find your perfect match.

Crafting shouldn't feel like a test of your ability to reproduce a picture or a ten-second timelapse video. Who wants more of the same anyway? Invite a friend, pour something seasonal, and find out what you can make together. Your local shops have the supplies and the know-how. The rest is up to you.

Kari Kuelzer is the Board Chair of Cambridge Local First and owns Grendel's Den and The Sea Hag Restaurant and Bar in Harvard Square

EVENTS OCT 22 TO NOV 5

Monday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Menopunks Podcast Live!

$20. Menopunks Founder Alicia J. Rose, who directed over 3 dozen music videos for artists like First Aid Kit, Cake and Bob Mould, hosts this comic portrayal of the truth behind the science of menopause.

Saturday, Oct. 24, Noon to 4 p.m.
Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, 11 Divinity Ave., in the Baldwin neighborhood near Harvard Square.

Day of the Dead Celebration

Admission to the museum is $20 for adults, or $15 for kids. You can personalize a sugar skull (extra fee), watch a mariachi performance with live folk dance at 2 p.m., and write a message to departed loved ones for the museum altar. Hot chocolate and pan de muerto are available for purchase.

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Ave., Spring Hill.

Party Around the World: Celebrating Language, Culture and Connection

$25 to $75. Found in Translation celebrates 15 years of empowering bilingual women, advancing language access and building a thriving interpreter workforce at this family-friendly event. Children 12 and under are free.

Thursday, Oct. 29, 5 to 7 p.m.
Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Central Hill.

Truck O' Treat at City Hall

Free. Costumes are encouraged at this family-friendly event, which will include safe trick or treating on the City Hall concourse, a spooktacular visit from a decorated City of Somerville truck, lawn games, light refreshments, and more. Rain date: Nov. 5.

For hundreds more events, or to submit your own, scan here .

Friday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m. to midnight
Lamplighter CX, 110 N. First St., North Point.

Haunted Haus Drag and Dance Party

$10 and 21-plus. Sammi Miammi and a cast of characters perform a Halloween-themed drag show, with a DJ to dance the night away. There will also be a costume contest.

Thursday, Nov. 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy St., near Harvard Square.

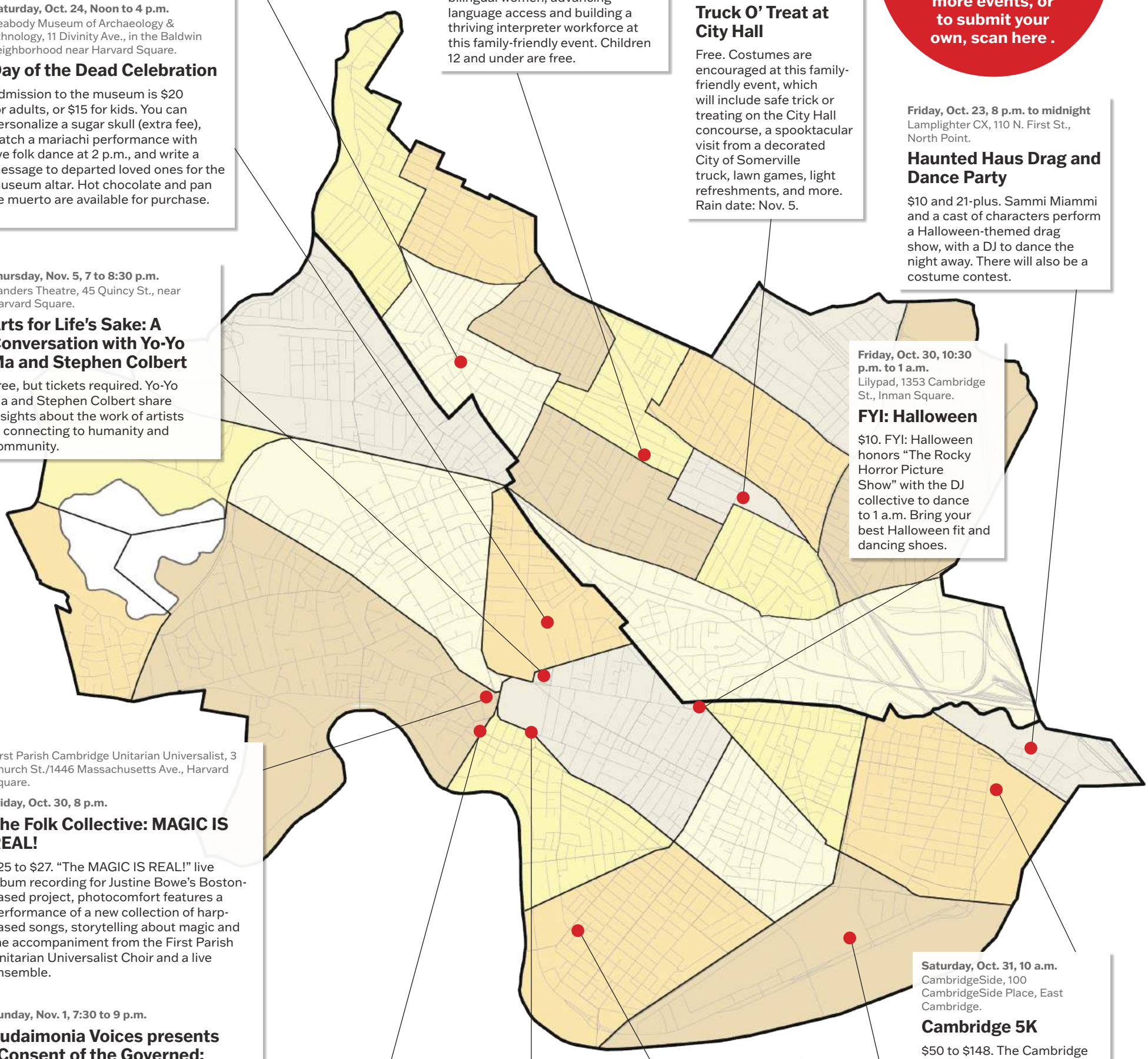
Arts for Life's Sake: A Conversation with Yo-Yo Ma and Stephen Colbert

Free, but tickets required. Yo-Yo Ma and Stephen Colbert share insights about the work of artists in connecting to humanity and community.

Friday, Oct. 30, 10:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Lilypad, 1353 Cambridge St., Inman Square.

FYI: Halloween

$10. FYI: Halloween honors "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" with the DJ collective to dance to 1 a.m. Bring your best Halloween fit and dancing shoes.



First Parish Cambridge Unitarian Universalist, 3 Church St./1446 Massachusetts Ave., Harvard Square.

Friday, Oct. 30, 8 p.m.

The Folk Collective: MAGIC IS REAL!

$25 to $27. "The MAGIC IS REAL!" live album recording for Justine Bowe's Boston-based project, photocomfort features a performance of a new collection of harp-based songs, storytelling about magic and the accompaniment from the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Choir and a live ensemble.

Sunday, Nov. 1, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Eudaimonia Voices presents "Consent of the Governed: Singing 250 Years Toward Democracy"

$20 suggested donation. "Declare" is a new piece by Boston-area composer John Howell Morrison, commissioned by Eudaimonia Voices on the occasion of the nation's bisesquicentennial. The world premiere is part of "Consent of the Governed: Singing 250 Years Toward Democracy," the fall concert by Eudaimonia Voices, a unique ensemble that melds music and activism.

Saturday, Oct. 31, 10 a.m.
CambridgeSide, 100 CambridgeSide Place, East Cambridge.

Cambridge 5K

$50 to $148. The Cambridge 5K is a 3.1-mile course that starts and finishes at CambridgeSide.

Sunday, Oct. 25, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Congregation Eitz Chayim, 136 Magazine St., Cambridgeport

Heart of the Culture: Somebody's Gotta Tell James

Free but register. In this one-act play, the rapper and educator Cakeswagg adapts the James Baldwin short story "Sonny's Blues," exploring different endings. Sponsored by Black History in Action for Cambridgeport.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Building W15: MIT Chapel, 48 Massachusetts Ave.

Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rescheduled 2026 MIT Great Glass Pumpkin Patch

Free entry. The 25th annual MIT Great Glass Pumpkin Patch offers glass pumpkins of all colors, shapes and sizes for sale to the public with the proceeds going back to the lab.

Sunday, Oct. 25, 2 p.m.
The Comedy Studio, 5 John F. Kennedy St., Harvard Square.

Let's Not Die: A Live D&D Comedy Performance

$14 to 24. Tess Dion, the game master, guides comedians through a one-shot. This one-shot takes place in Cambridge, home to a hidden realm of magic. PG-13 content.

Monday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.
Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Ave.

Thomas Frank on "The Creativity Con: How Innovation Became America's Biggest Racket"

Free. Frank, founding editor of The Baffler and a former columnist for The Wall Street Journal, discusses the evolution of American exceptionalism from Sputnik to Silicon Valley, Apple to Lockheed Martin, Madison Avenue to Main Street.

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 6:30 p.m.

What is Your Light?

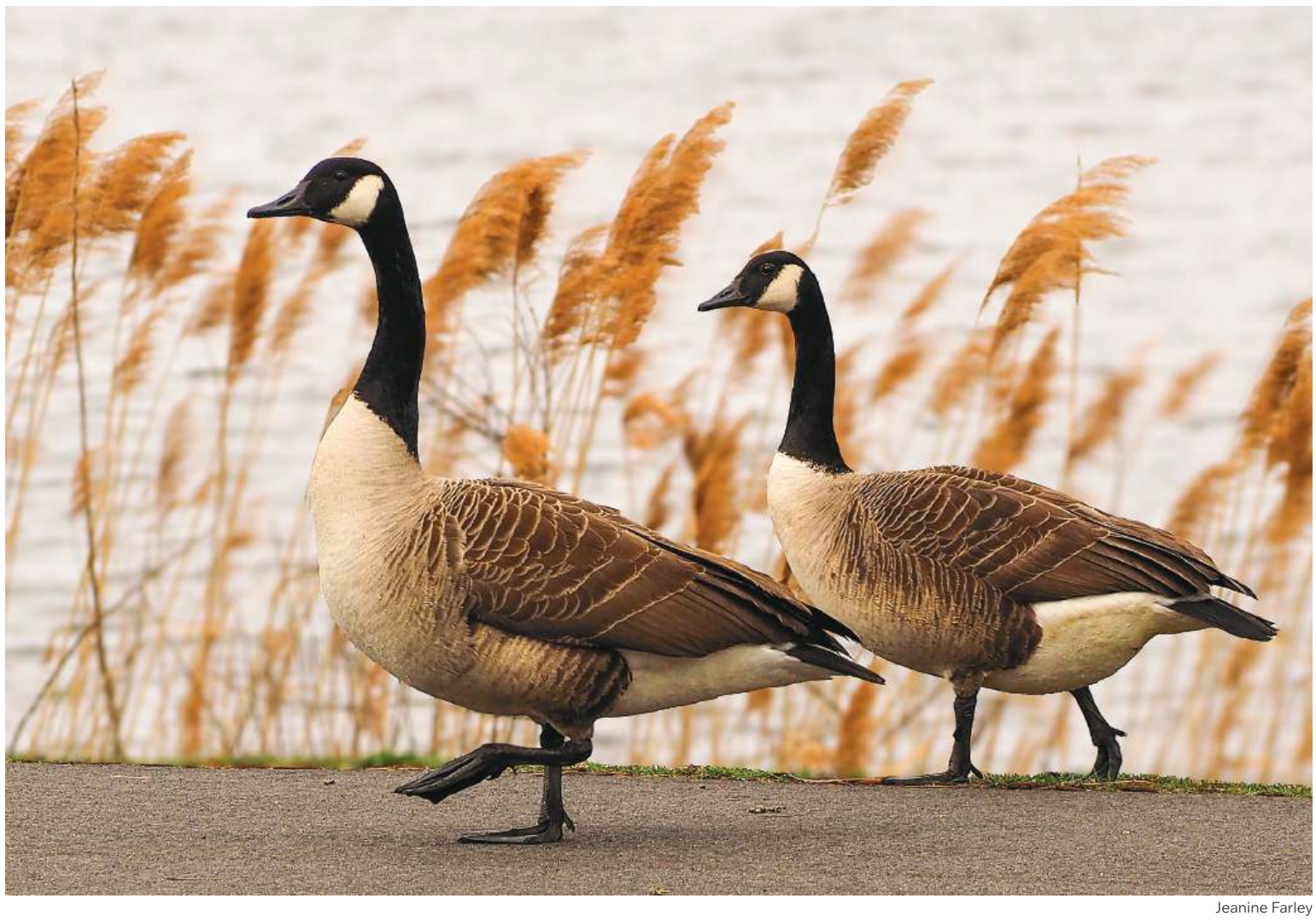
Free. Presented by the MIT Office of Religious, Spiritual, and Ethical Life, "What is Your Light?" transforms the MIT Chapel into a living canvas of light, sound and reflection. Visitors are invited to first strike a tam-tam, activating lanterns of light on the building and sending ripples of sound across the Kresge Oval.

■ 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

These geese aren't from Canada

By JEANINE FARLEY



Jeanine Farley

Canada geese, noted for their white chin straps, parade along the Mystic River in Somerville.

You may be surprised to learn that before the 1930s, Canada geese *(Branta canadensis)* did not commonly nest in Massachusetts. These geese were mostly migratory, nesting and breeding far to the north, hence the name Canada goose.

Now, some Canada geese are still migratory, nesting in the north and wintering in central and southern parts of the United States and in parts of Mexico. But other Canada geese are year-round residents, gracing us with their raucous presence all winter long.

What made Canada geese stop migrating? In a word, hunting. In the 1800s, hunters used live decoys and wooden geese to lure migratory geese. In the 1840s, goose hunters (called gunners) near Plymouth, built the first documented shooting stand with live decoys. These involved keeping young geese cooped up in a room of the tower and tethering their parents to the ground near the blind.

When the hunters saw migratory geese approaching, they slid open a door and shooed out the young geese. The alarmed parents, tethered to the ground near the blind, saw their youngsters flying away and called out to their kids.

Geese and their offspring form strong bonds (young geese remain with their parents for about a year.) The young geese, heeding their parents, circled and returned to the shooting stand, luring migratory geese with them.

These could be large operations. The most famous tower in Massachusetts used 300 to 400 live geese, and the hunters would send 60 or more young geese into the air at once. The gunners would spend days in this routine. One gunner said, "Since live decoys have come into use, it seems to take no effort ... to bag 200 birds each morning."

By the late 1800s, this overhunting meant Canada geese had almost completely disappeared from our region.

(If you think this was cruel, snipe and curlew hunters crippled birds by shooting them in the wings. The hunters placed the injured birds on the ground or in shallow water to call in distress. The distress calls lured unsuspecting migrant birds to the waiting gunners.)

Finally, in 1935, the Bureau of Biological Survey (a predecessor to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) banned live decoys. At the time, Massachusetts breeders had 8,500 registered live-decoy geese. After the ban, breeders released many of these captive geese into the wild, mostly in eastern Massachusetts. By 1938, hunters had abandoned most shooting stands because their success depended on live decoys.



Bird-Lore magazine, 1921

Hunters paint Canada goose decoys, 1899.

These released decoy geese did not migrate, because Canada geese breed near where they hatch and learn to fly (called natal philopatry). In one study, 96 percent of Canada geese raised their young near where they were born. Releasing captive geese that breeders had hatched and raised locally led to offspring that did not migrate north to nest in the spring. These geese, born here, thought Massachusetts was where they belonged. They did not know that historically their ancestors had bred far to the north. When spring breeding season arrived, these geese nested around ponds, lakes and marshes close to where they grew up.



Jeanine Farley

Twenty-five gosling gather along the Malden River near Costco, while their mother down below encourages them to jump, which they eventually did.

Young geese travel with their parents on their first migration south. If the parents haven't learned to migrate, the youngsters do not learn either. This, coupled with plenty of grassy open space for feeding and the birds' ability to survive Massachusetts winters, led to goose families settling in Massachusetts year-round.

One other factor complicated the migration picture: There are seven subspecies of the Canada goose. When European settlers first arrived on our shores in the 1600s, the geese they encountered were mostly the subspecies Atlantic Canada geese *(Branta canadensis canadensis)*. Early hunters extirpated these geese from our region.

In the live-decoy era, breeders raised a different subspecies, the Giant Canada goose *(Branta canadensis maxima)*. This goose came from the Great Lakes region. This subspecies was a little larger than other Canada geese and less migratory. It tended to stay near its breeding ground year-round. The 1930s breeders released mostly giant Canada geese in Massachusetts.

By the 1960s, the year-round Canada goose population had grown so much that they were nuisances in eastern parts of the state. From the 1960s through 1976, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife captured goslings in eastern Massachusetts and transplanted them to areas without geese in central and western Massachusetts. Their goal: To provide sporting opportunities for hunters.

At the time, the resident goose population was about 6,000 to 8,000 birds, but from the 1980s onward, the. By 1993, it had grown to 32,000. By 2014 it was 38,000. Beginning in 1988, Massachusetts introduced resident goose hunting. Today, these hunting seasons occur in early fall and mid-winter when migratory geese are less common visitors.

Of course, people do not shoot geese at all in urban areas like Cambridge and Somerville. Since one goose can produce a pound or more of droppings per day, they can become a real problem — especially on golf courses, ball fields and lawns. Both Boston and Arlington tackle the problem by oiling goose eggs. Oiled eggs do not hatch, which gradually leads to a lower goose population.

Massachusetts went from having almost no breeding Canada geese before the 1930s to releasing thousands of decoy geese in the late 1930s to deliberately spreading goslings across the state in the 1960s. Today, our resident Canada geese love that dirty water and think Massachusetts is their home.

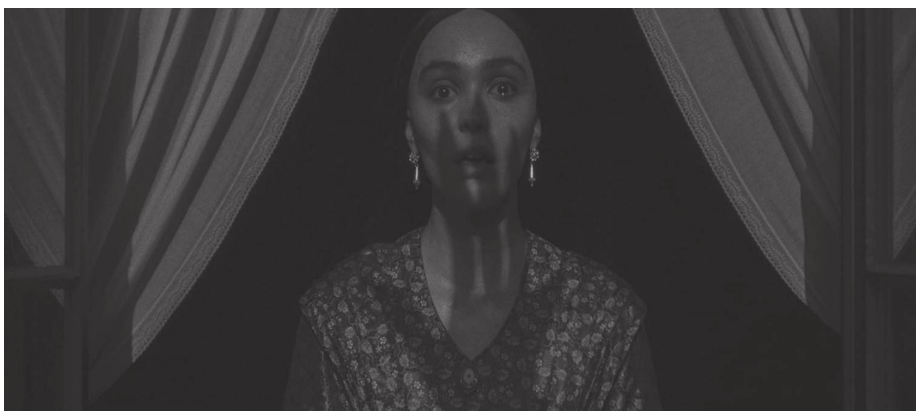


Jeanine Farley

A Canada goose family rests in the Alewife Brook Reservation.

FILM

LOCAL FOCUS



A still from the 2024 Robert Eggers' remake of "Nosferatu."

GlobeDocs and scary treats

BY OSCAR GOFF

We're currently between legs of **IFFBoston's Fall Focus**, but that doesn't mean there's any shortage of great festival screenings. On Friday, the Boston Globe continues its annual **GlobeDocs** festival at the **Brattle Theatre** (with additional screenings across the river at Coolidge Corner Theatre and Alamo Drafthouse Boston Seaport). Highlights include **"Union Town"** (2026), the latest feature from legendary documentarian Barbara Kopple, on Friday; **"The Other Side of Memory"** (2026), screening Saturday, in which Massachusetts-bred filmmaker Nick Capezzera and his sister, Anna, seek out their respective biological parents in South Korea, to strikingly different results; and Sunday's finale **"Playing POTUS"** (2026), in which a range of comedians reflect on the experience of satirizing sitting heads of state. For the full schedule, go to *events.bostonglobe.com/2026/globedocs*.

On Friday, the **Harvard Film Archive** starts. In **Great Expectations: British Postwar Cinema 1945-1960,** programmer Ehsan Khoshbakht explores the ways in which U.K. filmmakers grappled with questions of uncertainty and cultural identity in the wake of World War II. The series begins Friday with two very different films: Alexander Mackendrick's **"Mandy"** (1952), the tender story of a little deaf girl learning to fit in with her classmates, and J. Lee Thompson's **"The Yellow Balloon"** (1953), a jet-black film noir in which a young boy is drawn into a criminal underworld in the ruins of post-Blitz London. Saturday brings a pair of socially progressive features in Basil Dearden's **"Pool of London"** (1951), which casts Black actor Earl Cameron as its romantic lead, and **"Turn the Key Softly"** (1953), which follows three women as they readjust to society following their respective prison sentences. **"It Always Rains on Sunday"** (1947) and **"Hunted"** (1952), on Monday, both tell of fugitives making their way through the bleak landscapes of postwar London.

Cinephiles with a taste for podcasts will likely be familiar with **"You Must Remember This,"** film writer Karina Longworth's acclaimed series that delves into "the secret and/or forgotten histories of Hollywood's first century." To celebrate the podcast's latest season, "The Bisexuals," which charts a path through early queer Hollywood by way of the life of singer and so-called black widow Libby Holman, Longworth visits the Brattle this week to introduce a trio of thematically relevant films. Holman herself appears in the landmark surrealist feature **"Dreams That Money Can Buy"** (1947), which includes contributions from such art world luminaries as Max Ernst, Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray, and John Cage; it screens Tuesday in a double feature with Otto Preminger's art-world noir classic **"Laura"** (1944). On Wednesday, Longworth introduces **"A Place in the Sun"** (1951), whose star, Montgomery Clift, was among the closeted Hollywood royalty drawn into Holman's web.

On Tuesday, the **Somerville Theatre** kicks off its sixth annual **Halloween Hullabaloo**, double features selected by guest programmer **Julia Marchese**, co-host of the long-running podcast **"Horror Movie Survival Guide."** Tuesday brings in George A. Romero's beyond-influential zombie masterpiece **"Night of the Living Dead"** (1968) and Nobuhiko Obayashi's gonzo cult classic **"Hausu"** (1977). Things get zany Wednesday with **"Killer Klowns from Outer Space"** (1988) and Don Coscarelli's oddball nightmare **"Phantasm"** (1979). On Thursday, Marchese pays tribute to the king — Stephen King — with **"Cujo"** (1983) and the original **"Pet Sematary"** (1989).

This being spooky season, the local cinemas are pulling out all the stops with too many eerie offerings to count — but we're going to do our best. On Friday and Saturday, the **Museum of Science** projects Ridley Scott's space-horror classic **"Alien"** (1979) onto the gigantic screen of the Mugar Omni Theater. Also on Saturday, the **Kendall Square Cinema** continues its Monster Madness series with **"Creature from the Black Lagoon"** (1954). On Sunday, Claudio Simonetti, of the legendary Italian prog rock band Goblin, stops by the Somerville to perform his score to Dario Argento's 1982 *giallo* classic **"Tenebre."** On Monday, thrifty horror hounds can choose from free screenings of Roger Corman's **"The Premature Burial"** (1962), presented by the **Somerville Ciné-Club** at the **Somerville Public Library Central Branch**, or John Carpenter's **"Halloween"** (1978) at the Brattle.

Also, The Kendall concludes its October offerings with Robert Eggers' **"Nosferatu"** (2024) on Tuesday and John Carpenter's **"The Thing"** (1982) on Wednesday. If that Eggers screening whets your fangs, head to **Lesley University's Marran Theater** Thursday for a very special screening of F.W. Murnau's original **"Nosferatu"** (1922), with the score played live by members of the Arpeggione Ensemble on vintage instruments from the early 20th century. And if you prefer your vampires with a more contemporary bite, stop by **Cambridge Public Library (Central Square branch)** that same night for a free screening of Ryan Coogler's modern classic **"Sinners"** (2025). All that should have you well and truly prepared for Halloween proper next weekend — if you're not too scared to leave the house.

REVIEWS

Transparent to a fault



Elizabeth Holmes in a scene from the documentary "You Can See Everything."

Nathan Fielder and Lance Oppenheim's documentary about fallen tech star Elizabeth Holmes is a riveting head trip and wild genre-bender that intoxicatingly combines classic journalism with inventive narrative departures. This eely shapeshifter burrows into you and won't let go.

The making of the film is as much the story as its subject, who — at the time Fielder and Oppenheim catch up with her — is 34 days from beginning an 11-year prison sentence for defrauding investors of hundreds of millions of dollars. Theranos, her blood-testing start-up that promised to revolutionize health care and help detect cancer early, could only perform a small number of the 240-plus analytical tests it claimed. Holmes founded the company at 19. She and her Theranos partner and lover, Sunny Balwani, were exposed in a 2015 Wall Street Journal investigative piece and later tried on felony charges for fraud and fiscal deceit, sentenced in 2022 (Balwani got 12 years), and ordered to pay more than $450 million in restitution.

Fielder embeds with Holmes, her current partner, Billy Evans, and their two young children at a rented seaside bungalow near San Diego for the month before Holmes starts her sentence at a minimum-security prison in Texas.

If you're not familiar with Fielder's deadpan comic style, you could think of him as the synthesized hybrid of Ashton Kutcher and Steven Wright. The Comedy Central alum ("Dumb Starbucks") goes after his subjects in the film with a sharklike hunger in his eyes and proves impressively adroit — if a bit too rapacious — in his ability to leverage half-answers and awkward silences. When Evans says that in 2017 it was love at first sight for him when he encountered Holmes, already under investigation, Fielder pushes back: "So you saw all this and just decided, 'I want this to be my life? Sign me up!'"

Oppenheim and the crew behind the camera gain fly-on-the-wall access and frame Fielder, Holmes, and Evans in such tight close-ups that you can see nearly every blemish and pore on their faces, often shooting in contorted, uneven angles that enhance the surreal effect. Holmes, who has large luminous eyes and a calm, convincing demeanor, initially seemed the villain both in the news and in the Hulu series "The Dropout" (she left Stanford to launch Theranos). This film makes you wonder if she wasn't just naive or an idiot savant manipulated by Balwani and other men in her life — including Evans. Fielder shows Holmes the famous Abbott and Costello "Who's on First?" comedy routine, subversively likening it to Holmes's half-answers about what she knew and believed while running Theranos. She laughs, but never quite gets the joke, even after Fielder spells it out for her.

Evans manages Holmes in front of the camera. There's something off-putting and narcissistic about him from the jump. In one scene, he boldly allows a full-frontal nude shot, and in a strange meet-up later on, he tells Amanda Seyfried, who played Holmes in the Hulu series, how great a lover he is. He never seems sincere, but then again, Fielder and Evans seem to have a quietly combative aggro thing going on, and you wonder if some of those emotions didn't make their way into the editing bay. Fielder's relationship with Holmes is more nuanced, leaning increasingly sympathetic over the film's duration.

The title of the film comes from a text Holmes sent Fielder during the ramp-up. It seems like a hollow promise, but as the film goes on, you begin to believe that she believes she is being open and transparent with Fielder and Oppenheim. It seems impossible given the conclusion of the court, but the film allows both truths to live side-by-side. (Holmes is still in jail but set to move to a halfway house next year.)

How and why "You Can See Everything" got made is an intriguing undercard that begets a series of plot twists best not revealed. In fact, it's amazing that the film ever got made. It took nearly four years to shoot (it begins with a pugnacious Fielder and ends with a gaunt and greyed soul in need of a rest) and clocks in at 174 minutes. Still, it never feels long. Those 34 days before prison account for about half the film's running time. Once Holmes is behind bars, the enigma of Holmes, Evans and Theranos does not ebb — if anything, it grows — and some nifty narrative conventions concocted by Oppenheim and Fielder come into play. They included Seyfried, who had no contact with Holmes for her part in the miniseries that won her an Emmy, the financial structuring of the film and a dry pony fart.

It's a strange brew that mystifies as it beguiles. What might be taken at face value as a witch hunt is anything but. It's not so much an exploration for the truth as a plumbing of the characters' souls, and their motivations. You might not buy all of the answers — but you will be riveted by them.

— TOM MEEK

★★★½

Playing at the Somerville Theatre, Kendall Square Cinema and AMC Assembly Row 12.

FOOD

The Mushroom Shop moves to specialty food row in Cambridge

By RUTH TAM



Photos: Ruth Tam

Mushroom Shop owner Tyler Akabane at the new location of his store on Cambridge Street.

The Mushroom Shop, the beloved local proprietor of wild and cultivated culinary mushrooms, has officially opened the doors of its new location on Cambridge Street.

Customers of the former Winter Hill location will be greeted by the same mushroom fridge, whimsical vibe and cheeky signs, but will have over double the room to peruse an expanded selection that includes produce, tea, condiments and books.

The new location in East Cambridge is near other specialty grocers: New Deal Fish Market, which has sold fresh fish in the neighborhood for nearly a century, and Elmendorf Baking Supplies & Cafe, which among other things mills its own flour.

Mushroom Shop customer Flora Spivak, founder of the Somerville Fermentation Festival, said she's "excited" about the new location. Spivak lives in Belmont and on Thursday, she stopped at Elmendorf on her way to The Mushroom Shop's new location for oyster and cauliflower mushrooms, and paw paws, a fruit with custard-like innards native to North America.

"I regularly go from one store to the other, and it wasn't very convenient before and now it is," she said.

She appreciates The Mushroom Shop as "an incredible resource for not just mushrooms but all sorts of funky things."

"I never know what I'm going to find there," she said.

From disgust to delight

The Mushroom Shop's owner, Tyler Akabane, is quick to admit he did not grow up loving mushrooms. "Up until I was 18, it was just Hot Pockets," he half-jokes.

Akabane, who grew up in Swampscott, said mushrooms in the United States are often thought of as either poisonous or psychedelic. But after expanding his palate in college, Akabane began probing the cookbooks of high-end restaurants to understand why people shelled out hundreds of dollars for a meal. Many of the ingredients listed were hard to source, including specific mushrooms.

Not long after college, he spotted morels growing in mulch outside the special education school in Randolph where he worked and harvested them. This first taste opened a portal to the world of wild mushrooms. Soon after, Akabane began foraging, which he likens to treasure hunting. At the time, "it felt like a mystical process," he said. "Like wizard skills."

He met the experienced forager Ben Maleson in the woods outside of Boston and they started selling mushrooms to high-end restaurants. Then came the 2020 pandemic, when lockdowns killed their orders. So Akabane launched a mushroom home delivery service to his Boston-area foodie friends via an Instagram account.

"It was really unusual and weird," he said. "We were just dropping off a brown bag on your doorstep and texting you. It was so sketchy, adjacent to a drug deal."

But the weirdness was part of the service's charm.

"Part of it was the novelty," said Akabane. "This very unusual interaction was great fun for people as well."

The delivery business was popular enough that Akabane crowdfunded a 665-square-foot brick-and-mortar business, which opened in 2022 in Winter Hill. He still sold to restaurants like Field and Vine and Giulia, and led mushroom foraging classes as well.

Four years in, the business was outgrowing its space. So as he neared the end of its lease, Akabane began searching for a new location.

A mushroom moment

Even after four years, Akabane isn't entirely convinced that he isn't still benefiting from a pandemic bump in business. During COVID lockdowns, commercial rents were low, and home cooking projects and foraging piqued the public's interest in culinary mushrooms.

"That opportunity isn't gonna happen again," Akabane said. "No one's gonna be really excited about a mushroom delivery again like they were during the pandemic."

But the niche element is still working in his favor. Akabane suspects there are fewer than a dozen mushroom shops in North America.

But this new location reads less like a novelty shop and more like a small grocer. While his shop currently stocks around 18 types of cultivated and wild mushrooms, there is also a table of local and specialty produce (think bergamot and yuzu) as well as walls of unique teas, heirloom beans, tinctures, tinned fish, and more.

At the same time, "a lot of these [products we sell] are intriguing or evocative." he said. "I think the best thing that we put on our sign is 'wonder.' I don't think I can sell wonder, but that's the thing that is keeping me engaged and probably keeps a lot of other people engaged."

Stop and shop

The grocers in East Cambridge are an emerging exception to the way food has been sold at supermarkets for generations. Instead of a one-stop shop with aisles of mass-produced produce and products from third-party vendors, The Mushroom Shop, New Deal, and Elmendorf specialize in a specific food, and offer other ingredients and tools to cook with it.

"We're trying to be a neighborhood food business," said Akabane. "It's just enough of what you need at home that maybe you don't have to go to the supermarket or something."

The Mushroom Shop can't compete with Market Basket on prices, but its customers are defining value in a different way.

"I actually really don't like going to grocery stores because it's kind of like the lowest common denominator in a way," said fermentation enthusiast Spivak. "Yes, you can get a lot of different things, but there's not necessarily handpicked curation. [Food] is an art, this is a craft."

The three specialty grocers on Cambridge Street are within 500 feet of each other. Is that close enough for a shopper who is used to finding all their groceries under the same roof?

"It's a good excuse to get your steps in and visit a couple nice places that you feel good about visiting," said Akabane. "At this moment in time, a lot of people have to make this decision of, 'Do you want to go into this more robotic future, where things are less personal, or do you want to take a step back and slow down and try to live a little more purposefully?'"



Maitake mushrooms for sale at The Mushroom Shop.

ADVERTISEMENT

1369

COFFEE HOUSE

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serving inman and central square since 1993

BOOKS

Cambridge kids catch 'Shawn Harris fever'

By ANNA ALBRECHT



Photos: Irene Yimmongkol

Cambridgeport School librarian Rosalie Norris (left) and a group of students hold Shawn Harris' books as they are photographed with him.

Shawn Harris got rave reviews from one of the harshest groups of critics out there: elementary school students.

Erupting fanfare and quiet awe rippled through the crowd when the children's book author and illustrator entered the Cambridgeport School Library. Over 100 first, second and third graders have spent almost a month preparing for Harris' arrival by reading his books in library class and discussing what it means to be an author and illustrator.

Thursday morning, Harris sat down with kids to discuss his most recent release, "Duel," and share his creative process.

"Duel" tells the story of a medieval battle between two rulers who seek to win their place on the hill. Resolution comes when the two entities realize they are equally matched and merge into one. Though there is not a sentence that states the moral, Harris said, the book shows that often in competition, when two opposing sides are equally matched, they respect each other more, encouraging sportsmanship.

"Duel" is Harris's 16th published children's book since 2017. The California author was awarded the Caldecott Honor for his book "Have You Ever Seen a Flower?" in 2022. The Caldecott Honor is given to the runner-up selections in the distinguished picture book award.

Harris, 44, said he worked backwards for this book, motivated first by the painting technique colloquially known as "squish painting" or "butterfly painting," in which paper is folded with paint applied to one half and opened to create a symmetrical, complete image. Harris said this technique served as the roots of "Duel" partially because it was a style familiar to children, and when kids see art that feels familiar it serves as "an entry way to make art more readily."



The library of Cambridgeport School was decorated in preparation for author Shawn Harris' visit. The students helped create the poster on the left, which references his book "Have You Ever Seen a Flower?"

"Picture books are amazing," Harris said. "You can tell any kind of story in them."

The children cheered as Harris demonstrated squish painting on a large piece of drawing paper, taking suggestions from them of different animals to use as the face of an animal-hybrid creature. Harris asked for anyone to define abstract art, to which one student said: "Go crazy and figure out what it is." Harris nodded thoughtfully in agreement.

First-grader Arlo said after the presentation he recognized the squish art technique and liked learning the inspiration behind Harris's book.

"I really liked him," second-grader Ana said. "I like making art too."

Ana said, for her, art is making comics. Arlo said he likes to draw. Someone asked when Harris started making books, and he answered it was when he was 7 years old. He showed a picture of himself, elementary school age, with his best friend Mac Barnett, with whom he has published books.

"He liked to tell stories," Harris said. "And I liked to make pictures." He told the children that any of them could one day do the same thing with their classmates.

The event was held in partnership with Porter Square Books Foundation, the nonprofit branch of a Cambridge bookstore that connects authors with various schools in the area. Through the foundation, Cambridgeport School Library was able to give 116 signed copies of "Duel" to students first through third grades. Hearing this news, the students cheered and giggled. Many high-fived or asked Harris questions at the end of the presentation. Rosalie Norris, library media specialist at Cambridgeport School, said the students had been excited for weeks about Shawn Harris, reading a book of his and then completing a craft project to supplement the lesson. She described the classroom environment as having "Shawn Harris fever."

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



Shawn Harris speaks to students after the event concluded.

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CAMBRIDGE HOUSING AUTHORITY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

REQUEST FOR QUOTES

Property Renovation 2 bedroom to 3 bedroom – 149 Willow Street, Cambridge, MA 02139

The Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA), as Owner and Managing Agent for its affiliate properties, is soliciting quotes from qualified vendors to renovate a residential unit at 149 Willow St in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by the Cambridge Housing Authority.

The work will include drywall, insulation, kitchen replacement, bathroom replacement, flooring, doors, ceiling refinishing, painting, and code compliance. The awarded contractor will be responsible for providing CHA with all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to complete the project in accordance with the terms of the specification outlined in the scope of work and the document issued by the Cambridge Housing Authority. The awarded contractor will also be responsible for providing complete source removal as well as coordinating hazardous material testing if required. The construction period will be thirty (30) calendar days from Notice to Proceed.

The not to exceed limit is $100,000. Every General Bid shall be accompanied by a Bid Deposit in the form of a certified check, bid bond, treasurer's or cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, in the amount of 5% of the not-to-exceed value of this contract and made payable to the Cambridge Housing Authority. The bid security shall secure the execution of the contract and the furnishing of a Payment Bond and Performance Bond in the amount of 100% of the contract value by the successful General Bidder as specified in the Contract Documents. All general bids are subject to provisions of MGL Chapter 149. All other applicable state laws, municipal ordinances, and rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the project shall apply to the contract throughout and will be deemed to be included in the contract as if written out in full.

Bid forms and contract documents will be available at www.procore.com beginning **Wednesday, October 21, 2026, after 10:00 AM.**

A site visit will be scheduled for October 22, 2026, at 11:00 AM, 149 Willow St, Cambridge, MA 02139.

Star Trek

From Page 1



Summer LaRose

The Starship Enterprise model is on display at the MIT Museum.

"You don't have to do big things to help people have a better day," he said. "Doing kindnesses, a smile, sharing a Trek prop, something like that — quite literally, those are things that not just brighten days but sometimes save lives." The MIT exhibition offers people on the East Coast their first chance to lay their eyes on the model in years. After its use in the original "Star Trek" series, Gene Roddenberry loaned it out for the production of the 1979 film "Star Trek: The Motion Picture." Then it disappeared.

Kamala Greenwood, a student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, snapped a selfie with the model this week. She said she remembers watching a YouTube documentary series chronicling how the model was rediscovered and restored a few years back. She said it was unique to see such a preserved model, as she's heard of many that were mishandled by production studios.

"It's cool to have it in some museum," Greenwood said. "It deserves it."

Thursday afternoon, Northeastern University student Zaila Alves approached the model and gasped. "My dad is going to freak out," she said, snapping a picture. Alves, who is from Quincy, said her father was "a huge fan" of "Star Trek" and that they had seen on the website that the model was at the museum.

Victor Parkinson, a 42-year-old Lynn resident who has been a "Star Trek" fan since he was 13, said he was astonished when he heard that the model would be at the museum. Through a connection with Douglas, Parkinson served as collections assistant for the debut weekend. He said he spent upwards of 60 hours in the room with the model and never got tired of looking at it.

"Seeing it for the first time and seeing it for the 1,701st time," Parkinson said. "It's the same tangible feeling of optimism."

Discussions between the museum and the Roddenberry foundations about the loan took place a month before its arrival — a much shorter timeline than it usually takes to plan an exhibit, Douglas said, which is generally planned at least a year out. It will be on display until March 28. Douglas said she could feel just how much it meant to fans to see the model in person on display. As a curator, she said, "you live for those moments."

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

SPORTS

Ibanez Fraile takes first as Falcons claim invite title

By DAN EISNER

Boys' cross-country: In its first large meet of the year, the boys' cross-country team, ranked first in the MIAA power rankings and first by the Boston Globe, did not disappoint at the Catholic Memorial Invitational on Saturday. The Falcons finished first with 61 points, followed by Pinkerton Academy with 95 points and Coe Brown Academy with 107 points.

In a race with 231 participants, Cambridge Rindge and Latin runners captured three of the first 10 positions and five of the top 23. Leon Ibanez Fraile won the race with a time of 15:37, Thomas Dewitt was fifth (15:43) and Liam Eldridge took 10th (15:49). Gael Berzin finished 22nd (16:07) and Henry Park finished right behind him (16:09).

Girls' cross-country: The girls' cross-country team finished third at the Catholic Memorial Invitational with 98 points, behind only Bishop Feehan and Boston Latin Academy, which each had 88 points. Neva Hartman finished ninth with a time of 18:45, Violet Smith took 14th (19:30), and Maeve Reynolds was 18th (19:49).

Boys' soccer: The boys' soccer team (6-1-3) reeled off three straight clean sheets, defeating Waltham on Oct. 13, 3-0, Weston on Thursday, 2-0, and Belmont on Senior Night on Saturday, 3-0. The team is now ranked second in the MIAA Division 1 boys' soccer power rankings.

In the defeat of Waltham, Kirubel Tilahun scored a hat trick, getting assists from Elias Hyland, Will Richards and Ben Richards. Against Weston, Tilahun scored on an assist from Mathias Asnake, who also scored, with an assist from Hyland. Leo Davis helped dictate the tempo and pace of the game with strong pass completion and eight duels won. In the Senior Night defeat of Belmont, Ben Richards, Phineas Tomsho, and Tilahun scored. Asnake had two assists.

Girls' soccer: The girls' soccer team (4-7) broke a six-game losing streak with a 3-2 defeat of Waltham on Oct. 13. All three goals were scored by Mira Tanwar, who clinched the victory and the hat trick by scoring with just one minute remaining in the contest, on an assist from Emily Yablonsky. Tanwar's goals included a penalty kick. Harriet Wessler assisted on her other goal.



Nicolas Karnath, Daniel Morland, Zeke Bittker, Mateus Verdi and coxswain Son Schneider finished 15th among 85 boats in the men's youth 4+ at the Head of the Charles regatta on Sunday.

The Falcons faced the reverse score on Oct. 15, losing to Weston, 3-2. Cailin Beckman and Cece Lubetsky each scored, with Tanwar assisting on both goals.

Football: The Cambridge Rindge and Latin football team (3-2) broke a two-game losing streak, defeating Boston Latin Oct. 16, 34-26. Quarterback Max Batchelor completed 9 of 19 pass attempts for 227 yards and three touchdown passes. Jamai Lewis caught four passes for 124 yards, including two touchdown receptions. He also returned a kickoff 82 yards for a score. The other two Falcon touchdowns came on a three-yard run by Batchelor and a 65-yard pass from Batchelor to Christopher Jean Baptiste.

On defense, Damiaise Bellame made 11 tackles (9 solo), had an interception, and broke up two passes. Cristiano Joachim had five tackles, including two for a loss, two sacks, and a forced fumble. Jhenassy Shaw made eight tackles, including two for a loss, and had a sack and a fumble recovery.

Boys' crew: At the Head of the Charles regatta on Sunday, the men's youth 4+ finished 11th out of 85 crews, the highest position in school history for a CRLS boys' crew at the Head of the Charles, qualifying for next year's regatta. The boat of coxswain Son Schneider, Nicolas Karnath, Daniel Morland, Zeke Bittker, and Mateus Verdi crossed the line in 16:42.

Also qualifying for next year's race was the under-17 4+ boat, which competed at the Head of the Charles for the first time in school history, finishing 16th out of 35 teams. The lineup of coxswain Vida Ristivojevic, Malcolm Funck, Milo Sperry, Eli Garcia, and Timur Cerimagic had a time of 17:46.

Girls' crew: The women's youth 4+ 'A' crew finished 15th out of 85 crews and qualified for next year's Head of the Charles. The boat of coxswain Antonia Millan, Moira MacCarthy, Nova Bahlmann, Imogen Wu, and Violet Finley finished 15th with a time of 19:18.

Girls' volleyball: The girls' volleyball team (12-4) had a strong week, sandwiching wins over Brockton, 3-1 on Oct. 14, and Bedford, 3-0 on Oct. 19, around a 3-0 loss Oct. 16 to Westford Academy. The Falcons have won six of their last seven matches and are ranked 19th in the MIAA power rankings.

In the defeat of Brockton, Noah Beyer led with 12 kills, followed by nine kills from both Abigail Fisher Seufert and Talia Livny. Bianca Etkin registered eight kills and also had three blocks. Beyer had 12 digs, followed by Ellie Su with 11. In the loss to Westford Academy, Indie Fray contributed six assists and six digs.

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