**City Reinforces Mass. Ave. Bike Lane**

**BY ALISON PULTINAS**

Traffic calming hasn’t stopped real estate sales in Mission Hill. Larger transactions in the past 12 months include two six-family, 19th-century buildings. Mission Hill native Eric Alden purchased 775 Parker St. at the corner of Alleghany and will potentially develop the adjacent parking lot. The vacant six-family at the dead end of South Whitney Street sold in March to Anthony A. A. McGuiness for $2 million. The previous owner, 3-5 South Whitney had obtained approval for a demolition without a public hearing from the Landmarks Commission and had plans for a nine-unit, six-story building. At the end of April, real estate investors Michael and Janice Ye purchased a three-family at 978 Calumet St., a hidden house behind 99 Calumet St. near the corner of Calumet and St. Albans St. for $1.24 million. Less familiar to neighbors than some other landlords, Janice Ye came to the Community Alliance of Mission Hill (CAMH) a few months ago seeking support for variances to pave the back yard at 17-19 Sunset St. before going to the Zoning Board of Appeal in March. CAMH voted 12-11 in favor of parking, and the ZBA also approved it.

3-5 South Whitney St. sold for $2 million.

**The Power of Dual-Language Programs in Boston’s Schools**

**BY LAURA RODRIGUEZ**

Ready to start her day, Genevieve McDonough turns the corner of the Boston Public School district office to the Dudley Café, and orders an Americano. She sips her coffee with a smile as she sifts through the paperwork she’s brought, clips it all into the clipboard in her hand, and adjusts a name tag that reads “Boston Public Schools Instructional Specialist.” Her smile widens as she recounts the story of Willie Gomez, a high school graduate of the Margarita Mutiz Academy. Another resource is how she articulates the benefits of bilingual education.

at a scrimmage debate for the Boston Debate League—all in Spanish. It is with people like Gomez in mind, that McDonough works so diligently to educate Boston Public School (BPS) districts on legislation that will propel English learners forward academically. English language learners (ELL), or students who are unable to communicate fluently or learn in English, are among the most diverse of all students in Massachusetts. In Boston alone they make up 30 percent of all students. According to the Center for English Language Learners at American Institutes for Research, approximately 12 percent of the students who began as ELL did not achieve English proficiency statewide by the end of the study period. The Boston public-school system throws bilingual students into a classroom with the hope that they figure out the nuances of academic language eventually. But in reality, it takes up to seven years to pick up the academic language, and even then, their brains don’t process language the same way a native speaker does.

In November 2017, Massachusetts passed the Language Opportunity for Our Kids (LOOK) Act, which aimed to provide districts with more flexibility in their language acquisition programs. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education was supposed to establish benchmarks for English language learner success templates by Sept. 1, 2018, for districts to implement no later than March 1, 2019. A new system to help students who learn English in the classroom is necessary, in order for these students to have successful academic careers. I myself grew up in a Hispanic household, where everything I learned in my mother tongue was only useful in a social setting. The older I got, the more I longed for an education system that could bring me up to speed with my age-countercultural in my parent’s country of origin. Graduate Professor of Urban Education at the City University of New York, Ofelia Garcia says that bilingual people are constantly reverting back and forth between their native and learned languages throughout the course of their lives. When she spoke at the Multilingualism & Diversity Lectures in 2017, Garcia recalls when she started to truly understand the benefits of bilingual education. A student brought it to light in her classroom, back when she taught in a bilingual school.

“When I asked one child one day, ‘What is happening here?’ he said to me, ‘well even though Spanish runs through my heart, English rules my veins.’” Garcia said.

The issue is really multifaceted—how can we incorporate both languages into a child’s academic life and disprove the myth of separateness? Considering that two-thirds of the English language is similar to Spanish, how can teachers in the public school system expect students to function in the classroom setting if they continue to preach the separate nature of the two languages, both academically and socially? McDonough and others within BPS believe that bilingual students and ELLs deserve the opportunity to thrive in the classroom. Under the LOOK Act, people like Garcia and others as well as develop a student’s early ages of Pre-Kindergarten all the way through elementary, middle, and high school. According to the LOOK Act passed in 2017, because it brings back bilingual and biliterate opportunities for our students,” McDonough said. “I know particularly for the office of English Language Learners we’re really excited about that because it takes away the mandate that all students have to learn sheltered English in immersion environments.”

From sheltered immersion to translanguageing

The goal of Sheltered English Immersion programs is to provide English learners with a comprehensive curriculum in all content areas as well as develop a student’s English language skills. Students come out of the classroom having mastered how to speak, read and write English. The way that Diana Weiner, a bilingual teacher from Long Island, New York, describes it, is that “a new kid comes from a different country, they’re thrown into a classroom and are expected to figure out the academic language eventually,” she says, “but they’re basically not learning anything from ages five to seven because they’re still trying to process both social and academic cues in each language.”

According to Garcia, there are two perspectives—one is the external social perspective, which states that there are two main languages that can be connected back. DUAL LANGUAGE on page 2>
PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

mobilizing less than half of their repertoire. avenues in an academic setting.

I remember entering the New York City and State public school systems as an ELL student. I was temporarily held back on reading levels at times due to a lack of proper program implementation for students like me. I had to bear the brunt of this resource absence in my small Westchester County town, where the Hispanic population makes up 11 percent of the population. I was on my own when it came to catching up to my peers, whether it meant reading more outside of class, or seeking out teachers to give me additional work. Not everyone has this privilege, due to a lack of resources and funds in some BPS districts, and cannot be expected to find success in the academic system alone.

This is not the first time an act like this has been passed—The Bilingual Education Act of 1968 is noted as the first official federal recognition for students with limited English speaking ability, later changed to students with limited English proficiency and now simply called English learners. The recommendations of the bill included teaching Spanish as a primary learning language, teaching English as a second language, and designing programs that would give Spanish-speaking students an appreciation of cultural heritage and language. Though it targeted Spanish-speaking students, they were not limited to just students who could read Title VII, laid the foundation to believe that, as opposed to their native English-speaking peers, all ELL students have unique needs, and that in the interest of equal educational opportunity, bilingual programs should be federally funded.

The act provided funds in the form of competitive grants, used to support educational programs, train teachers and teacher aides, develop and disseminate materials and for parent involvement projects. While the act did not explicitly require bilingual instruction or the use of the students’ native language in the academic setting, it encouraged new programs and ways to teach students English. It prioritized low-income families, but non-English-speaking students from families with moderate income levels were not included.

In 1978, the act was amended to address the needs of the 1968 guidelines and make participation by school districts voluntary. This meant that ELL students could be denied equal opportunities in the classroom, and the Equal Educational Opportunity Act was swept into the conversation because the solution to the language barriers students encountered could be tailored with competent instructional programs.

Controversy around the proposed legislation included questions of whether the federal or local governments would control education in the long run. Should schools teach exclusively English or allow the use of native language to be used? This question rang in the ears of many, and in 2002, Massachusetts passed Question 2, which eliminated state’s existing bilingual education programs and required ELL students to be enrolled in sheltered English immersion programs for one year. This ballot initiative lowered instruction rate for about 40 percent of all English learners in the U.S.

Back in the classroom

There is little evidence to support the idea that English learners can learn English in one year, as the 2002 Massachusetts education reform required. The proponents of an English classroom model believed that this initiative would help bridge the gap between the English learners who were still behind their native English-speaking peers. Getting rid of the bilingual model would also reduce costs by training teachers in a single, specialized instruction for English learners.

On top of this, finding qualified bilingual teachers in Massachusetts is challenging, following the implementation of the English-only education law. Framingham and a few other districts still had permission to keep teaching students math, science and other subjects in their native languages, but a job posted for a classroom teacher in English only, which is also known as Title VII, would normally attract about 100 applicants only brought in around five when it came to teaching constructs in Spanish or Portuguese.

With growing numbers of first-generation immigrants, districts are required to handle an influx of ELL students. Despite the challenges, a bilingual model remains a strong contender as a substitute teaching method in the public-school system.

According to Aspin (SIS), English learners in Boston collectively speak more than 70 different languages. The LOOK Act provides districts the flexibility to choose the English learner program that best fits each individual population.

New York recently announced the opening of 47 Pre-Kindergarten programs for dual languages in Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, and Haitian Creole. At its September 2014 meeting, the New York State Board of Regents amended part 154 of the Commissioner’s Regulations regarding Bilingual Education and English as a New Language (ENL) programs. The amendment would require school districts to achieve the same educational goals and standards established for all students.

The future of bilingual education

As the daughter of Colombian immigrants, and someone who learned English as a second language, I find progress in the field of bilingual education astounding, and starkly different from the era of late 1990s, when I began attending a Pre-Kindergarten-English-only model of education. Mastery of both a native and learned tongue is a skill widely disregarded in many competitive fields of work.

“We know economically being bilingual and bicultural will really open yourself to be competitive in the global market,” McDonough said.

Regardless of strides within the bilingual education debate, opponents of the Act still advocate for the English-only education model was implemented for a reason, and that it is a mistake to bring back the bilingual education system.

“We would encourage them to see it in person and talk to actual students who have gone through bilingual programs,” McDonough said, addressing opposition. Take Willie Gomez and his job as MC of the Boston Debate League. “I was a debater Spanish, and English, one, because of my ability to speak both fluently, and two, because of my love for the Cymta Mutiz Academy, which is a bilingual school. Gomez said. “BPS one gave me comfort in both languages, and the other gave me exposure to professional Spanish.”

Gomez and other bilingual students like him make recommendations on programs that can represent their lives outside of school. For Gomez, that meant adequate representation in the demographic makeup of the teachers and staff at the Mutiz Academy.

“I had classes in English, classes in Spanish, in both languages, and in both were all bilingual or Latino,” Gomez said. “I feel like I didn’t have an experience where I felt isolated, and I feel like that’s a thing that needs to be present at BPS.”

Gomez grew up in a Spanish-only household, having two parents who emigrated from Ecuador. But he and I knew very different academic settings growing up, with as the Rafael Hernandez school all the way up through the Mutiz Academy, Gomez knew a level of Spanish that transcended the confines of a classroom.

“My high school was majority Latino, and I feel like in a sense that can be something that’s lacking in many schools. But the sense of having students who at least have a seal of bilinguality, that is always good to have. The students will be exposed to something that they’ll carry with them for the rest of their journey.”

Across the scope of the education field, teachers and advocates are promoting the benefits of legislation like the LOOK Act. “People throw terms like ‘50-50,’ or ‘90-10’ but not really knowing there’s the population of students 50-50 English and Spanish,” McDonough said.

The key lies with the future of bilingual education—the children themselves, like Gomez, who are children of first-generation immigrants, know the struggle it took our parents to get us here. We want to learn and be successful, but we don’t want to lose back half of what our parents gave us in academic opportunities. These reasons alone spark education and let the innovative learning system prevail in the academic community.

He stood up there and spoke about the benefits of being bilingual and having a colleague Renee, who has known him since he was in K-1 at the Hernandez, was literally goosebumps and crying,” McDonough said, about a second Gomez. “Because everything he stood up there and said about the benefits of being bilingual, are real things people need to hear, and know about him on his own, as an influential figure to his peers a few years younger than them, was just so meaningful to hear.”

Laura Rodriguez is a journalism student at Northeastern University.

**Duck, Duck, Goose**

From the start of the start of at-home advisory in March, many Fenwickers relied on walking in the Back Bay Fens as one of the few approved ways to get exercise while maintaining physical distance (and stave off cabin fever). It looks like some folks also started feeding the local ducks.

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**Goodbye, Tony C’s. Hello, SOJUBa.**

With the sole exception of Domino’s Pizza, commercial interactions on the first block of Boylston Street in the West Fens have emptied out in preparation for the site’s redevelopment. Built as automotive showrooms in the early 20th century, the block at one time housed two landmarks of Boston’s gay community, the Ramrod and the 1270. SOJUBa, formerly known as SOJBa (the old Sweet Caroline’s) has found a larger home just across the street in the old Tony C’s space at 1265 Boylston. As its name suggests, the restaurant features the Korean spirit soju and Korean food.
EDITOR’S NOTE: For years community gardens in Mission Hill and the Fenway have drawn residents looking for a stronger connection to nature. This year, however, gardens have taken on new importance. During the lockdown period, working in a garden was one of the few sanctioned ways to get out of cramped quarters while maintaining distance from others and clearing out mental cobwebs. Nationally, concerns about food-supply disruption have driven new interest in home-grown vegetables. We caught up with local gardeners last month as spring arrived in full.

Pandemic Confers New Cachet on Community Gardens

As of May 26, the City reported 12,521 confirmed cases of COVID-19; 6,019 recorded recoveries; and 622 deaths. These numbers may not reflect the full reach of the virus, as all residents have not been tested, but the City is making an effort to expand COVID-19 testing. Neighborhood testing numbers:

• In the Fenway, 1,719 people have been tested; 15.6% of tests were positive.
• In Mission Hill and Roxbury, 3,773 people have been tested; 23.6% of tests were positive.
• In the Back Bay and Beacon Hill, 2,816 people have been tested; 13.6% of tests were positive.
• In the South End, 3,116 people have been tested; 25.5% of tests were positive.

COVID-19 has infected African Americans at a significantly higher rate than other racial groups: They account for 25% of Boston’s population but 45% of COVID-19 cases in the city.


LOCAL COVID-19 UPDATES

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

A public health advisory remains in place for Boston: all nonessential workers are urged to stay home between 9pm and 6am and residents must wear a mask in public.

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Could This Pandemic Have a Silver Lining?

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

D uring these strange times, staying positive is challenging, and we are fearful. The thought of getting sick or having to watch a loved one suffer can cause each of us to deeply isolate, lose and fall into depression and anxiety.

One of the most important things we can learn is that as human beings, we all have our own “resilient zone” and can have resources in our community that can help us through hard times. Feeling nervous or anxious is just our brain and body telling us something’s not right. This pandemic certainly fits the bill as a trigger for some of these feelings.

Combat this anxiety by being mindful of your breathing and the signals your body is sending you. This pandemic is through smell, a direct connection in our brain to memory and emotion. Smell can trigger calming memories. The smell of vanilla or orange might bring back memories of holidays,也可能带我们回忆起儿时的味道。Or the professor at MassArt who assigned his at-home students time to watch art instruction videos and take art classes. Students and faculty were still earning an income. But without attending meetings, commuting, and dressing professionally, I have more free time. I’ve been using Zoom to hold meetings with my class or watch Jayson Musil, an artist, record video and take art classes on Zoom. As a result, I’m doing more painting, exploring new methods in acrylic and watercolor, and feeling more creative. And I’m not alone. People all over the world are exhibiting ingenuity and creativity. Case in point: a manufacturer in Texas is making PPE masks with an FDA-registered device that sent a ball shooting down and upstairs and around their factory. What a great lesson for our kids!

Or the professor at MassArt who assigned his at-home students to do a sculpture of a chicken. Most of them didn’t have access to sculpting clay or art supplies, so they used whatever was available in their backyards or homes. Or the teenager who transformed his backyard into an art studio and took a daily yank shot. Or my own nephew, who is using his time at home to learn how to build a computer from scratch. Will we sustain ingenuity and creativity when the used-to-be-normal returns? Will I? I hope so.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens. Beyond new creative outlets (see page 3), many people think of the pandemic as a new wave of thinking about larger societal issues. The nonprofit arts-promotion group FENSfund, announced a contest to solicit suggestions for new ways of doing things in the post-pandemic world. See page 7.

With Museum School Now Part of Tufts, Expanded Task Force Adds Fenway, Mission Hill Representatives

By Alison Pultinas

he recently expanded Tufts Task Force brings together Chinatown, Mission Hill, and Mission Hill representatives. Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) project manager Ed Carmody convened a March public meeting with the group. The BPDA board has planned a June 11 vote on the school’s master plan amendment and a four-year extension of its institutional master plan, which expired in October.

Since Tufts incorporated the Museum School properties on St. Alphonsus Street, The Fenway, St. John’s and The Fenway into its master planning process with lease negotiations in 2016, the BPDA added new members to its existing Task Force. The founders of Fenway Health, a community health center, said the group was in its infancy compared to the expanded Tufts Health Sciences Campus Task Force. The new members include Richard Giordano, representing the Fenway CDC, Pat Flaherty of Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, and Mission Hill resident and real estate entrepreneur Adam Sarbaugh of Cornerstone Realty.

The BPDA asks that an institution’s community benefits typically go to the neighbors who feel the impacts. Tufts, like other higher education institutions, has a grant program for nonprofits for projects and equipment purchases. It limits eligibility to organizations that have worked with at least one Tufts-related volunteer (student, staff, or faculty) in the previous year. Individual grants range from $250 to $2,000. At the March Task Force meeting, Lydia Lowe, represent the Chinatown Land Trust, asked if the school could engage passing traffic and trainees in helping neighbors. As a result, a new Community Center for a series of art workshops, several grants associated with the Josiah Quincy School, both upper and lower, and various Chinatown organizations.

Tufts recently announced a new emergency grant to help nonprofits in its host communities, including the Fenway and The Fenway and The Fenway. The school is working through an online data platform with a COVID-19 pandemic. Applications are open now through June 26, but organizations are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. For more information, visit https://communityrelations.tufts.edu/community-programs/emergency-response-grants-boston-grant.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

RESIDENTS STILL CAN’T BACK KENMORE ROADWAY CHANGES

The Public Improvement Commission (PIC) moved its expected vote on the Kenmore Hotel project’s recommendation of area roadways to June 16. At a virtual hearing held on March 21, the proponent’s engineer Steve Krentzman requested a 30-day delay. During public comments at the hearing, several local residents testified in opposition to the plan, in response to a question about the hotel’s location. Chris Ogando, the City’s chief of streets, transportation, and community relations, said that the commission has responsibility only for the physical conditions related to the public right of way. Amy Cording, chief engineer for the commission, stated she had no issue with the proposal.

BPDA Allows More Time To Apply for Beautification Money

Responding to disruption caused by the coronavirus shutdown, the Fenway Park Demonstration Project program has a new deadline for applications. June 16. In 2013 the City allowed Fenway Sports Group to rent air rights over the Lansdowne Street for the Green Monster seats in exchange for $1,000,000, paid over 10 years. (The agreement granted the rights for the use in perpetuity. The money funds temporary or permanent beautification projects in the Fenway, and the BPDA selects the proposals for funding. Up to $100,000 will be available in this year’s round. Submissions must include a detailed budget and describe how the project—which must be completely accessible to the public—would produce a measurable benefit for the community. Download the application, which has more detailed instructions, at https://owd.boston.gov/funding-opportunities/2020-fenway-demonstration-project-community-benefits/.

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“Comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable.”

The founders of The Fenway News adopted this motto to express their mission of exposing and opposing the dangers the neighborhood faced in the early 1970s—rampant arson, predatory landlords, and a destructive urban renewal plan. If the original motto no longer fits today’s Fenway, we remain committed to its spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

FREQUENCY

We distribute The Fenway News at stores or online on the Friday closest to the first of each month. Our next issue will appear Friday, July 3.

DEADLINE

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is Friday, June 26.

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BADASS RAVENS
Unassuming Stretch of Beacon Street Hides History Behind Facades

BY ALISON PULTINAS

B etween Audubon Circle’s Mountford Street and Kenmore Square, Beacon Street is, as the late architectural historian Candace Jenkins called it, “an area of mixed character.” However, there is hidden history here, some quite amazing. Between the loss of buildings demolished in 1961 and 1962 for the Boston extension of the Mass. Turnpike and the obliteration of original architectural features and character of the remaining streetscape, there’s a sad absence. Both sides of Beacon have stories to tell—unusual businesses and schools, as well as Boston’s first arthouse movie theater. Only three buildings on the block are listed on the Massachusetts Historical Commission’s Massachusetts Cultural Resources Information System database: the Buckminster Hotel, the System transformer station at 693 Beacon St., and 677 Beacon St., an anonymous-looking, three-story Boston University facility. Jenkins co-authored Boston University’s 2005 Historic Preservation Plan. Her assignment included documenting university-owned buildings not previously included in historic surveys, including 677 Beacon, built in 1919 and labeled in the BU plan as, “altered beyond recognition” and of “no style.” The Marist Fathers’ Lourdes Center, at 698 Beacon, and the ornamental façade of 700 Beacon, former home of the Art Institute of Boston, face it from across the street. Besides the Buckminster, the Lourdes Center is the only building on the block that holds an occupancy permit for residential use. The 1962 renovation sponsored by Cardinal Cushing put a new veneer over the former Gulf Oil Company office—one of the surviving streetcar company that quickly turned electric in the early 20th century. Investors associated with future development along the Beacon Street corridor—John C. Ropes (the Ropes & Gray founder), James Eldredge, J.Q.Adamas II, Thomas Rothwell, Charles Paine, and Henry M. Whitney were promoting a fast link to the Chestnut Hill reservoir with a widened roadway for the West End Railway. The company funded a steel bridge over the train tracks in 1886. There were four tracks then; now there are only two. In the 1960s, when the turnpike extension’s eight lanes were built, the train tracks were moved west. The land takings on Mountfort and Beacon streets left behind an empty landscape. Buildings including the Kenmore Theatre at 779 Beacon, the six-story Hotel Regent at 780 Beacon, and entire blocks of multifamily residences on Mountfort Street were lost. The long pedestrian corridors along the Beacon Street overpass will shorten when the second phase of John Rosenthal’s five-building Fenway Center gets under way. On May 13 the Zoning Commission unanimously voted to approve the revised plan for a 22-story, mixed-use commercial, office, and lab space. The complex will include a five-story garage above the highway and another 12-story office lab building. Across the street from the future high-rise, Boston University’s brick science building has a Commonwealth Avenue address and no entry doors on Beacon Street. It is a 1980s reconfiguration of the former warehouse buildings at 712 and 718-722 Beacon St. The original buildings had large floorplates and showrooms on the first floor and were used by a variety of businesses. From 1932 to 1949, The Merrymount Press, a world-famous printing company, leased the top floor of 712 Beacon. Its founder, Daniel Berkeley Updike, is considered one of the finest representatives of the Arts and Crafts movement in American book arts. The company archives are stored at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, and the Boston Athenæum, and the Providence Public Library has a room named after Updike. Merrymount’s limited-edition books and ephemera are highly valued by collectors. A recent exhibit of Merrymount Press publications at the Rhode Island School of Design included photographs from 712 Beacon. In 1949, Cosmopolitan Manufacturing purchased the building and needed all the floors for its men’s outerwear business, Great Dane coats. In 1972, owner Fred Monosson died, and his heirs later sold the facility to Boston University. 718-720 Beacon St. was a three-story concrete-and-brick building first occupied by automobile battery companies. It became an aviation school in 1949, then the Art Institute of Boston Chrome Company, and in 1960, the School of Practical Art, predecessor to the Art Institute of Boston. In 1971, the Art Institute of Boston (AIB) moved into 700 Beacon, where it stayed for more than 40 years. When AIB moved to Cambridge to become part of Lesley University in 2015, it sold the building to BU. Yet another school was located across the street: at 777-779 Beacon—the Posse-Nissen School of Gymnastics School of Education. The school was founded in 1890 by Baron Nils Posse, founder of the Posse-Nissen School of Gymnastics. Its first building was the Posse-Nissen School at 777-779 Beacon—the Posse-Nissen School of Gymnastics. Founded in 1890 by Baron Nils Posse, the Posse-Nissen School of Gymnastics was the first school in the United States to offer gymnastics instruction to women. The school was located at 777-779 Beacon Street, and it operated from 1890 to 1949. In 1949, the school was closed, and the building was purchased by the Boston University. In 1961 the Kenmore Theatre’s marquee announces its closing due to construction of the Mass. Turnpike. Turnpike extension. The theater often hosted regional premieres of European movies, like Federico Fellini’s “La Strada,” which played in October 1954 and Vittoria Da Sica’s “Shoeshine,” which opened on Christmas Day in 1947. On the north side of the street, properties extended to Commonwealth Avenue and Blandford Street. The large open-floor structures later proved well suited for diverse light manufacturing and storage businesses and easily retrofitted for future offices, labs, and classrooms. In 1915 and 1916, a single survey company, Fuller and Whitney, made almost all the site plans. Prolific real estate developer Albert Geiger, Jr. was involved with most of the lots, connecting Boston to Brookline was the goal of a group of men associated with the West End Railway, the horse-drawn streetcar company that quickly turned electric in the early 20th century. Investors associated with future development along the Beacon Street corridor—John C. Ropes (the Ropes & Gray founder), James Eldredge, J.Q.Adamas II, Thomas Rothwell, Charles Paine, and Henry M. Whitney were promoting a fast link to the Chestnut Hill reservoir with a widened roadway for the West End Railway. The company funded a steel bridge over the train tracks in 1886. There were four tracks then; now there are only two. In the 1960s, when the turnpike extension’s eight lanes were built, the train tracks were moved west. The land takings on Mountfort and Beacon streets left behind an empty landscape. Buildings including the Kenmore Theatre at 779 Beacon, the six-story Hotel Regent at 780 Beacon, and entire blocks of multifamily residences on Mountfort Street were lost. The long pedestrian corridors along the Beacon Street overpass will shorten when the second phase of John Rosenthal’s five-building Fenway Center gets under way. On May 13 the Zoning Commission unanimously voted to approve the revised plan for a 22-story, mixed-use commercial, office, and lab space. The complex will include a five-story garage above the highway and another 12-story office lab building. Across the street from the future high-rise, Boston University’s brick science building has a Commonwealth Avenue address and no entry doors on Beacon Street. It is a 1980s reconfiguration of the former warehouse buildings at 712 and 718-722 Beacon St. The original buildings had large floorplates and showrooms on the first floor and were used by a variety of businesses. From 1932 to 1949, The Merrymount Press, a world-famous printing company, leased the top floor of 712 Beacon. Its founder, Daniel Berkeley Updike, is considered one of the finest representatives of the Arts and Crafts movement in American book arts. The company archives are stored at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, and the Boston Athenæum, and the Providence Public Library has a room named after Updike. Merrymount’s limited-edition books and ephemera are highly valued by collectors. A recent exhibit of Merrymount Press publications at the Rhode Island School of Design included photographs from 712 Beacon. In 1949, Cosmopolitan Manufacturing purchased the building and needed all the floors for its men’s outerwear business, Great Dane coats. 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Mayor Walsh made one thing clear last month: he plans to proceed verrrry deliberately with reopening the city. To that end, City Hall will issue no permits for festivals or parades through Labor Day. Canceled June events include the Haley House Block Party, pretty much all of Pride Week, and the Boston Art & Music Soul Festival in Franklin Park (which absorbed Berklee Jazzfest last year). July’s losses include the Boston Pops concert and fireworks on the Esplanade and the Dudley Jazz Fest. 📥

What does the mayor’s ban mean for the contentious concert series at Fenway Park? It might not matter, as the series seems to be imploding on its own. At press time, touring acts had canceled or postponed tours affecting six planned concerts. That leaves only two of the original 12 concerts falling after Labor Day: Aerosmith (Sept. 18) and New Kids on the Block (Sept. 19)—but with the marathon, first pushed to September and now canceled, might those disappear, too? 📥 During a Red Sox community call, Boston Police Capt. Steve Sweeney reported that crime year-to-date in Area D4 had fallen by 27% compared to last year. 📥 On the 21st a fire at the Huntington Ave. YMCA—which for years has managed housing for formerly homeless families and adults—displaced 66 residents and caused $100,000 worth of damage. 📥 Father John Uni of St. Cecilia’s Parish on Belvidere Street told WBUR’s “Radio Boston” in mid-May that the parish would take a cautious approach to relaunching services once it could review the State’s reopening guidelines. Uni said he hoped to open doors sometime in June. 📥 On a happy note: Pavement’s three Fenway shops have started to stir after a two-month shutdown. Order and pay for pickup through a new mobile app (Apple and Google). Pickup runs from 7am to 12pm daily; you can buy bags of house-roasted coffee beans, as well. 📥

**Renters And Owners Still Have Housing Protections**

A law signed in April created a statewide moratorium on evictions and foreclosures. As Sen. Will Brownsberger wrote in our May issue, “Landlords cannot initiate eviction proceedings, pending eviction proceedings are suspended, and even if an eviction order was previously granted, a sheriff or constable cannot enforce it.” The law also freezes any foreclosure proceedings already in the legal system. Under the moratorium a 90-day extension if he extends the emergency officially ends, whichever comes first. The law allows the governor to add 90-day extensions if he extends the declared emergency. To report on evictions, call Sen. Brownsberger at 617-771-8274.

**Enacted Laws**

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- A microloid order was previously granted, a sheriff or constable cannot enforce it.”

Please send any questions to communityengagement@northeastern.edu.
ELIGIBILITY
You must have a current or past Fenway connection: working, living, studying, volunteering, a public official representing the neighborhood, an artist or gardener.

REQUIREMENTS
• Entries can be up to 150 words. You can submit up to three entries.
• The FENSFund Board will choose up to 20 entries to publish in the July Fenway News, and readers will choose the top three to be awarded prizes in August.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING
• Describe something that can be created or improved that will add to a positive quality of life in Boston and/or beyond.
• Briefly describe what things are necessary to make the idea work.
• Suggest a first step for making it happen.

The Fine Print
FENSFund exists to encourage neighborhood-based artists, education, arts, writing and other cultural activities in the Fenway through financial support of arts, educational, cultural, literary, calendar and similar content in The Fenway News and through encouragement and financial support of appropriate activities such as contests, readings, lectures, exhibits and other events that support these values.

Silver Linings
IMAGINING A POST-PANDEMIC FUTURE
A FENSFund Contest
$250 1ST PRIZE • $150 2ND PRIZE • $100 3RD PRIZE

We’re in the middle of a frightening and tragic pandemic, threatening and taking lives and creating an economic crisis. But during this strange time, have you seen any silver linings, any changes you’d like to keep when the pandemic ends?

We’re asking you to tell us what those silver linings might be. We’re asking you to imagine what changes could make our lives better once we have a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19.

Will there be a way to support local farms? Can we keep our air clean? Can we make housing truly affordable or design it more safely? Will we continue to work remotely, bike or walk more? Could we re-purpose our consumerism?

What new ways of being in this world do we want to see, and what small or large changes do we need to make them happen?

Please send entries by June 20 to fensfund@gmail.com.
CREATIVE WHILE CAPTIVE

After the initial shock of a 24/7 lockdown wore off, some folks binged Netflix, some cleaned closets...and some found new creative outlets in media both familiar and new. Here’s a sample of what we found.

DID WE MISS YOU?

We expect we’ll hear from more area artists once we release this issue. Are you one? Let us know, and we’ll include you in the sequel. Email Ruth at rekhowais@earthlink.net or send us a message on Facebook.

THE SIGN OF SPRING

Spring announces itself with the chirping of a pair of red finches Who return each year To remake their nest, Preparing for their young Under the eave of Our apartment balcony. Taking up their daily occupations— Flitting, flying, hopping, Roosting, singing. They live in parallel with us. Their arrival reminiscent of that of the celebrated Swallows of Capistrano.

DEBBIE WEISS, BACK BAY

THE WORLD HAS STOPPED

The world has stopped Sun and moon watching People bowing— Coronavirus 2020

BARBARA FAY, EAST FENS

COVID-19

I pray Not to be prey.

LISA FAY, WEST FENS

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

Email Ruth at rekhowais@earthlink.net or send us a message on Facebook.
Tanabata: The Art of Longing, Connecting

BY KATE FINNEGAN

On July 7 at 7pm look toward the sky. You may see bright stars come out and colorful streamers in the breeze. Are the weaver princess and her true love meeting again after having to be apart for so long? The celebration of Tanabata is a beloved tradition in Japan and one that Kaji Aso Studio has promoted annually as a theme show. This year’s virtual presentation of art, music and poetry will creatively translate our own longing, separation and wish for connection into hope and encouragement during these challenging times.

Leading up to the exhibit’s online opening, we want to involve the community through awareness about the myth and showing how to display your own wishes at home and decorate with colorful streamers. To find out more details about the myth and upcoming exhibit, please visit kajiasostudioevents.com. The project is supported in part by the City of Boston’s Transformative Public Art Program, and Kaji Aso Studio’s programming is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council and administered by the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture. Kate Finnegan is executive director of Kaji Aso Studio.

GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR ARTISTS OF COLOR BY JUNE 8

MassArt’s Center for Art and Community Partnerships has announced “Radical Imagination for Racial Justice” in collaboration with the City of Boston. The program invites Boston artists of color, ages 14 and up, to imagine a racially just city. The program will award grants of $1,000, $2,500, and $4,000. The application portal, imaginejusticeboston.org, is open through June 8.

MFA Turns to Insta to Show Artists Adapting to Pandemic

The Museum of Fine Arts recently launched an Instagram series, bringing insights into how local artists have reinvented their practices in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Every Friday, a different artist takes over the Instagram account (@mfaboston) to share their evolving practices.

STICK BY STICK, TRANSFORMING A CORNER OF FENS

Throughout the lockdown—and even as reopening started getting under way—anyone longing to exercise had few options beyond walking and biking. In April, Fenwincklions stretching their legs in the Fenway Software a primitive structure beginning to take shape near the footpath along The Fenway edge of the park right across from the MFA’s west parking lot. Last month the structure began, um, branching out, and it got a Facebook page. Through it, we reached the West Fens builders of “Stickit, COVID-19,” Dennis Brown and sons Caden, 8 [correction—“eight-and-a-half”], and Silas, 5. We’ll have more about the Stickit back story in our July issue; in the meantime, watch its progress in person or at www.facebook.com/StickItCovid19/

With the Fenway Community Center closed for the public health emergency, programming has moved on line activities. Find Zoom links for all of these activities at fenwaycommunitycenter.org.

• Mondays at 8pm: MUDERINO

• Wednesdays at 8pm: TRIVIA NIGHT. Compete in a weekly trivia competition.

• Thursdays at 11am: NAVIGATORS USA. The FCC is forming a new chapter of this contemporary, inclusive scouting movement right in the neighborhood! Be part of the first chapter in Boston by joining them online.

• Fridays at 1pm: BINGO AND GAMES. Join the Community Center for weekly games.

• Saturdays at 1pm: STUDIO GHIHLI WATCH PARTY. Striking, fantastical animation captures stories of friendship, childhood, loss, and redemption in films for all ages.

• Sundays at 1pm: HARRY POTTER LEAGUE. Enjoy the wizarding world with friends. Listen to chapters of the Harry Potter books and complete fun activities.

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