

Parcel by Parcel, Development Shifts Character of Terrace Street

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Narrow Terrace Street is located at the edge of Mission Hill. It runs parallel to the Orange Line, commuter rail, and Amtrak tracks and dominates the Boston Planning and Development Agency's Mission Hill development-project list.

Developers have proposed more than 240 new apartments for six sites. Some would occupy vacant parcels, while others would replace existing buildings that would have to be demolished.

In mid-August, public meetings focused on Terrace Street occurred almost every two days, including a community meeting for the Raices on the Hill cannabis dispensary. In fact, on Aug. 24 two meetings took place on the same evening: an butters' meeting to review Primary Development's request for a variance to allow multifamily use in artist loft buildings under construction at 40- 42 and 132 Terrace, and a BPDA meeting to review Winn Development's proposal for 154 Terrace. On Aug. 30, the month of meetings ended with South Boston developer Matthew O'Hara's presentation for 110-128R Terrace.

O'Hara, along with partner James Newton of Sudbury, owns multiple parcels on the street, including the Diablo Glass Blowing School at 123 Terrace, also the address for the future cannabis dispensary. Their plan for 80 housing units would replace two minority-owned auto body shops and three wood-frame houses at the corner of Terrace and Cedar streets. "Local industrial" is the street's existing zoning, but nearly all recent proposals are residential and need zoning variances.

Local industrial uses typically mean

For an update on cannabis dispensaries proposed for Mission Hill—including one on Terrace Street—see p2.

blue-collar jobs, a fast-disappearing category in the city (the construction industry is an exception). Jennifer Leonard of Mission Hill shared her concerns about the loss of the repair shops when Madison Park High School, just down the street, trains auto technicians who ideally could work locally if the city didn't discourage light industrial uses. The displacement of these existing businesses and tenants on Terrace will test how City officials use the new zoning amendment, Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing, now a checklist in the Article 80 review process.

Leonard's comments came at another public meeting on Terrace Street, on Sept. 23, where the City's Department of Neighborhood Development (DND) sought community input for developing 57,757 square feet of City-owned vacant land (www.boston.gov/buildinghousing/parker-and-terrace). DND's John Feuerbach led a conversation about what went wrong with previous plans for the site and what residents want now. Predictably, Parker Street neighbors seemed uniformly to prefer retaining the existing green space on the upper part of the steep site.

The Bostonplans.org website includes recordings of all the Terrace Street meetings. During these meetings, residents consistently mention concerns about commuter cut-through traffic. Participants would comment on the current congestion and City Councilor Kenzie Bok or Kennedy Avery from her office would then mention the upcoming transportation study that is supposed to recommend potential solutions. The Boston Transportation Department will shortly advertise for a consultant, funded with money allocated in the City's capital budget; money from some already-approved developments will supplement that funding.

Maggie Cohn, a member of the Impact Advisory Group for the 110-128R Terrace St. Project, shared her written comments. "



Finally, Park Drive Gets Long-Sought Crosswalk

Solar-powered, pedestrian-activated flashers, installed last month, will alert drivers to a new crosswalk on Park Drive that leads to the T's Fenway Station. The installation followed years of delay caused by the jumble of competing state and city agencies that each have some authority over the crossing: the Department of Conservation & Recreation, the MBTA, MassDOT, and the City's Department of Public Works. Underscoring the risk of such confusion, a B.U. faculty member died last month, apparently after falling through a rusted-out staircase at JFK/UMass Station on the Red Line. Barely ten days after his death, the Globe featured a photo of another severely rusted stairwell on MBTA property—this one, just beyond the end of the new crosswalk, leading down two flights to Fenway Station.

[M]ost importantly," she said, "I do not think the BPDA should persist in reviewing and approving developments on Terrace Street one by one...This is a street, and a community,

deserving of a more comprehensive development and design review, not a scatter-shot approach."

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

CIVIC AGENDA

October 2, 8 & 13

FENWAY/KENMORE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Three online forums will inform how funding will be invested to improve the neighborhood and quality of life for residents. Visit fenwaycdc.org for more information and to register.

October 9

OPENING OUR DOORS CELEBRATION

On its 20th anniversary, the celebration of the Fenway Cultural District moves to Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Visit www.fenwayculture.org for details on the many programs and open houses.

November 2

PRECINCT CHANGES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

Residents of five Fenway precincts will

vote at new locations. Here's where to go, based on your precinct:

- **WARD 4, PRECINCT 5:** Symphony Plaza East, 334 Mass. Ave. (Community Room).
- **WARD 4, PRECINCT 6:** Location is still Matthews Arena, 238 St. Botolph St., but follow signs to the new entrance and voting room.
- **WARD 4, PRECINCT 7:** Location is still Matthews Arena, 238 St. Botolph St., but follow signs to the new entrance and voting room.
- **WARD 4, PRECINCT 8:** Symphony Plaza East, 334 Mass. Ave. (Community Room).
- **WARD 4, PRECINCT 10:** Simmons University, Park Science Building, 6 Avenue Louis Pasteur.

CONCERT ALERT

AT FENWAY PARK

OCT 1

THE JONAS BROTHERS
7:00-10:30PM

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It's most effective to call all three.

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311 • CITY PROBLEM LINE

2021 PRELIMINARY ELECTION: MAYORAL VOTE TOTALS

The Fenway									UNOFFICIAL TOTALS BY WARD/PRECINCT								
VOTER TURNOUT																	
Ward/Precinct ↻	4/5	4/6	4/7	4/8	5/2	5/2a	5/10	21/1									
	21.3%	15.8%	16.7%	18.0%	15.6%	16.4%	15.1%	13.8%									
MAYOR																	
Ward/Precinct ↻	4/5	4/6	4/7	4/8	5/2	5/2a	5/10	21/1									
JOHN BARROS	10	2	6	5	8	4	11	9									
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	3%	<1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%									
ANDREA CAMPBELL	77	42	68	43	62	38	66	59									
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	23%	19%	27%	17%	24%	19%	23%	20%									
ANNISA ESSAIBI GEORGE	49	26	20	29	19	19	32	39									
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	14%	11%	7%	11%	7%	9%	11%	13%									
KIM JANEY	86	53	45	51	24	34	36	25									
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	26%	23%	17%	20%	9%	17%	12%	8%									
MICHELLE WU	98	96	104	114	138	96	135	150									
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	29%	43%	41%	45%	54%	49%	48%	52%									

Mission Hill								UNOFFICIAL TOTALS BY WARD/PRECINCT							
VOTER TURNOUT															
Ward/Precinct ↻	10/1	10/2	10/3	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/8								
	24.4%	16.2%	14.4%	17.9%	18.3%	20.4%	23.6%								
MAYOR															
Ward/Precinct ↻	10/1	10/2	10/3	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/8								
JOHN BARROS	4	3	3	10	4	14	6								
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%								
ANDREA CAMPBELL	48	28	33	29	56	67	96								
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	18%	15%	21%	8%	22%	22%	18%								
ANNISA ESSAIBI GEORGE	41	28	25	39	27	12	45								
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	16%	15%	15%	10%	11%	4%	8%								
KIM JANEY	68	46	40	134	59	75	83								
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	26%	26%	25%	37%	24%	25%	16%								
MICHELLE WU	88	67	55	135	96	124	282								
PERCENTAGE OF VOTE	34%	38%	35%	37%	39%	52%	54%								

Proposals Wending Their Way Through Licensing Process Could Yield Two Cannabis Dispensaries for Mission Hill

BY ALISON PULTINAS

It's an arduous process to open a retail marijuana business in Boston. The process requires multiple steps, and given the slow pace of approvals, circumstances can change over the years required to complete the process. The two stores proposed for Mission Hill, Raices on the Hill and Team Green LLC, each took a different path. One clearly had a head start and political support.

Requirements for a cannabis dispensary start with an application to Inspectional Services, followed by a community meeting; Boston Cannabis Board approval; completion of a host community agreement with the City; a second community meeting; then a vote by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. Each time-consuming step can involve new and highly detailed paperwork.

The Boston board—just empowered in 2020—asks for the most documentation, including a letter from the district city councilor showing either support, opposition, or neutrality.

Outside of these legal steps, negotiations take place with community organizations and abutters. Raices on the Hill signed a good neighbor agreement (GNA) with Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services before the scheduled June vote at the Boston board. The GNA establishes a process for distributing 10 percent of all profits back to the community.

Attorney Mike Ross, the former District 8 councilor, represents several cannabis businesses, including Raices. Other lawyers from his firm, Prince Lobel Tye LLP are investors in Raices on the Hill. Former state representative Jeffrey Sanchez and Sociedad Latina director Alex Olivia Davila own 51 percent of the business and recently finalized their host community agreement with the City. Raices on the Hill is now close to the end of the licensing

process and will likely be on the Cannabis Control Commission agenda in December or January according to Ross.

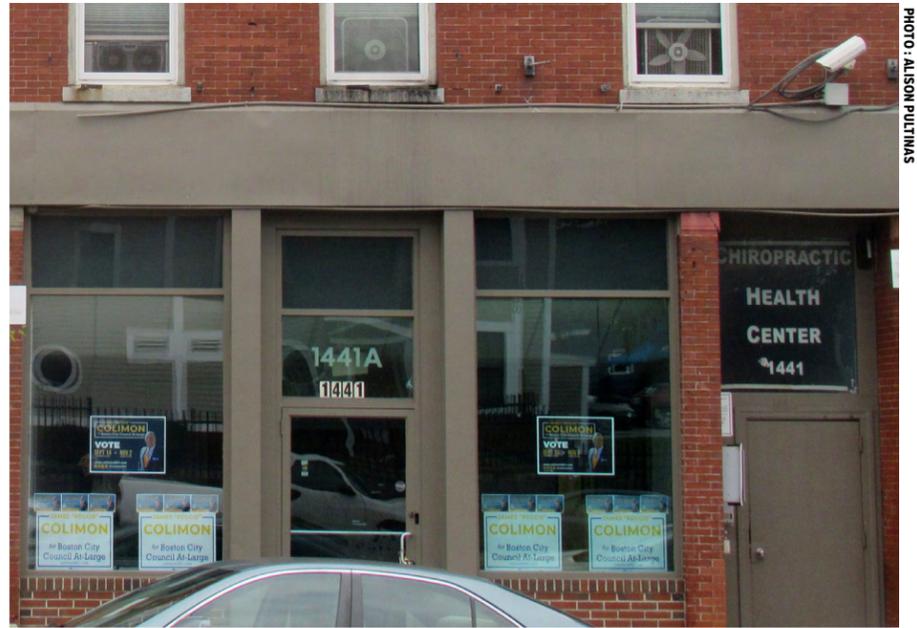
Mission Hill has shown divided opinions for the two businesses. The Community Alliance voted against Raices but supported Team Green. At their respective Boston Cannabis Board appearances, Councilor Kenzie Bok's office supported Raices but took a no-opposition position for Team Green, which hopes to open on Tremont Street near the Dunkin' Donuts at Parker Street.

The Boston Cannabis Board voted Sept. 22 to defer the vote on Team Green. Chairperson Kathleen Joyce was unhappy with the half-mile-buffer-zone violation and said in her opinion Team Green scored very low. While Raices on Terrace Street is the other establishment within the buffer zone, it was not named in the hearing.

Other commissioners expressed different opinions, but all voted to defer and asked for supplemental information. Cannabis Board member Alejandra St. Guillen, a former Mission Hill resident, said although the distance was just 0.3 miles between the two locations, the neighborhood is dense, and she expected the two would have different customer bases. Commissioner Lisa Holmes said she loved Team Green's plan but that its security provisions needed fine tuning.

The Boston board can still approve an application with a buffer-zone violation, but that approval is conditional, and a Zoning Board of Appeal hearing must be scheduled because of the violation. City Councilor Lydia Edwards has proposed eliminating this step of the process.

While located only several blocks apart, the two locations are quite different. Team Green's future storefront at 1441 Tremont St. is tiny—less than 1,000 square



1441 Tremont St., the potential future home of Team Green.

feet—with no parking. It sits nearly opposite the Roxbury Crossing Orange Line station.

On Terrace Street, Raices on the Hill will share a one-story building with Diablo Glass. Customers would enter the dispensary from the parking lot, and those waiting in line would be able to watch Diablo's glass-blowing students at work. After making their purchases, buyers could then exit on a different side of the building. The location is walkable from Jackson Square, and community organizations from Jamaica Plain will also benefit from the GNA.

At a summer presentation before the Mission Hill Community Alliance, Jody Mendoza, lead manager for Team Green, described it as a "mom and pop" operation. Team Green is an equity applicant and received a provisional license for a location on Blue Hill Avenue in 2020 but had to relocate because of the landlord. Mendoza and her husband, Richie Peña, own and operate Mojitos Country Club in Randolph, which has 40 to 50 employees, depending

on the season. Peña has a connection to Mission Hill—he attended Tobin Elementary School and Madison Park High School. Team Green has no attorney working on its behalf.

At the Alliance meeting, Mission Hill resident and business owner Adam Sarbaugh suggested that Team Green should also draft a GNA with local organizations, a suggestion that Mendoza did follow up on and presented at the September hearing.

A third business, just on the other side of Jackson Square and 0.4 miles from 123 Terrace, would be the KG Collective shop at 1558 Columbus Ave. It received approval from the Boston Cannabis Board but is still awaiting state approval. The operators owned the Kush Groove smoke shop that closed this summer after six years on Tremont Street. They've shifted their focus to their future retail marijuana businesses, one of which has already opened in Cambridge.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Annual Meeting Marks MHNHS's First Public Event Since 2019



Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services (MHNHS) closed out its very public annual meeting on Sept. 20 at One Brigham Circle with an end-of-summer dance jam party. MHNHS gave out bagged refreshments and copies of its 2020 annual report, and people who verified their Mission Hill residency were eligible to vote for the board members up for election.

City councilor Kenzie Bok, the guest speaker, connected housing, public health, and the building of *communitas* during the COVID crisis in her remarks. Pat Flaherty, MHNHS's long-time director, announced the group's improved website, introduced the current board and staff (including Northeastern intern Emily James) and brought recipients of community awards to the stage. New England Baptist Hospital received a special shout-out for its generosity to the neighborhood during the pandemic.

The event marked the first public gathering for the organization since 2019, replacing not only 2021's annual meeting, usually held on the first Monday of April, but also all canceled 2020 events.

The annual MHNHS-sponsored Mission Hill Road Race has also changed its format. There will be an outdoor ceremony Oct. 23 at Fitzgerald Park and runners will still raise money for the park's maintenance fund, but without an official 5K as in past years.

Recycle Clothing and Textiles at City's Local Drop-Off Locations



The City of Boston has offered recycling for clothes and textiles for the past year. The Public Works Department first placed donation bins at municipal parking lots, but after entering a partnership with the Boston Public Schools Sustainability Program, PWD later moved the bins to local schoolyards. The bins belong to Helpsy, a for-profit recycling company that takes clean and dry clothing, as well as shoes, backpacks, bags, bedding, and stuffed animals. Helpsy.com has a find-a-bin map to locate all drop-off spots. Those includes sites in Audubon Circle and Mission Hill.

- The closest bin for Fenway and Audubon Circle residents sits at the southwest corner of the McKinley Middle School at 50 St. Mary's St. in Audubon Circle (above right).
 - Unfortunately for Mission Hill residents, the two bins at 10 Fenwood Rd. sit in the EMK Health Careers Academy's gated schoolyard—essentially inaccessible to the neighborhood (above left). However, a nearby option is the bin at the Hennigan School at 200 Heath St. in Jamaica Plain.
- According to Laura Alves, the City's Zero Waste Coordinator, conversations are underway with the Academy about relocating those bins. Alves also explained that bins placed in May at McKinley High School, 97 Peterborough St., were later removed because of persistent issues that became a public safety concern.

Taking Climate Action with the Massachusetts Sierra Club

BY LESLIE POND

As we face the urgency of climate change, my coping mechanism has been to take action and be involved in the community, starting with our *Paris to Pittsburgh* film screening and community conversation at the Fenway Community Center two years ago this month. In that spirit of community, this article is the first in a mini-series spotlighting local organizations that invite us to make climate action part of our daily lives.

I had the privilege of speaking with Michele Brooks, community outreach coordinator, and Veena Dharmaraj, director of transportation, of the Massachusetts Sierra Club to learn



about the group's climate work, how equity and justice are integrated, and the vital roles that volunteers have in tackling the climate crisis.

Talk about the Sierra Club. What's unique about your organization?

VEENA: The Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization in the U.S. We organize around climate action; advocate for policies that protect our land, water, air, and wildlife; work in collaboration with partners on social and environmental justice issues; and help people explore and enjoy the natural world through our outdoors program. One thing that sets us apart from other environmental organizations is that the Sierra Club engages in all the key pillars of climate work: policy advocacy, legislative work, electoral politics, and legal action.

MICHELE: Another unique aspect is that the Sierra Club is a heavily volunteer-led and -run organization. Each chapter has an executive committee made up entirely of volunteers who are elected to help govern its business and campaigns. Our chapter has five staff who work with volunteers across the state.

How are equity and justice incorporated into your environmental/climate work?

MICHELE: The Sierra Club strives to center equity and justice in all of our work. We recognize that the people who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate disasters are most often in communities of color, low-income, disabled, and elderly people, queer folks, and other marginalized identities who are socially vulnerable because of systems of oppression including racism and income inequality.

In 2014, the Sierra Club adopted the Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing as we focused on lifting up the voices and needs of frontline communities as a core part of our mission. This is an ongoing transformational journey, as is our journey to strive toward anti-racism. Last year, our chapter focused on specific actions to support Black, indigenous and people of color communities in Massachusetts and created a racial justice road map, in conversation with diverse groups to learn how we can show up in better solidarity.

VEENA: In the last few years, the Sierra Club has been working more closely with community partners to center and amplify the voices of people most impacted by pollution and climate change.

How can we learn more about local volunteer opportunities? Are you seeking volunteers with particular skills?

MICHELE AND VEENA: We welcome all volunteers to engage in our work based on their interests, skill set, and capacity. You don't need prior knowledge about climate change or issue area expertise to volunteer. For example, we have had volunteers plan events, write letters to the editor, design graphics, and carry out research.

We encourage new volunteers to attend the monthly Volunteer Orientation webinar to learn about Sierra Club, our work, equity values, and how they can get involved. And new volunteer opportunities are continually updated on our website. For example, volunteers might engage in specific campaigns, help edit our *Sierran* magazine, or support our fundraising efforts.

We also hold a weekly, virtual Advocacy Hour on Wednesdays at 5pm. This is a good space for folks interested in volunteering to learn about our work. We often have a special presentation about a particular issue area that volunteers can add their voices to. Our next Advocacy Hour on October 6 is an update on the climate research team's work that examines municipal progress on clean energy and climate issues.

What are examples of projects that require volunteers?

VEENA: We'd love to engage more people in our campaign to get the MBTA to commit to an all-electric bus and commuter rail fleet that prioritizes electrification on routes in environmental justice communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution. For example, you can submit public comments—highlighting the public health, economic, and climate benefits of electrification—at MBTA Board meetings or ask your municipal leaders to support transit electrification of local routes. Other issues that you can engage in include the campaign for fare-free buses and low-income transit fares.

MICHELE: We started a Boston Clean Energy Coalition in 2016, focused on decarbonization of existing buildings and net-zero buildings for new developments. We're also establishing relationships with people who work on affordable housing and labor, since all three areas are intersectional. We realize the importance of collaborative advocacy for clean, energy-efficient, safe and affordable new development.

VEENA: You can also participate in one of our many volunteer-led teams, including the clean energy, toxics, fundraising, communications, political, plant-based planet, and climate research teams.

What's involved in signing up to be a volunteer?

VEENA: You can sign up via a short online form, with the options of indicating a group that you're interested in, specifying skills you wish to develop, and providing additional info. Based on your responses, you'll receive an invitation to:

- schedule a 1:1 conversation with a chapter staff member or volunteer leader,
- join our weekly Advocacy Hour event, and/or
- join a team or committee meeting.

What can volunteers expect when they come onboard?

VEENA: The Volunteer Orientations get people familiar with Sierra Club structure, the different campaigns that we run, how people can engage, and what an engagement ladder looks like.

MICHELE: We also have virtual training programs on becoming an effective climate advocate, understanding regulatory and legislative processes, and working with your elected officials.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens.

220 HUNTINGTON HEADS TO BPDA FOR VOTE

RENDERING COURTESY OF THE BPDA



A rendering of 220 Huntington shows the perspective from Huntington Avenue and Cumberland Street.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

On Sept. 9, Nupoor Monani from the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) met with the Impact Advisory Group for National Development's proposed 325-apartment project. The development would replace the Midtown Hotel at 220 Huntington Ave.

This was to be the final public meeting before the project goes for a vote at the BPDA Board Meeting in October.

As Ted Tye from National has often stated, the design requires no zoning variances. At ten stories, it meets exactly the as of right zoning height of 115 feet, which is set by the Huntington Avenue Boulevard subdistrict zoning.

The team from National presented the mitigations negotiated with the City and local groups. Two of the organizations represented on the Impact Advisory Group, the St. Botolph Neighborhood Association (SBNA) and the Southwest Corridor Conservancy, are receiving direct monetary contributions. The Conservancy, a group established to raise money for maintenance of the Corridor's parkland between Back Bay Station and Massachusetts Avenue, will get \$75,000. The St. Botolph Neighborhood Association will receive \$25,000.

Additional funds will go to the City for transportation and public works improvements including many items from a list prepared by the SBNA. Altogether, the mitigation benefits total \$2,091,000.

A separate three-page agreement between the St. Botolph Neighborhood Association and National Development is also in draft form and will cover issues related to the shared alley and parking.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

N.U. STUDENTS GIVE EAST FENS STREET TREES SOME LOVE DURING WELCOME WEEK

PHOTO: ELIZABETH BERTOLOZZI



On Sept. 3, Northeastern University took part in a tree-mulching session in the East Fens as part of the Alliance of Civically Engaged Students' activities for Welcome Week. The students added 120 bags of mulch to trees along Westland Avenue and Hemenway Street.

FENWAY CDC IS HIRING!

> Fenway Community Development Corporation seeks a team-oriented, motivated Senior

Services Coordinator to manage and deliver programs supporting residents of Fenway CDC's housing portfolio. The Senior RSC will connect residents to local services and resources and support resident community building.

> For the full job description and information on applying, please visit tinyurl.com/FCDCcareers.



Fenway Community Development Corporation
Improving Lives and Building Community

FENSVIEWS

For a Bigger Say in City Budget, Vote Yes on Question One

BY ANDRES DEL CASTILLO

This year, there will be a question on the November ballot that would change how the City budget is created. It would allow the City Council to change budget items by a majority vote and create an Office of Participatory Budgeting to allow people to vote on certain budget items. More of us would get a say in how we spend our City's money.

Currently, city councilors can only vote yes or no on the entire budget; they have no power to amend any portion of the budget.

Also, there is currently no process for voters in Boston to have direct input on the budget

The "Yes on 1 for a Better Budget" effort is led by a coalition of community organizations, teachers, nurses, faith leaders, environmental groups, small businesses, elected officials, and voters across Boston.

Every member of the City Council supports the changes, including the two mayoral candidates, so all the people most involved in the budget process agree these are good changes for Boston. Allowing legislative budget changes is very common, and government bodies from the federal and state levels down to cities and towns work this way, and it works very well. Having more leaders who are closer to the needs of the communities in the city will ensure that the budget meets community needs better than allowing only the mayor to set the priorities.

Why vote Yes on 1? Boston needs more affordability, stronger schools, thriving local businesses, and good youth jobs. Yes on 1 would help us do a better job of achieving these goals by giving local councilors more input so that every Boston neighborhood is fully included.

A budget by the people and for the people. Question 1 is common sense and fiscally responsible—and almost everyone agrees!

Andres Del Castillo is co-director of Right to the City Boston. Visit www.YesOn1Boston.com for more information.

GUEST OPINION

through participatory budgeting, a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend a portion of a public budget. This project exists in many major cities, like our neighbors next door in Cambridge, as well as in New York, Seattle, Oakland, and Chicago.

By voting yes on Question 1 this November, voters have a chance to amend the City of Boston's charter to allow far more voices to influence the budget process, including communities that have historically been excluded from influencing the budget.

Our Choice For The Community And The City Is Clear: Michelle Wu

TO THE EDITOR:

The November 2nd election for mayor of Boston is a moment for each of us to make a choice for the Fenway and for our city. We believe that Councilor Michelle Wu is the best choice for both.

She supports more equitable transportation infrastructure and has taken personal action across the city and within the Fenway, specifically related to saving the #55 bus. Michelle Wu is the mayoral candidate who has the strongest stance on the inadequacies of the BPDA, calling

for more comprehensive planning, development that doesn't rubber-stamp special zoning approvals and exceptions, a focus on housing stability, and the transfer of all BPDA assets to the City of Boston (all actions are extremely important for our extended community). Earlier this year, she noted that while there was planning for Boylston Street, "the Fenway is a cautionary tale" in terms of the overall development process (which can still be changed!).

As for a Good Neighbor Agreement with the Red Sox, Councilor Wu stated in the June Fenway Mayoral Forum that a long-term agreement makes sense, and it should be a priority to center residents in conversations.

On November 2, we'll be voting for

Michelle Wu for mayor of Boston—please join us!

ARLENE ASH, ERICA BERNSTEIN, HOLLY BERRY, DOLORES BOGDANIAN, MARY ANN BROGAN, BOB CASE, OSLA CASE, STEVE CHASE, CONRAD CISZEK, BRIAN CLAGUE, BRENDA CLARK, SUZANNE COMTOIS, HELEN COX, KEVIN CRANSTON, LAUREN DEWEY PLATT, STAN EVERETT, LISA FAY, CHARLES FERRERA, NIKKI FLIONIS, SARAH JENNESS, BONNIE JONES, ROSIE KAMAL, SAJED KAMAL, JOANNE MCKENNA, CATHY MACLAURY, CHARLES MARTEL, KRISTEN MOBILIA, PATRICIA MURPHY, LESLIE POND, KARLA RIDEOUT, BYRON RUSHING, ROSARIA SALERNO, MATTHEW THALL, MICHAEL WALTTEL, MARGARET WITHAM

LETTERS

IN MEMORIAM

Matti Kniva Spencer

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Matti Kniva Spencer, a beloved member of the Fenway community, died on Sept. 5 due to complications from spinal stenosis. A Fenway resident for over 35 years, Matti was known as an artist, poet, philanthropist, and humanitarian. "He was always genuine and looking to live life to the fullest," said his niece, Carmen Reddick-Diaz.

Matti was born in Lewiston, Maine, the baby in a family of 10 children. His father was from Canada, and the children grew up speaking French as their first language. He went to St. Dominic's High School and graduated from the University of Maine at Orono with a degree in elementary education and teaching.

Matti worked as a pre-school teacher and nanny, then eventually went into human services.

He took the African name Kniva, which means Brave Warrior, while married to a woman from Cameroon for five years; he helped raise her three children.

Matti found his true vocation with photography. According to his sister Cecile, Matti received a Kodak Brownie camera when he was 10, which started his love of photography. He had a series of cameras, including a Polaroid and then a digital camera, eventually using his phone for photos. Matti made and sold note cards from his photographs.

In March 2019, the Fenway Community Center mounted an exhibition of Matti's photos, "Faces of Massachusetts." He photographed, in black and white, 25 Massachusetts men and women ranging in age from 15 to 80. He shot the exhibition photos completely on his Android phone. A biography of each subject, written in the first person, accompanied the photos. Matti described the show as diverse, like a rainbow; he felt that behind every face is a story. He had produced other "Faces of Massachusetts" shows at Boston City Hall and at the Peterborough Senior Center.



Matti was very proud of his Native American heritage. He told the *Boston Sun* in 2019 that his father was a member of the Iroquois tribe, and that he fondly remembered sitting in a circle as a child with members of his father's family for hours as they told stories and smoked a pipe. He credited this experience as playing a large part in why he believed in telling people's stories.

Matti was known for his extensive volunteer work. He founded the Breakfast Club at the Peterborough Senior Center, where he cooked pancakes and baked muffins for senior center visitors. He contributed photographs,

writing, and poetry to *The Fenway News* for more than 20 years. At one point, Matti volunteered at the Allston-Brighton Congregational Church's thrift store, where he was noted for arranging the items for sale in a pleasing way. He was one of the key contributors to National Night Out, an annual event that celebrates neighborhoods, and received a Boston Police Department award for his work. His involvement in the Neighborhood Crime Watch also earned him a community service award from the Fenway CDC. West Fens resident Helen Cox, one of the "Faces of Massachusetts," said, "There is hardly a person or a project in the Fenway that doesn't have Matti's fingerprint on it."

Matti was an avid collector of Red Sox memorabilia and handmade Native American and Middle Eastern dolls. He loved movies, the Red Sox, and Christmas. But most of all Matti loved people and was known to be full of compassion.

Funeral services took place at St. Cecilia's church on Sept. 17. A memorial will take place at the Fenway Community Center on Oct. 6 from 6pm to 8pm.

See page 5 for memories of Matti from friends and neighbors.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

THE Fenway News

Serving the Fenway, Kenmore Square, Audubon Circle, upper Back Bay, lower Roxbury, Prudential, Mission Hill, and Longwood since 1974

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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 <

Our next issue will appear on
Friday, October 29.

> DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is
Friday, October 22.

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Remembering Matti Kniva Spencer

Matti was truly a very wise individual. He knew the world was not perfect, however, just as he revealed through his impressive photography, Matti chose to look for the beauty that exists in the world; that was his focus.

Matti was so very kind and considerate; he was the absolute antithesis of those who can be so cavalier with their words. Whenever Matti told you he would do something you could always believe he would follow-through, Matti was a man of his word and he represented himself with complete integrity.

Matti made a joyful difference in the world. The only slight critique I ever expressed to him was that I thought, he of all people, did not have to state, 'humanitarian' on his business card, because just by being himself, he truly epitomized what that meant and he displayed that valued personal trait consistently, fully, and earnestly.

I am so happy I had a friend like Matti.
LYNDA MCNALLY, FRIENDS OF FENWAY STUDIOS

Work of Art: Matti was always struggling to make his life a work of art in his poetry and photography and writings for *The Fenway News* on how to make the neighborhood better. His "Faces of the Fenway" project was remarkable in highlighting the lives of people who think they are forgotten. He believed that everybody should be treated humanely, no matter their place in society, and everyone should have a place to live. I loved his pancake breakfasts at the Peterborough Senior Center. He also joined Helen Cox on my birthday lunches, which was always a treat. Helen and I are crushed and will always miss him.
LISA FAY, WEST FENS

I was very moved when Matti asked me to be one of the subjects of his last Faces of Massachusetts portrait photography show in 2019. We spent over an hour together at Woody's where Matti interviewed me to learn about my personal history and how I came to do the work I have been doing for many decades. His questions revealed a genuine interest and curiosity about the people he was photographing. We also found in our very different life histories a number of common experiences. I was so pleased to see Matti's photo of me and his concise distillation of our long interview at the Fenway Community Center opening of Matti's show in March 2019.
MATTHALL, EAST FENS

One of the greatest things amongst many great things about working for and living in the Fenway community was reconnecting with Matti. Matti

was my preschool teacher in the mid-70s, and in the 90s and since he was a friend, and mentor. He was always exceptionally kind and generous. I will miss him and his smile.
JETHRO HEIKO, FORMER STAFF MEMBER AT THE FENWAY CDC

Matti— my family friend and Facebook friend, you will be missed very much in our community. We will miss your presence at our West Fens block party, BBQ and breakfast for \$1 events at the Peterborough Senior Center, your photo show "Faces of Massachusetts" at City Hall, as well as other photo shows over the years all over the city. Your service to our community is unreplaceable, especially at the Senior Center. I'm sending love from my family to yours!
PROF. NASREEN LATIF, EAST FENS

I was Matti's longtime friend ("bestie" he would call me) for almost 40 years. We met when we both lived in the Fenway neighborhood in the mid-1970's. And he has been so dear to me ever since then.

We've gone through many changes over the years and have always been devoted to each other as friends. We've always been in close contact throughout the years, despite different geographical locations.

My heart is broken that he is no longer with us. I spoke to him on the phone just days before he passed.

Matti was the most gentle soul I've ever met...he embraced life and truly touched everyone he met. He was loved by so many.
THERESA O'NEILL JANETATOS, FORMER FENWAY RESIDENT

A Tribute to Matti: My Beloved Brotha.

Family is everything! Whether born of blood or by choice, family comes into being. Over many decades, you have been an amazingly loving friend, my confidante, and one of the loves of my life.

You may have left this earth, yet you will always remain in my heart and soul.

Your last words to me say it all, and give me some degree of solace:

"Karla . . . I love you forever . . . U know that U, Karen, Harvey you are my family in this world and the next."

With a heavy, broken heart I responded, "Family is the very best. Unconditional love—always and forever."

His final response to me was "True, true, trues."

Matti Kniva Spencer, you will always be my beloved brotha from another mother.
KARLA NICHOLSON, FORMER ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE FENWAY CDC

Matti, you were a gem to the Fenway community. Your presence at the Senior Center preparing special food events



Striking a familiar pose at the senior center.

was joyful. I trust Lei-Lei was there at the Gates of Heaven to eagerly greet you.
PAT LANDRY, JAMAICA PLAIN, FORMER NEIGHBOR

He loved the community and he gave it everything he could.
STEVE BURKE, EAST FENS

Matti was someone to whom you could go for advice, a nice chat and a good laugh. He was very active in his community and was always willing to offer a helping hand. Matti's generosity, fun nature and kindness will be sorely missed.
DELIA ÁLVAREZ AND SANDRA CARRILLO, WEST FENS

Iknew Matti Kniva Spencer for more than 30 years, and it's funny that I cannot remember how we first met. However, we became instantly connected and we declared ourselves brother and sister from another mother. We became family.

Matti and I attended many community meetings, went to parties, and went out to restaurants together. We spoke on the phone every morning and we used to tease one another by calling each other names like Matti, Watti and Batti; he called me Tracey, Bacey, Lacey, etc.) I am already missing these morning talks and planning our next adventures together.

We were talking about traveling to Florida so he could see his family, and then we would see Karla (Tolbert) Nicholson our sister from another mother. My heart hurts so much from losing my dear brother-best friend. He did not want to tell me what was really going on [with his health] because I had just lost a brother this past year to cancer and my other brother from a tragic fire in 2019. Matti wanted to protect me, but that does not make it any less painful. I feel lost without him, and my life will not be the same.

He was such an amazing person, and I will miss his laugh, smile and the way we would joke with one another that no one would ever get. He was truly my brother from another mother; may he rest in peace until I get there!

Matti also was the Peterborough Senior Center's amazing grill master for cookouts, and Chef Matti when making breakfasts. He did many art shows with his amazing photos of "Faces of the Fenway." He had a gift of bringing everyone together and creating community. The Senior Center staff and participants will truly miss him.
TRACEY HUNT, EAST FENS

Dear Matti—all those memories of sharing meals together when we lived just a few doors down the hall from each other ever since I moved into your building in 1982 and we called each other "wife" and "husbie." Then joining you at the Senior Center to help prepare your signature pancake breakfasts for 40 or 50 seniors and some not-so-senior persons who got the word about your delicious breakfasts and showed up to enjoy them. How I will miss those joint cooking ventures—but especially, I will miss you.
MARIA RODRIGUEZ, FORMER NEIGHBOR, WEST FENS

I met Matti through Delia [Álvarez] when she was working at the Senior Center with Lisa [Rein-Woisin, former director]. Matti had come in to get the barbecue ready. When I came in, he said to me, "It's your turn now" and turned the cookout over to me. A few years ago my friend José and I helped Matti's brother Don move to Connecticut. And I remember when Matti was selling his photos at Osco Drugs when it was on Boylston St. Matti always came by to take pictures of the Victory Gardens, and he always came to FensFest to pick up a few things. He was a really good person, and I was going

to tell him that I had planted a rose for his brother Don, now deceased. It's a pretty yellow Friendship rose; Matti would have loved it. Now I will never be able to tell him.

RICHARD DUNSHEE, GARDENER IN THE VICTORY GARDENS

Matti helped me by always supporting exhibitions of my watercolors. He also helped me to hang my watercolors at the Senior Center and to learn English.

BILL FU, WEST FENWAY

I met Matti through our mutual friend Helen Singleton. We loved and respected each other... such a rich connection.

MARGARET WITHAM, WEST FENS

Who does not remember Matti's masterpiece exhibition, "Faces of Boston," mounted on cement walls by Matti and Jana Peretz at Boston City Hall in the Curley Room and facilitated by then At-Large Boston City Councilor, Felix Arroyo? Thank you, Matti, for sharing your creativity, your generosity and your love for the City of Boston and the Fenway neighborhood.
JANA PERETZ, WEST FENS

Matti Kniva Spencer was an integral part of the fabric of the Fenway for decades. There was hardly an event or activity that took place in which he didn't play a role, whether it was with National Night Out—for which he was honored with an award from the Boston Police Dept.—or the Fenway CDC, which also acknowledged him with a Community Service Award for his work, including his activities at the Peterborough Senior Center, where he was known for his signature pancake breakfasts. And then there was his creative side—making hundreds of photo cards to display and sell at the Senior Center, and his exhibit "Faces of Massachusetts" (a version of which hangs at the Community Center today). On business cards that he designed, Matti referred to himself as a "photographer, artist and humanitarian." He was all of that and much more. He embodied F. Scott Fitzgerald's comment that "To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times, what people need most is not a brilliant mind that speaks but a special heart that listens." To all who knew him, Matti was that quote and much more
HELEN COX, WEST FENS

Matti was a kind and gentle soul, a warm presence at Fenway Open Studios, where I enjoyed his visits. I appreciated his creative spirit and uplifting photography displays at the senior center. His light in the world will be missed.
MELODY PHANEUF, FENWAY STUDIOS

Tributes Compiled by Ruth Khowais and Helen Cox.

CELEBRATE MATTI'S LIFE ON OCT. 6

JOIN MATTI'S FAMILY TO CELEBRATE HIS LIFE WITH HIS FINAL ART SHOW AT THE FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER FROM 6 TO 8PM ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 6. THE EVENING WILL INCLUDE LIVE MUSIC PERFORMED BY HIS SISTER, DIANA FISCHER, AND HIS NIECE, ELIZA REDDICK.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A LOT HAPPENED IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE, INCLUDING...

The Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag has launched a [change.org petition](#) calling on BU to strip Myles Standish's name from its dorm on Beacon Street at the eastern edge of Kenmore Square. According to the petition and media coverage, Standish used particularly brutal methods to suppress a supposed Native American conspiracy against Plymouth Colony in the



1620s. In the Massacre at Wessagusset, he and other settlers lured leaders of the Neponset Band of the Massachusetts to a "peaceful summit" but murdered them instead. Standish had the warrior Wituwamat beheaded and his head mounted atop the Plymouth meeting house for months as a warning to other indigenous groups. The petitioners want the dorm renamed Wituwamat Memorial Hall. For the record, the name came with the Myles Standish Hotel when BU bought it in 1949.

➔ **In other BU news, historian Ibram X. Kendi, founding director of the Center for Antiracist Research, was named a 2021 MacArthur "genius grant" recipient.** ➔ A year after winning final City of Boston approval, Cabot, Cabot & Forbes now has a permit to begin demolition on the site of its mixed-use project in the West Fens, which will add 435 units of housing along Queensberry and Kilmarnock streets. ➔ **No more Mr. Nice Guy: Northeastern's fight with Nahant, where the university wants to expand a marine research center, entered a new stage with the filing of a court petition that would let the town take 12.5 acres of the site by eminent domain. The town insists the university promised to turn most of the site into a wildlife preserve when it bought the land from the feds in the 1960s. Northeastern says it made no such promise and promises to challenge any lowball compensation amount in court.** ➔ Sen. Ed Markey used Ruggles Station as a backdrop for a press conference designed to highlight the need to protect MBTA infrastructure against climate change—just days after Hurricane Ida flooded a nearby stretch of the Orange Line. ➔

Neighborhood Newsline

Our Lady's Guild House Evictions on Hold As AG Investigates

There has been a noteworthy renewed effort to return Our Lady's Guild House at 20 Charlesgate West to its original mission as a lodging house with reasonable rents. Tenants and the Fenway CDC are working with the Planning Office of Urban Affairs—the nonprofit started in the 1960s by Cardinal Richard Cushing and Father Michael Groden, long-time pastor at St. Cecilia's Church on Belvidere Street. Cushing personally acquired the former hotel that became the OLGH in 1946 for use as a residence for single women. POUA's involvement in the campaign returns to the mission of the original facility.

Connecticut-based Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception own Our Lady's Guild House but hired realtor Marc Roos to run it. According to Carrie White of the CDC, in an effort to attract higher-paying tenants Roos had enforced mandatory limits on length of stay, marketed to students and younger tenants, and ultimately forced out nearly all senior residents. White said that only eight long-term seniors remain. Those tenants have begun their third year of advocacy and protests. Evictions have been halted while the Attorney General's Public Charities Division continues an investigation of possible age discrimination and other violations of state law.

In June, Sister Mary Janice Zdunczyk became Superior General of the Daughters of Mary, elected by her fellow sisters to the position following the death of Mother Mary Jennifer Carroll. How she will manage the order's real estate portfolio remains to be seen. She is a staff person at Sacred Heart School in New Britain and a former school principal at St. Mary's in Ware.

Ward Committees Make Endorsements Ahead of Nov. 2 Vote

The Ward 4 Democratic Committee recently announced two more endorsements for the November 2nd election: **Tania Fernandes Anderson for District 7 City Councilor** and **Yes on 1 for a Better Budget** (see guest opinion on p4). District 7 includes parts of the Fenway, the South End, Roxbury, and Dorchester. The the Yes on 1 for a Better Budget ballot initiative would reform the city charter by allowing city councilors to amend the mayor's budget and by creating an Office of Participatory Budgeting to enable residents to vote directly on parts of the budget. The Ward 4 Committee, which covers parts of the Fenway, Back Bay, and South End, had previously endorsed **Michelle Wu for mayor; David Halbert, Ruthzee Louijeune, and Julia Mejia for At-Large City Councilor; and Kenzie Bok for reelection** in District 8.

Members of the Ward 5 Democratic Committee, which spans the Fenway, Back Bay, Beacon Hill and Bay Village, held their endorsement meeting on Sept. 21. Committee members voted overwhelmingly to endorse four candidates for city councilor at-large: **Michael Flaherty, Julia Mejia, David Halpert**, in addition to their July endorsement of **Ruthzee Louijeune** for the same office. Committee members had endorsed **Michelle Wu for mayor** in July, along with incumbents **Kenzie Bok for District 8** city councilor and **Ed Flynn for District 2** city councilor.

Development Fever Reaches Huntington Avenue

In August, Sam Slater of Tremont Asset Management filed a letter of intent for a development at 409 Huntington Ave. The proposed development would keep the five-story facade of the existing building and add 14 more for a total of 19 floors of apartments. The site sits at point where Hemenway Street and Forsyth Way join Huntington.

New Funding Speeds Up Landmarks Commission Reports

The Boston Landmarks Commission has begun churning out study reports for potential city landmarks that have idled for years on the commission's waitlist, including one for Horticultural Hall at 300 Mass. Ave. The Commission staff had previously been unable to keep up with the list, but with some additional funding for consultants, study reports have started coming fast and furiously. Each lays out the history of a building and site and provides the context for the commission to decide whether to designate that property as a city landmark. Subsequent steps include a public hearing on the draft version of a site's report to get feedback on its accuracy and recommendations, then a subsequent hearing in the event of changes. All this happens before the actual vote to designate the landmark.

Our own amateur historian, Alison Pultinas, took exception to the Horticultural Hall report because it barely mentioned the building's renowned library space, an important feature of the 1912 building. After the hall's renovation in the 1980s, the Horticultural Society Library (still open to the public) remained on Mass. Ave. until the society opened its Elm Bank facility in Wellesley. In 2003, the MFA's William Morris Hunt Memorial Library moved in; it remained open to the public for research until the pandemic shut it in March 2020. The Hall's owner, Northeastern University, has not renewed the library's lease, so the MFA staff is busy packing the collection for storage.

East Fens Precinct Will Get A Hand Recount in D7 Race

On Sat, Oct. 2, election officials will conduct a hand recount of votes in Ward 4, Precinct 7 in the East Fens because the second- and third-place finishers in the District 7 race are so close. Nine candidates ran for the seat, previously held by Acting Mayor Kim Janey. Roy Owens, Sr., finished with 1,284 votes, just ahead of Angelina Camacho with 1,256 votes. Tania Fernandez Anderson, executive director of Bowdoin Geneva Main Streets, led both with 2,014 votes. District 7 also includes part of Roxbury and the South End.

Farmers Markets

As farmers markets begin to shut down for the season, look for apples, cranberries, pears, pumpkins, potatoes, and broccoli.	ROXBURY CROSSING T STATION (ORANGE LINE)	Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
	COPLEY SQUARE	Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
	SOUTH END: 500 HARRISON AVENUE (AT SOWA ARTS MARKET)	Sunday	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

HELP KEEP WILDLIFE WILD!



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- 2** Geese feces pollute water and make parks less appealing for people to use.
- 3** Reduces fear of humans, leading to dangerous interactions and disease transmission.
- 4** Encourages geese to stay in the parks, leading to delayed or altered migration patterns.



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Marking Opioids' Tragic Toll



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

Scott Weiner, a Brigham & Women's ER doctor, led installation of a field of purple flags over two weeks on hospital grounds. Each flag represented a person who died of an opioid overdose in Massachusetts in 2020. Passersby wrote messages on the red flags. This was the first year the Brigham hosted the display, organized by nonprofit Supporting Outreach & Addiction Recovery Natick.

CELEBRATING SUSAN SULLIVAN



On Sept. 12, family and friends gathered at Woody's Grill and Tap for a celebration of the life of Susan Sullivan. A former resident of the East Fens, Sullivan died in late spring of this year.

SENIOR EVENTS

The Senior Center hasn't yet set a date for reopening its physical space. Visit www.operationpeaceboston.org for more information. Some of the events listed below are virtual. To receive Zoom links and call-in numbers, email Mallory Rohrig at mallory@operationpeaceboston.org.

- Wednesdays at 1pm: **TECH CAFE** with Little Brothers/ Friends of the Elderly at the Fenway Community Center. Please RSVP to tracey@operationpeace.org. Capacity is limited. Masks are required even if you are vaccinated!
- October 14, 21, and 28 at 11:30am: **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION AT RAMLER PARK**. Weather-dependent.
- October 26 at 12pm: **FALL-THEMED TRIVIA OVER ZOOM**. Please email mallory@operationpeaceboston.org for the log in information.

@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center has begun gradually moving back to in-person events. Visit www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org, for more information. Note that masks are required at all in-person events, regardless of vaccination status.

- Wednesday, 6pm: **VIRTUAL GUIDED MEDITATION**
- Fridays, 12:30pm: **IN-PERSON BINGO**.
- Wednesday, October 20, 6pm: **FENWAY SCOOP (Virtual)**. Join a conversation featuring updates from BPD Sergeant Paul A. DeLeo, Jr. (Community Service Supervisor, Area D—District 4), celebrations of community members and organizations, elected officials, and Fenway-based organizations, groups, and businesses. bit.ly/FenwayScoop.

DESPITE PROJECT'S TRAFFIC, PARKING, STATE SEEKS NO IMPACT REPORT

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Despite more than 1,000 new parking spaces and an expected 8,644-vehicle increase in average daily traffic, the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act review for the WS Development Fenway Project has finished—and it will not require an environmental impact report (EIR).

However, interim climate-resilience and environmental-justice protocols, put in place just weeks after the WS team submitted its Environmental Notification Form, would require an environmental impact report filing for a project with these potential impacts. These interim guides—the Interim Protocol on Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency and the revised MEPA Public Involvement Protocol for Environmental Justice Populations—become regulations on Oct. 1.

The project's transportation impacts include new garages underneath each block

of the development, with 745 spaces within the Jersey Block, 669 spaces in the Brookline Block, 129 spaces in the Lansdowne Block, and 295 spaces in the Van Ness Block. The spaces will maintain “the level of public parking required in the Fenway area, as identified by the City and BTDF,” according to the certificate issued.

Comments from the Charles River Watershed Association clearly reflect the expectation of an EIR. The association criticized a lack of specificity on planning for climate change and an increase in impervious surface that will exacerbate heat-island conditions and stormwater runoff.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission called the documents submitted for review inadequate and said it would need more information about the proposed buildings and their relationship to Fenway Park before it could submit its required response.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

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波士頓重建局，d/b/a 波士頓規劃與發展局（簡稱為“BPDA”），根據波士頓分區法規（簡稱為“區規法”）第 3-1A.a 節、第 80A-2 節和第 80B-5 節，特此通知，將於 2021 年 10 月 14 日星期四下午 5:40 舉行網絡公聽會，在波士頓城市電視台（Xfinity 頻道 24、RCN 頻道 13 和 Verizon Fios 頻道 962）上進行電視轉播，並在 boston.gov 上現場直播，該公聽會內容為考慮擬議的修訂和重述規劃開發區第 36 號，地標中心，公園大道 401 號/布魯克林大道 201 號，芬威，配套分區地圖修訂，以及芬威街區地標中心項目第三期工程變更通知，並將該項目視為發展影響項目（簡稱為“DIP”）。擬議項目要求更換位於布魯克萊恩大道和公園大道交匯處的現有結構，用於一個約 550,000 平方英尺的辦公/生命科學大樓和一個位於一樓約 50,000 平方英尺，供 Star Market 使用的雜貨店空間。公眾可以通過在 <https://bit.ly/OctoberBPDA> 註冊或將您的證詞通過電子郵件發送至 BRABoard@boston.gov 以參加此次公聽會。電子郵件所收到的證詞將會在公聽會中被大聲朗讀。擬議項目可通過以下鏈接查閱：<http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/landmark-center>

Teresa Polhemus, 波士頓重建局執行董事/秘書

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Teresa Polhemus, 波士頓重建局執行董事/秘書

We Want to Hear from You.

Join Our Community Conversations!

- How can we improve the Fenway/Kenmore neighborhood?
- How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected you and your family?
- What services and support do you need now?

These important community conversations will inform how funding will be invested to improve the Fenway/Kenmore neighborhood and quality of life for community residents.

The meetings will be conducted in English. Let us know while registering, we can provide Russian, Spanish, or Mandarin interpretation.

RAFFLE: 10 attendees from each public meeting will receive a \$30 Whole Foods gift card. Winners will be notified via email or phone call.

Choose one meeting date and register online.

 Saturday October 2, 2021 11:00 am - 12:30 pm Register: https://qrco.de/HNOct2	 Friday October 8, 2021 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Register: https://qrco.de/HNOct8	 Wednesday October 13, 2021 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Register: https://qrco.de/HNOct13
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Fenway/Kenmore Healthy Neighborhood Initiative: We're Here For YOU

Co-Leads: FENWAY HEALTH  Fenway Community Development Corporation Improving Lives and Building Community	In collaboration with Fenway Cares:  Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association  Operation PEACE Partnerships in Education And Community Enrichment  Fenway Community Center  FENWAY Alliance
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The Arts

What Might An Old Friend Say About the Newest Marvel Film?

BY SAM HARNISH

For years, people have asked me to write more film reviews for this paper, but I never said yes because I couldn't think of a reason why I wanted to. Lately, as I've been watching movies new and old, I keep thinking about my old friend, the late Stephen Brophy. Steve loved movies and this paper and our community. Watching and discussing them was often how he forged bonds with so many of us over the years. Sometimes I watch a film and wonder what he would think, or I imagine the conversation with him about it. Then one day it hit me: I had a way into writing film reviews for The Fenway News again. I could do it by writing letters to Steve about a topic that we both loved deeply.

Dear Steve,

If I'd told you a couple of years ago that the great Tony Leung was going to play a Marvel villain and that he'd make one of the best screen villains in history, you'd...probably have believed me.

I'll admit, I wasn't looking forward to seeing "Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" much, because origin movies are usually the weakest ones in this Marvel Universe that moviegoers seem to find themselves in these days. But, if you

want to see any others, it seems like you need to see three more just to understand what the heck is going on! With all that said, if more Marvel origin movies were like this one, I would go see a lot more of them with less reluctance. Shang Chi is charming, well-paced, and kicks ass. And the movie's good, too!

Admittedly, there are a lot of Marvel tropes in here, but what sets it apart from the pack is the casting. It is the first all-Asian Marvel movie, and the studio could have easily cast great actors from around the world and given them nothing, character-wise, just to check off a quota. Thankfully, however the script lets (almost) all of them shine. There are plenty of newcomers, too, specifically Simu Liu, who plays the title character; he's got the makings of a movie star. He's relatable, but still heroic. As he takes you through his transformation into a hero, you find yourself wanting to be more like him, which movie stars are supposed to do. People complain that the age of the movie star is over, but I think it's just evolved and we're finding them in places we didn't normally look in Hollywood's earlier years. I think you'd be pleased with how many are people of color from all over the country.

Even Awkwafina, who I'm not always

a fan of, gets some nice, humorous scenes, and the writers have given her an arc that doesn't involve her getting superpowers. It's a welcome change when a comic book movie lets some civilians make a difference, too. I hope Marvel builds on that in the future.

Michelle Yeoh, sadly, is mostly here to deliver exposition and sage lines of wisdom but she at least gets some cool, non-CGI stunts to perform. The fight scenes are pretty great, too, a good mix of CGI and real stunt work that Marvel usually doesn't like to go near. True, there is a big fight between a dragon and a demon over the water that I'm pretty sure had a little CGI in it, but you at least care about the characters enough not to feel numbed by it.

But the best part of this, Steve, is Tony Leung as Shang Chi's estranged father. Yes, he's got ten magical rings that have let him live for thousands of years and do all kinds of impossible kung fu stunts, but purely due to Tony's performance he becomes maybe the most empathetic villain in Marvel film history (and, yes, that includes Thanos). He's not just an abusive father, a sociopath, and a tyrant. He's all of those things, but Leung's performance also lets us see the deep pain and sadness underneath everything he does—even when you can't possibly approve of what he's doing.

Steve, a lot of people like to complain—I've certainly been one of them—that Marvel movies are destroying

cinema. Lately I've been a little more neutral on movies like this. On the one hand, producer Kevin Feige has achieved something pretty remarkable in the last decade, amassing fans worldwide for movies that, while big on spectacle, are also deeply rooted in characters with story arcs that cover decades. You can't help but admire what Feige and his team have managed to pull off.

On the other hand, yeah, it does feel like too many of these tentpole movies mostly act to set up films that won't be made for another five years. Because so many people go to see them, I also can't help but feel these movies are a kind of cultural forest fire that sucks oxygen away from other movies the general public could be aware of. I have hope, though, that people are waking up to other types of cinema, especially younger viewers discovering films from the likes of NEON and A24.

In the meantime, with theaters having been closed for more than a year, it was just a joy to experience a solid entertaining film with a crowd of people sharing in an act of public storytelling. Here's to many more.

Your friend,
Sam

Sam Harnish, a young filmmaker, lives in the East Fens. Stephen Brophy, served as editor of The Fenway Years for several years in the 2010s. Steve and Sam lived in the same building and forged a bond based on their joint passion for movies.

WHERE IN THE WORLD...?



PHOTOS: ALISON PUTNAM



These two murals are on view somewhere in the Fenway—do you know where? If you do, email fenwaynews@gmail.com (and put "murals" in the subject line). We'll reveal the location of the murals and the readers who guessed correctly in our November issue.

Exhibits Examine Loss, Showcase New SMFA Faculty

There are two new exhibits at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University (230 The Fenway). While the exhibition ends in October, the billboard remains on display through summer 2022.

- A newly commissioned billboard and installation by designer, artist, and archivist Josh MacPhee, *We Carry a New World in Us* welcomes the community to reflect on a year of deep loss and radical change. Part of the artist's history of work within and in support of social movements, the installation establishes a space of construction and deconstruction where we can develop new visions for the future.
- The *SMFA at Tufts Faculty Exhibition* welcomes new full time studio faculty who enhance racial and social justice within the academic community through their research, teaching and service and who engage in interdisciplinary practices that combine new technologies with traditional approaches.

EATS BEAT

- **Time Out Market** announced that Kured has joined its culinary lineup featuring a "charcuterie concept" that debuted this June in Beacon Hill. Tim and Nancy Cushman's Ms. Clucks Deluxe has also reopened in the market, which has also revamped its cocktail program.

- **Nia Grace's Underground Café + Lounge** (744 Columbus) opened with a bang—a feature story on the front of the *Globe* business section. The owner of Darryl's Corner Bar & Grill, Grace convinced Northeastern and the new Lightview dorm's private owner to think more creatively about how their resources could support small business owners of color like her. Underground serves Southern-inflected food, welcomes both students and the public, and will host art exhibits and events.

City Offers Grants to Local Arts Groups

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, in collaboration with the Boston Cultural Council, has two grant opportunities for local arts organizations.

- **Boston Cultural Council** grants are available to groups that offer public arts programming in neighborhoods. Organizations with annual budgets under \$2 million can apply for BCC grants of \$2,000, \$3,500, or \$5,000, depending on budget size.
- **Reopen Creative Boston** grants are available to help arts organizations recover from the economic impact of COVID-19. The City will award up to \$50,000 to cover costs—including payroll, new technology, and consulting services—the costs of reopening and restarting programs. Groups that operate or own cultural facilities can apply for an additional grant up to \$50,000. The deadline for both grants is October 15, 2021, at 5pm. For more information, visit boston.gov/arts-grants.

MassArt Museum Reopens October 9

PHOTO WILL HOWCROFT, COURTESY OF MASSART



Valkyrie Mumbet by Joana Vasconcelos, installed at the MassArt Art Museum.

The MassArt Art Museum reopens to the public on Oct. 9. Pre-pandemic exhibits *Joana Vasconcelos: Valkyrie Mumbet*; *Game Changers: Video Games & Contemporary Art*; and *Ghost Of A Dream: Yesterday Is Here* will remain on view.

The museum plans to operate at reduced capacity and will require advance registration.

Admission is free. Be sure to check the museum's website (maam.massart.edu) for updated COVID-19 safety protocols and reserved-ticketing information.

Museum hours are Thursday, 4–8pm and Friday–Sunday, from 12–6pm. The MassArt Art Museum is located at 621 Huntington Ave.

October

CALENDAR

Wed, 10/6

JAN BROGAN—THE COMBAT ZONE: MURDER, RACE, AND BOSTON'S STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE. Join the Boston Public Library to hear the story of the Puopolo family's struggle with both a devastating loss and a criminal justice system that produced two trials with opposing verdicts, all within the context of a racially divided Boston. 6pm. Central Library in Copley Square. Register at <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/610584c24372f23d004df0d5>.

Wed, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, & 10/27

Join **SIERRA CLUB MASSACHUSETTS LEADERS ON ZOOM FOR A CAMPAIGN UPDATE** and weekly meeting at 5pm. This is an opportunity to get plugged into our campaigns, learn about timely issues and ongoing projects, and talk directly to staff and leaders. New members and volunteers are welcome! On 10/6, join the Climate Research Team for a presentation and update on their municipal climate research project. Future meetings will focus on gas-

transition planning, building justice with jobs, and an update on toxics and plastics. Register at <https://www.sierraclub.org/massachusetts/advocacy-hour>.

Wed, 10/6 & 10/20

FENWAY FAIR FOODS. Fair Foods welcomes community residents to get a free bag of fresh fruits and vegetables. Mask required. Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive. 3pm to 5pm. Contact Anar Kansara at akansara@fenwaycdc.org for additional information.

Thu, 10/7

AN INTRODUCTION TO DISABILITY HISTORY. This conversation, hosted by the Massachusetts Historical Society, will aim to orient participants in the field of disability history and lay the groundwork for later conversations in this series. The conversation will present a brief history of the field and examine the foundational and emerging scholarship through a moderated, roundtable discussion with our

panelists. This is a virtual event. Register at <https://18308a.blackbaudhosting.com/18308a/An-Introduction-to-Disability-History>. 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Sat, 10/9

- **OPENING OUR DOORS.** Visit the Fenway Cultural District for performances, activations, art, music, dance, nature walks, historic tours, and more. Now in its 20th anniversary year, Opening Our Doors is Boston's longest-running and largest day of free cultural experiences. See the schedule at <http://www.fenwayculture.org/opening-our-doors>.
- As part of Opening Our Doors, the **MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS** offers free admission in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, inviting visitors to honor the heritage and histories of all Indigenous peoples. The day will feature giveaways of art-making kits as well as children's books selected by Ekua Holmes and Elizabeth James-Perry. Reserve free tickets online starting at 10am on Oct. 5. Day-of tickets will also be available at the museum on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sun, 10/10

- Join mural team Fresco Exchange to celebrate the installation of **MISSION HILL'S LARGEST MURAL**, near the corner of Huntington and South Huntington in a celebration featuring food, festivities and art. 1–3pm. RSVP at www.missionhillmural.eventbrite.com. South Huntington and Colburn Street.
- To recognize World Mental Health Day and to support community health and wellness, Blue Cross Blue Shield sponsors **FREE RIDES ON BLUEBIKES**. Download and open the Bluebikes app on a mobile device and choose "Adventure Pass" to get a free two-hour trip at any time today.

Thu, 10/14

PASSING STATE-LEVEL FOOD POLICY. Food production uses half of the Earth's habitable

land and produces nearly 1/3 of global heat-trapping emissions. Join Climate XChange at this virtual event to discuss how to tackle agricultural greenhouse gas emissions at the state level. Register at <https://climate-xchange.org/event/passing-state-level-food-policy>. 3–4pm.

Fri, 10/15

DAPHNE A. BROOKS—LINER NOTES FOR THE REVOLUTION: THE INTELLECTUAL LIFE OF BLACK FEMINIST SOUND. Join the Boston Public Library for an online author talk with the winner of 2021 Museum of African American History Stone Book Award. In *Liner Notes for the Revolution*, the award-winning Black feminist music critic leads readers on an epic tour of radical sound from Bessie Smith to Beyoncé. Register at <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/613f8e7c2c17543f0081c720>. 3–4pm.

Fri, 10/15 → Sun, 11/14

Huntington Theater presents **WITCH**, Jen Silverman's "devilishly clever" comic updating of a 1621 play in which the devil arrives in a small village looking for souls to buy. Tue-Sun, various times at the Calderwood Pavilion. Tickets \$25-90 or watch a special taping anytime with the new digital option. <https://www.huntingtontheatre.org/>

Sat, 10/16

Time Out Market hosts the ultimate **FALL FESTIVAL** with cider tastings, special menu items, live music, and a screening of *Hocus Pocus* at 7pm. 401 Park Drive. 12–10pm.

Tue, 10/19

MAE NGAI—THE CHINESE QUESTION: THE GOLD RUSHES AND GLOBAL POLITICS. Join the Boston Public Library for an online conversation with the award-winning author of *Impossible Subjects* and *The Lucky Ones*, about her new book, *The Chinese Question: The Gold Rushes and Global Politics*. 6pm to 7pm. Register at <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/6123d834cd0f1c2f00934111>.

COMMUNITY meetings

TUESDAYS Mission Hill Main Streets **SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE CALL.** Join this weekly call featuring reopening guidance, support services, and resources, and your questions. Register in advance at bitly.com/smallbizbos. 3pm.

FRIDAYS Harvard Law School's Legal Services Center hosts weekly **VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS** in partnership with the Boston Public Library. Advice and referral information on civil legal issues. 10am–12pm. For Zoom info, visit bit.ly/LSCBPL.

SAT, OCTOBER 2, FRI, OCTOBER 8, & WED, OCTOBER 13 The Fenway CDC hosts **FENWAY & KENMORE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS.** How can we improve the Fenway/Kenmore neighborhood? How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you and your family? What services and support do you need now? These community

conversations will inform how funding will be invested to improve the neighborhood and quality of life for community residents. To sign up online, visit fenwaycdc.org; contact Community@fenwaycdc.org; or call (617) 267-4637 x23.

THU, OCT. 14 Fenway CDC **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING**, 6–7:30pm on Zoom. Contact Cassie White at cwhite@fenwaycdc.org or (857) 217-4370 for the link.

THU, OCT. 21 The BPDA is hosting a virtual public meeting for the **MISSION MAIN PROJECT.** The purpose of the meeting is to discuss their proposed renovations and their 121A application. Register at https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_2FjrG9A3Qb2wmdd9DyaXZg. The webinar ID is 160 481 6849. Contact Caitlin Coppinger at Caitlin.Coppinger@Boston.gov with any questions.

Book your next community event at Northeastern Crossing!



City and Community Engagement at Northeastern is excited to re-open our classroom and conference space reservations to organizations and individuals to host community programming!

Advance reservations are required for both spaces. All programming must be free to participants.

Please visit our website at communityengagement.northeastern.edu for all reservation policies.

Our conference space



Our classroom space



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REQUEST A BOOKING



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