

# Halfway Through Protective Covenant, Iroquois Woods Faces Uncertain Future

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Iroquois Woods, a woodland owned by New England Baptist Hospital (NEBH), sits on the north-facing slope of Mission Hill abutting a parking lot also owned by NEBH on Parker Hill Avenue. It covers approximately three-fourths of an acre on the south side of Iroquois Street, from

Browning devised an overhead watering system fed by hoses running from his home across the street to help the new plantings survive. Those hoses are gone now, but neighbors, with support from neighborhood groups, continue to monitor the landscape.

Local bird watchers, including visitors from the Brookline Bird Club who

uncertain, despite the proven ecological value of an urban forest.

The Friends of Iroquois Woods have continued a partnership with People Making a Difference, a Boston community-service program, to maintain the woods and its trails. On June 1, National Trails Day, People Making a Difference volunteers cleared the adjacent sidewalk, moved fallen trees, and attacked invasive species like black swallow-wort, bittersweet vines, and Japanese knotweed.

Heather Edin, a graduate student in landscape architecture at the Boston Architectural College, wrote her spring thesis on *The Ecological Benefits of the Iroquois Woods in Mission Hill*. Her work sought to quantify the value of an urban forest, specifically the amount of stormwater that the trees intercept and the carbon dioxide they remove from the atmosphere. Using software developed by itreetools.org, Edin calculated that the 187 trees she surveyed intercept 250,715 gallons of rainwater and sequester 25,755 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

Asked about NEBH's plans for the woods, Christine Dwyer, director of community and government affairs, said there would soon be strategic planning, including discussions about real estate related to the recently approved creation of the state's second-largest healthcare network, Beth Israel Lahey Health, which includes NEBH. Four years ago, before the merger, NEBH officials had announced a plan to relocate to a modern facility and put the century-old, seven-building Mission Hill campus up for sale. The property was valued in 2015 at \$170 million, according to real estate website bisnow.com. The community raised concerns about potential development scenarios and, perhaps consequently, nothing has yet been filed with the Boston Planning

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On June 1, volunteers from People Making a Difference cleared the sidewalk, moved fallen trees, and rooted invasive plants, including black swallow-wort, bittersweet vines, and Japanese knotweed, in Mission Hill's Iroquois Woods.

Oswald Street, a "paper street," (an officially recognized right of way that has never been paved) and nearly extends to Sachem Street. The area is under a 40-year conservation restriction signed in 2000 by the hospital. But unlike the easement for the Parker Hilltop, also owned by NEBH, the protections for Iroquois Woods do not run in perpetuity, and the 40-year restriction has reached its halfway mark.

A trail curves across the slope, and a steep, unpaved path—described as a private way in the city's official street directory —offers access from Parker Hill Ave. The Boston Parks Department's Urban Wilds Program officially lists the Iroquois Woods in its inventory and helps to manage maintenance.

In 1999, the late Bill Browning and Dennis Pultinas (editor's note: Pultinas is the writer's husband) co-founded a friends group to lead an ecological restoration of the woods with new native plantings and thinning of invasive species to bring more sun to the slope.

frequent the adjacent public parkland at the McLaughlin Woods, also include the Iroquois St. site in their rambles.

After nearly 20 years, however, the future preservation of the green space looks

## College Setting Helps LGBTQ Students Get Real About Sex

**Editor's Note:** This is the second in a two-part series about the LGBTQ college experience and its impacts on health. The first part explored the personal story of one Northeastern student; this part delves into general health outcomes.

BY ISAAC STEPHENS

Beyond the problems associated with not knowing how to have sex, LGBTQ individuals often have issues making sex safe. Part of this can be explained by anatomy—STDs are more likely to be contracted during anal sex than PIV sex—but that issue could largely be solved through destigmatization. The obvious starting point is sex education.

A large body of research suggests that comprehensive sex education—that's condom-on-banana education—does a better job than abstinence programs, both at delaying when students start having sex and at getting them to use protection.

But for many people in the LGBTQ community—even for those who could theoretically wear condoms—what the federal government might consider even "comprehensive" sex education is inadequate. The vast majority of sex ed programs in the United States don't even acknowledge gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals, so people from those populations are left with a distorted view of their own health needs.

Colin Thompson, a fifth-year environmental science student at Northeastern, already knew he was gay

when he took sex ed in sophomore year of high school, so he knew for sure he wasn't going to have the kind of sex his gym teacher was discussing. His district's curriculum was typical of Texas and left out any reference to the LGBTQ community. HIV, for example, was not talked about in Texas because it was seen as a "gay disease," Thompson says.

From his perspective, the school was sending a message that discussions about queer sexual health were not a part of civilized conversation. This had potentially disastrous impacts on Thompson's perceptions. "I've always considered it as a negative thing," he says. "So, when it came to sexual liberation and entering college, I could never really start that conversation without feeling some sort of resentment towards myself."

Thompson says this attitude led him into a host of bad decisions. "A lot of the times when I was [in my] younger years, I would be hooking up with people, and they wouldn't want to use protection—I'd be like, 'okay, I guess that's fine.' I was getting myself into a sticky situation." When he finally went to get tested in his third year, Thompson says, he was lucky to be free of STDs.

For two years now, Thompson has been using adequate protection, including an HIV-prevention pill called pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP for short. But many people in the LGBTQ community still aren't. In its 2014 report, the CDC found that almost two thirds of

surveyed homosexually active men had had condomless anal sex that year. The same study also found that 96.5 percent of HIV-negative men who have sex with men did not use PrEP to protect against the virus.

After years of risky behavior, Thompson was fortunate enough to find that he was disease-free. Many people aren't so lucky. Gay and bisexual men accounted for 56 percent of HIV infections in 2015, contributing to similarly high proportions for other sexually transmitted diseases as well. This phenomenon isn't exclusive to queer men—bisexual women and heterosexual-identifying WSW show higher rates of STIs than women who exclusively have sex with men. Both of these disparities have been linked to risky behaviors.

Max Fournier, president of Northeastern University Pride, says that these behaviors are probably rooted in a lack of understanding. "From my general experience of just hearing people in the queer community talk about their general knowledge of...practicing safe sex, or how sex works, they didn't get anything valuable through high school education," he says. "The biggest misconception is that you don't need to wear a condom or have your partner wearing a condom if you can't get pregnant from sex. The reasons for the lapse in knowledge is obvious: Less than 5 percent of students have access to LGBTQ-inclusive sex education classes, and stigmatization keeps stu-

## CIVIC AGENDA

### Tue, 8/13: Fenway Civic Summer Meeting

Update on the Muddy River Restoration Project by Boston Parks & Recreation's Margaret Dyson and presentation on the new green space at 401 Park Drive. 6-8pm. Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston Street.

### Wed, 8/14: National Night Out Block Party

The soon-to-be-redeveloped Boston Cab lot on Queensberry Street hosts the annual event with free food, kids' activities, and a new mural painted by artist Julia Roth with help from kids in the OpPEACE youth program. 5-8pm.



# DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

## Emmanuel’s Schedule Dictates Clemente Field’s Summer Closing

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



Repairing the field surface means Clemente Field remains closed in summer, normally a time of heavy use.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Sometimes with public/private partnerships, it’s not always apparent who is responsible for what component of a project. The replacement of the artificial turf at Roberto Clemente Field in the Fens is an example. Emmanuel is paying the bills,

yet the city’s Parks Department owns the property and, presumably, plays a significant role. When the field and bleachers were fenced off in July, no information was posted explaining the project, although park users could probably deduce what was happening from the hundreds of white bags containing

vice president for college relations, Molly Honan DiLorenzo, said the project started later than planned, “but we still anticipate work will be completed by mid-August.” Boston Latin School’s football and track teams also use the facility, in addition to intramural teams from the Colleges of the Fenway.

crumb rubber and sand scraped off the field. The plan calls for reusing that material with added sand to help control the temperature of the improved surface. Residents, unaware of the partnership with Emmanuel, might wonder why the work is happening in the summer when outdoor sports are popular. The answer: the school-year calendar is dictating the schedule. Emmanuel has 16 D3-level varsity teams; five use Clemente as their home field, explained Athletic Director Brendan McWilliams. In an email, Emmanuel’s

Ten years ago, the reconstruction of Clemente Field and track facilities was a closely negotiated joint project of the college, the city and the Yawkey Foundation, which is also helping fund the replacement turf. According to a presentation on the current project at a March informational meeting, the existing surface had compacted, potentially a dangerous condition for team sports. A new shock-absorbing pad will be placed beneath the rubber-and sand-mixture. Fenway residents and park advocates Freddie Veikley and Marie Fukuda expressed concern at the meeting that black rubber crumbs were going into drains near the field, then ending up elsewhere in the Muddy River. They also advocated for improving screening and maintenance. Paul McCaffrey, head of permitting at Boston Parks, is the designated city liaison for the partnership. Two city commissions, Boston Landmarks and the Conservation Commission, have signed off on the project. The Conservation Commission is involved because the work lies close to the Muddy River, triggering wetland regulations. The “Order of Conditions” imposed by the Conservation Commission includes requirements for signage, daily inspection of construction vehicles to prevent oil or fuel spillage, and restrictions on staging and storage of construction materials within 25 feet of the riverbank. Also, no contractor vehicles are allowed to park within the 25-foot buffer zone unless stormwater controls are in place and monitored. Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

## DESPITE ALL-CLEAR UNDER PARKS LAW, PROPOSED BOYLSTON HOTEL STALLS

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

While construction proceeds on the new Boston Arts Academy and the apartments on the former Boston Cab property, one West Fens project seems to be at a standstill. In November 2017, OTO Development, a South Carolina hotel development company, proposed an eight-story, 184-room hotel to replace the Shell gas station at 1241 Boylston St. The hold-up appears to be the proximity of the proposed hotel to the Back Bay Fens and the Victory Gardens, and the effect such a development might have on the park. A request had been made to the city’s law department to review the applicability of the parks and parkways ordinance to the site. The ordinance consists of three parts. Section 7-4.10 refers to restrictions on park frontages and specifically mentions the Fens, and Section 7-4.11 states that no building or structure can be built or altered within 100 feet of a park or parkway in the city without written approval of the Parks Commission. Section 7-4.12 spells out setback requirements, the number of feet that must separate a building from parkland. For Park Drive and the Fens, the setback is 20 feet.

At a public meeting on July 2 at the Fenway Community Center, Tim Czerwienski of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) presented updates to the proposed mitigation plan for the project and the applicability of the park and parkways ordinance. The the meeting was intended to discuss interpretation of the park/parkways ordinance and the mitigation measures. However, no representatives from the Parks Commission were present.

Only the determinations made by the city’s corporation counsel were reported. Sections 7-4.10 and 7.4.12 were determined not to apply, but Section 7.4.11 does. The

proposal, including height, massing, and setbacks will not change based on this interpretation. Two items in the mitigation discussion had not previously been included. One was a public meeting space, which is still not confirmed, and the other a proposed dedicated bike lane on the roadway. The next steps are a BPDA hearing for project approval and a hearing with the Parks Commission. Impact Advisory Group (IAG) members and other residents raised question about the determinations made by the corporation counsel, specifically why they were made about the three sections of the ordinance. IAG members noted that the reasoning behind the determination was not made clear at the July 2 meeting. “If we do not know the reasoning behind the decision, then we do not know how it could apply to other parkway parcels, such as Charlesgate West,” said an IAG member who did not want to be identified. A few days later, in an attempt to clarify the issue, Czerwienski released a legal memorandum drawn up by Henry C. Luthin, first assistant corporation counsel for the City. The memorandum concluded that the parcel (where the gas station sits) was not subject to Ordinances 7-4.10 and 7-4.12, since the “mercantile and mechanical use’ of the property was longstanding, noting that in the 1940s the Parks Commission had voted to allow the use of the land for a gas station. Luthin also noted that a 1983 city landmarks document described the Back Bay Fens but did not include the parcel where the gas station is. He said it was clear that the Parks Commission did not consider Boylston Street a part of the parkway in this location.

At this point, the BPDA vote for project approval has been put on hold. The Fenway News will report any new developments in this project.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

## Kenmore Demolition Begins

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



Demolition of three buildings will begin soon on the north side of the square

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Work has begun for the first phase of Related Beal's project in Kenmore Square, including demolition of the Westgate at 541 Commonwealth Ave., the New England School of Photography, and the former Bertucci's location. They will be replaced with an eight-story commercial building. These older buildings sit on pilings, or caissons, in what was once marsh land. The Westgate luxury-hotel-style apartment house was one of the first built in the square after the underlying wetland was filled in the 1890s. Related's development required votes by Boston's Public Improvement Commission (PIC), as the work takes over public sidewalks. Contractors will excavate 30 feet below the surface in order to remove the existing foundations and then go deep enough to create two levels of new underground parking. The PIC also voted July 11 to approve Related's request to remove adjacent parking to allow creation of a cycle track that will be level with the sidewalk. How this will connect to future Kenmore Square bike routes is still to be determined and depends on plans for the Kenmore Hotel project at the Citizens Bank site. PIC Chair Chris Osgood questioned why the existing driveway on Deerfield Street couldn't be used for the new parking facility, rather than having cars enter and exit on Comm. Ave. Related's Alex Provost explained that some vehicles exiting the garage would potentially turn onto Bay State Road, and neighbors and Boston University both opposed adding traffic there. Provost also said ongoing negotiations with the MBTA have delayed the start of work on Related's Beacon Street buildings. T shuttle buses use those sidewalks for loading passengers when Green Line service has been diverted. There were no public comments on the Kenmore project at a June 20 hearing or the July 11 PIC meeting. Staff from the Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities asked if Related Beal could replace bricks in the crosswalks at Deerfield and Commonwealth with asphalt. There is currently a mix of materials, with a narrow asphalt strip bordered by bricks and pavers added when the busway was rebuilt. Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



> **LGBT HEALTH** from page 1  
dents from talking about sexual health with their peers. Because most states don't seem apt to change their curricula anytime soon—Massachusetts being an exception—the path of least resistance for sexual health, as with mental health, seems to be destigmatization.

For Alicia, a recent Northeastern graduate who wishes to omit her last name for professional reasons, the transition from straight, to bisexual, to lesbian; from Mitt Romney to Lori Lightfoot; from Vineyard Vines to baby-blue blazer came slowly. Most of those eureka moments, she says, only came with guidance from friends.

Alicia arrived at Northeastern a staunch conservative, and a very straight one at that (or so she thought). “I was really against gay marriage, and I thought that everyone on welfare was lazy and all immigrants [were] illegal,” she says. But her attitudes were largely a product of her environment. As she talked to more people—people who didn't fit the mold of her hometown—her views began to change. “When I came to college, that bubble burst, and I met people who were first generation [college students]. I met people who are gay. I met people who just weren't who I grew up with.”

After being exposed to the world, she says, she was hit with an identity crisis. “I realized that everything I'd been believing the last ten-ish years my life [...] was just completely, completely wrong.”

This was only the first crisis of many. In Alicia's third year of college, she got the first inkling of a realization that she might be attracted to women. “There [was] a girl in class who was absolutely gorgeous, and she was so friendly and so sweet. She would bring me chocolate flowers to class now and then...She would always have a hair band for me, or she'd bring me a part of her salad.”

Alicia didn't think anything of it, though, until she talked to her lesbian best friend, who told her it sounded like she had a crush. At first, Alicia was in

denial, and brushed it off as just thinking the chocolate flower girl was “really cool.” The first day of spring came a week later, though, and brought with it hosts of sundress-clad women. Sitting in the dining hall that day, Alicia says, she burst into tears: Her attraction to women could no longer be ignored. With flashbacks to years of overlooked crushes circling in her head—Kristen Stewart, Kim Possible—Alicia called her best friend, still crying. “I think I'm gay.”

From there, Alicia's journey to self-acceptance was largely facilitated by her queer peers. “If I didn't have gay friends in college [...] I think it would have been a much longer time before I realized,” she says. “When I [was] walking with a bunch of my friends who were into girls, and they were like ‘oh, that girl's really pretty,’ I'd be like, ‘Wow, what if I thought she was hot.’ And then I'm like, ‘Wow, I kind of do think she's hot.’”

Dialogue between peers certainly seems like a promising way to reduce the influence of internalized homophobia. For many people in the LGBTQ community, though—particularly those growing up in conservative areas—having queer or accepting friends isn't a realistic option. Representation might be the next best thing, especially in areas without inclusive sex education. Without help coming from school, Wang says, many LGBTQ teens turn to media as a source for sexual knowledge.

Research has long suggested a link between ethnic minority groups' self-esteem and their representation in media. A paper by Dana Mastro in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia* cites decades of studies connecting stereotypical depictions and low rates of representation with low self-esteem. This has tangible effects: As early as 2002, research demonstrated positive correlations between representation and children's grades in school.

LGBTQ representation specifically is important because it helps questioning members of the community. A 2013

## COUNCIL ELECTIONS LOOM ON SEP. 24

BY KELSEY BRUUN

The preliminary election for the Boston City Council will take place on Tue., Sept. 24, with polls open from 7am to 8pm. In the District 8 race to replace Josh Zakim, five candidates have qualified for the ballot: Beacon Hill resident Kenzie Bok, West End resident Montez Haywood, Fenway resident Kristen Mobilia, Back Bay resident Jennifer Nassour, and Kenmore Square resident Hélène Vincent. All have emphasized affordable housing and education in their campaigns. Two will move on to the general election.

In addition to the District 8 race, 15 candidates are running for four at-large seats: incumbents Annissa Essaibi-George, Michael Flaherty, Althea Garrison, and Michelle Wu, and challengers Domingos DaRosa, Michel Denis, Priscilla Flint-Banks, David Halbert, Martin Keogh, William King, Herb Alexander Lozano, Julia Mejia, Erin Murphy, Jeff Ross, and Alejandra St. Guillen. On this preliminary ballot, voters will select four candidates, with the top eight vote-getters moving to the general election, which takes place Nov. 5.

*Kelsey Bruun is the editor of The Fenway News.*

survey published in the journal *Media Psychology* found that for adolescents who were less sure of their sexuality, exposure to gay- and lesbian-oriented media positively affected self-image and decreased feelings of dejection.

A 2018 report by GLAAD, an LGBTQ advocacy group, found that 6.4 percent of characters on broadcast networks' prime time scripted shows were portrayed as queer—more, proportionally speaking, than the 4.5 percent of Americans who identify as such. But this potentially promising picture falls away upon closer inspection. Representation of the LGBTQ community on broadcast and cable networks skews disproportionately towards gay and lesbian characters, leaving 45 percent of queer viewers—mainly bisexual and transgender people—behind. Further, according to a 2015 report by researchers at USC, queer characters are often consolidated to only a few LGBTQ-oriented shows. This means that for the majority of viewers, functional representation is a lot less.

Stereotypical depictions only add to this problem, according to GLAAD. Bisexuals, for example, are often portrayed as immoral and manipulative,

and bisexuality is often used as a plot device rather than an identity.

When children have role models that match their demographic identity, they think more—and think better—about their futures, according to a 2002 study published in the *Teachers College Record*. So, for people like Alicia—people who don't fit neatly into the box of a stereotype—the problems caused by lacking representation only get worse. USC's 2015 report found that almost 80 percent of LGBTQ characters in mainstream media shows were white. More than 70 percent were male.

To combat this, Alicia says, she makes a point to broadcast her gayness when working as a director of a mentorship organization's Northeastern chapter. She says that as a gay, black, female student leader, it's her job to make self-acceptance easier for everyone else—easier than it was for her.

“Somebody in that room is going to think of me when they think about their own identity,” Alicia says. “They'll see that I [am] comfortable with it, and therefore they should be too.”

*Isaac Stephens is a journalism student at Northeastern University.*

### Northeastern University's 7th Annual Supplier Diversity Networking Event

August 21, 2019  
10am-2pm  
Northeastern University  
Curry Student Center Ballroom

This event is co-sponsored by Northeastern's Procurement Services department and the Supplier Diversity Office of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Operational Services Division.

This event gives small and diverse business owners the opportunity to network with procurement professionals from Greater Boston's colleges, universities, cultural organizations, and hospitals, as well as, local and state government agencies that may have diversity requirements for the procurement of goods and services.

Northeastern University

# FENS VIEWS

## If I Were Homeless...

BY ALISON BARNET

Every time I forget my keys and have to sit on the front steps waiting for someone to come home and let me in is more than I ever wanted to know about homelessness. Well, I'll just go in to the bathroom or get a glass of water, I think. But I can't! At least no one calls the police on me the way they do when less together-looking people sit on their stoops.

If I were actually homeless, within the first couple of days I'd undoubtedly be drunk, taking drugs, and smoking anything I could get ahold of. How else could I bear it? Pretty soon, I'm out of it and look that way, but I feel a little better because of the substances. I sleep on park benches, bus shelter benches, or wherever I can, desperately needing sleep but afraid of being raped.

When I see people walking around with shopping carts full of stuff, I think what my shopping cart(s) would be like: hundreds of books, notebooks, and framed family photos. Could I bear not traveling with my treasured possessions?

You wonder why I don't go to a shelter, but I'm afraid the belongings I carry with me will be stolen. I'm afraid it will be too noisy to sleep.

Then there's food. I have a lactose intolerance, and I wonder what would happen if I went to a free lunch place and ate something I shouldn't eat. The next day I'd be in pain, needing to lie down, and in desperate need of a toilet. No "respectable" place would be likely to let

me in, so what do I do?

Kip Tiernan, founder of Rosie's Place, once told me she didn't think she could survive on the streets either. She said you have to be really tough.

Imagine not having a roof over your head, no privacy, no nothing! You know how it is when you can't find your glasses or your keys, so imagine what it's like not to be able to find anything because they're not there at all.

I remember in the early 1980s when homelessness began in force. Wasn't Ronald Reagan in office then? I was at the bus stop on a very cold day and there was an older woman, apparently homeless, without a sweater or coat. The other people at the bus stop were horrified; it was the first time we had encountered this. I also remember seeing a man walking toward the hospital, nicely dressed and trailing a suitcase. When I saw the same man a couple of weeks later, his clothes were ragged and he had very few possessions. Is anyone horrified anymore or are we used to it?

What about the hatred directed our way, the meanness of just about everyone? What happened to the rooming houses where people used to live? What was so awful about them (today's point of view); weren't they indispensable?

I call it "wrecked humanity" and often quote a friend: "You cannot be deluded about what's happening in America when this is what you see."

*Alison Barnett lives in the South End.*

### GUEST OPINION

## Symphony Road? Where's That?

BY BARBARA FAY

Symphony Road, a Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation-owned road, is a one-way street in the East Fens. It is one block in length and located between Hemenway and St. Stephen streets, offering residents an easy walk to Symphony Hall, the New England Conservatory, the Huntington Theatre, Northeastern University, the Prudential Center, and the T.

A majestic view presents itself as one turns onto the street: that monolith structure, the Christian Science Center and Plaza, resembling St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. And with the juxtaposition of the sleek, shiny, modern Prudential building looming nearby like a beacon is awesome to observe.

Symphony Road is verdant in spring and summer with flowering trees: pear, apple, and cherry (which actually produce edible cherries), Japanese dogwood, and large oaks. At the St. Stephen's Street corner is a charming, welcoming pocket garden, which is well maintained by residents. Many of the brownstone dwellings have small front gardens protected by decorative wrought-iron fences.

These dwellings vary in ownership, and the street has condominiums, cooperatives, apartments, and a few privately-owned residences. The population ranges from students to working professionals to retired people, with a few families in the mix.

But this was not always the case. The era of rent control in the 1970s and 1980s brought death and destruction to this neighborhood. Landlords refused to maintain the residences and even abandoned their properties; some residents were forced to move elsewhere. Greedy, unscrupulous investors bought the buildings for cheap and had professional arsonists set them on fire for insurance money. In 1976, a four-year-old boy, Jessie Oliver, died in one of the fires.

With much anger and determination, citizen's groups organized to rescue the buildings. The Symphony Tenants' Organizing Project (STOP) was created to protect residents and prove the fires were acts

of arson. Symphony United Neighbors (SUN) was formed to bring affordable, livable housing back to the neighborhood. A long and arduous legal battle eventually took down the greedy investors and with financing from the city, affordable cooperatives were established. Buildings in tax foreclosure were sold, and the end of rent control attracted legitimate buyers.

More recently SUN urged local colleges to crack down on loud student parties, and Symphony Road is now a quieter place to live.

The shining star on the street is the Symphony Road Garden, a flourishing community garden owned by the Trustees of Reservations, who also manage 55 other community gardens in the City.

However, overshadowing the community garden is the construction of a five-story condominium building. Construction started in the spring of 2018 and has not yet been completed.

The noise and loss of parking spaces for the past year has been a huge inconvenience to nearby residents. Unionized construction workers add to the noise by protesting the non-union status of the project.

Some residents filed complaints with the City.

The construction company improperly posted "no parking" signage, and workers used the spots for their own private vehicles. After an investigation, residents with parking permits are allowed to use the spots again.

Being retired gives me the leisure and pleasure of gazing out my window onto Symphony Road as I drink my morning coffee. I see hopeful young people, many waiting for Uber with their ubiquitous cell phone in hand, going safely, and, hopefully, toward their goals and dreams.

Symphony Road does not have a tumbleweed rolling down the street.

*Barbara Fay has lived on Symphony Road for 25 years.*

### GUEST OPINION

### LETTERS

## Thanking Rep. Ayanna Pressley for Standing Up to Trump's Racism

TO CONGRESSWOMAN PRESSLEY:

As you know—we've had the honor of your presence at our meetings—the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee advocates for Democrats in local, state, and national elections.

We also support public policies that are important to our community, and we help our neighbors stay informed on the issues that impact their lives, and those of their families.

The 50+ members of our committee feel compelled to speak up.

As you have.

We are writing to express our deep appreciation and support for your courageous, thoughtful, and fierce response to the rash of racist and hateful tweets directed at you by the current occupant of the White House. We at the Ward 5 Democratic Committee are proud to have a person like you, who is so committed to building a more equitable, compassionate and

just world, representing us in Washington, D.C.

We listened closely and watched carefully during your press conference on July 15, as you called out the president in an eloquent, knowledgeable, and authoritative manner for his erroneous, mean-spirited, callous, and xenophobic comments.

This is not the America we know. You made it very clear that hate speech has no place in a functioning Democracy. What is more, you kept your response focused on the issues at hand; you didn't "take the bait." Rather, you took a firm stand — with dignity and grace.

Your continued opposition to the Administration's ignorant, bigoted, abusive, and inhumane immigration policies at the border and practices is badly needed.

This president has it all wrong. You have it right.

You lift up the voices of the forgotten so they can be heard. You stand by them, never allowing them to feel alone, disenfranchised, or dismissed. Likewise, you did so for your

constituents in Boston when they needed you. You spoke so clearly on behalf of many — among them vulnerable women and girls.

Congresswoman Pressley, your core values shine through. They reflect the real reason why America is truly great; why this is the land we love.

In the current environment, which is harsh beyond words, standing up to relentless attacks has to be difficult.

Please know that our support is resolute, unwavering, and unquestioned. We will never forget what you have done — and continue to do.

**IN SOLIDARITY, THE BOSTON WARD 5 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE:**  
**SHARON DURKAN, CHAIR; COLEMAN LYNDY, 1ST VICE-CHAIR; PATRICIA AMEND, 2ND VICE-CHAIR; DIANE BARRY, SECRETARY; ROBERT BINNEY, TREASURER; HILARY BACON GABRIELI; GRETCHEN BENNETT; KATHERINE JUDGE; REP. JAY LIVINGSTONE; COUNCILOR JOSH ZAKIM**

## 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 <**  
The Fenway News reaches distribution sites on the Friday closest to the first of each month. Our next issue will appear **Friday, August 30.**

**> DEADLINE <**  
The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, August 23.**

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## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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



Displacement from Kenmore Square may have dealt a fatal blow to the New England School of Photography. Founded in 1968, NESOP moved to Waltham in 2017 as Related Beal emptied out newly purchased buildings on the north side of the square in preparation for their demolition (see p2). The school will allow current students to graduate next spring, according to *The Boston Business Journal*. MassArt, for one, wants displaced students and has created a page on its website for students who planned to enter NESOP this September. ➡ **Madison Park Development Corp. received \$33.1 million in state financing to extend affordability “in perpetuity” and rehab Haynes House, outside of Dudley Square. BPDA had already approved the 131-unit project in fall 2018.** ➡ The Lower Depths closed June 30 after 15 years in Kenmore Square. Various media reported that Doug Bacon, owner of The Westland, has taken over, remodeling both the space and the underlying concept. Look for a fall reopening ➡ **The Esplanade Association held a flash fundraiser over July 19-21 in hopes of raking in \$10,000 to match a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The funds would support creation of murals on three pump houses along the Esplanade, inspired by the work of Silvia Lopez Chavez, who painted the mural on the base of the Storrow Drive ramp over the Esplanade’s multi-use path at Charlesgate.** ➡ *The New York Times* and other media reported that the producers of *Tea at Five*, which completed a three-week tryout at the Huntington Theatre in June and July, have dropped actress Faye Dunaway from the show. Without Dunaway, starring as Katharine Hepburn, the play won’t go to Broadway as planned but instead to London’s West End in 2020, with a new lead. ➡ **ESPN reports that in the first 42 home games this season, the Red Sox ranked seventh in attendance among the 30 major league baseball teams, averaging just over 36,000 people, or about 95 percent of the seats in the ballpark.** ➡

## Farmers’ Markets

Look for artichokes, arugula, beets, and late summer staples like tomatoes and corn and a variety of fruit ranging from cantaloupe, to nectarines to watermelon.

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.
B.U.: 775 COMM AVE AT MUGAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY	
Thursday	11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
MISSION HILL: VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (HUNTINGTON/FRANCIS )	
Thursday	11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
SOUTH END: 500 HARRISON AVENUE (AT SOWA ARTS MARKET)	
Sunday	10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

## Neighborhood Newsline

### Business Openings and Closings

In the West Fens, vegan ice cream store FoMu has moved into the Emack & Bolio’s space on Brookline Avenue. In the East Fens, Boston Market on Mass. Ave. has also gone out of business, but right down the street Tatte has officially opened its newest branch.

### BPDA Awards Fenway Beautification Funds

A few months ago, the BPDA awarded grants to eight non-profit organizations to pursue specific projects that aim to beautify the Fenway. The grants are funded by the Boston Red Sox, who contribute \$100,000 each year as mitigation for utilizing Jersey Street prior to games and other events. The grantees are:

- Art Resource Collaborative for Kids—\$10,000 for Miles of Murals 2020
- Bay State Road Neighborhood Association—\$6,000 for removal of a temporary chain link fence left behind from dredging of the Muddy River in the Charlesgate Park area
- Esplanade Association—\$5,000 for the Esplanade tree canopy
- Fenway Education and Neighborhood Support Fund—received \$5,500 for the Fenway Memory Project
- Emerald Necklace Conservancy—\$11,750 for the Shattuck Visitor Center at 125 The Fenway
- Fenway Civic Association—\$25,000 for the relocation and maintenance of the Robert Burns Statue
- Kenmore Association—\$12,000 for new benches on the Comm. Ave. mall
- Interseminarian-Project Place—\$24,750 for street cleaning.

### Best of Boston Ribbons Land in The Fenway, Kenmore Square

*Boston* magazine announced its Best of Boston 2019 winners. West Fens business REI received the Best Outdoor Gear Award, and nearby restaurant Hojoko won best Bar Scene. Dee Steffen Chinn of Tiger Mama, Sweet Cheeks, and Fool’s Errand was named Best Pastry Chef. In Kenmore Square, Eastern Standard received the Best Second Dinner award, with sister restaurant Island Creek Oyster Bar winning Best Lobster Roll.

### Boston Ward 4 Democrats Endorse Council Candidates

In the City Council races, the Boston Ward 4 Democrats voted to endorse Ed Flynn for District 2, Kim Janey for District 7, Kenzie Bok for District 8, and Alejandra St. Guillen and Michelle Wu for City Council At-Large.

### Lightning Strike in Brigham Circle

The One Brigham Circle shopping center was hit by lightning on July 17. J.P. Licks closed for two days while power was being restored. Walgreens and TGI Friday’s also shut down temporarily. Stop & Shop relied on a back-up generator, but had to move perishable goods out of the store on July 17, moving them back and reopening the next day.

## COMMUNITY meetings

**MON, AUG 5** Parcel 12 Citizens Advisory Committee to discuss community benefits and mitigation. 6pm. Hynes Convention Center, Room 102, 900 Boylston St.

**WED, AUG 7** The Fenway CDC Urban Village Committee meets at 6pm to hear presentations from two organizations looking for support of their licensing applications. 70 Burbank St.

**WED, AUG 7 & 21** Fenway Fair Foods, 3-5pm, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive. Get a bag of fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables for \$2. To learn more, contact Helen Murphy, hmunphy@fenwaycdc.org, (617) 267-4637 x21.

**THU, AUG 8, 15, 22, & 29** Fenway CDC’s free

One-on-One Financial Coaching. 1-5pm, 70 Burbank St. Contact Kris Anderson at kanderson@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x29 to schedule an appointment

**TUE, AUG 13** Fenway Civic Association summer meeting. Update on the Muddy River Project by Boston Parks & Recreation Department’s Margaret Dyson and presentation on the new green space at 401 Park by Samuels & Associates. 6-8pm. Fenway Community Center, 1282 Boylston Street.

**SUN, AUG 25** Boston Ward 4 Dems Ice Cream Social. Join friends, neighbors, and local Democrats for good ice cream and good company, 2-4pm in Titus Sparrow Park. Co-hosted by Michelle Wu. Email questions to ward4dems@gmail.com.

## DASHBOARD

### ➔ STREET CLEANING

The City cleans Fenway streets between 12 and 4pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month (odd-numbered side) and the second and fourth Wednesdays (even-numbered side). More info at 617-635-4900 or www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sweeping. The state cleans streets along the Back Bay Fens on this schedule:

- **SECOND THURSDAY**  
The Riverway, 12:00–3:00pm
- **SECOND FRIDAY**  
The Fenway (includes inside lane), Charlesgate Extension and Forsyth Way, 8:00am–12:00pm

- **SECOND FRIDAY**  
8 to 54 The Fenway (includes inside lane) and Charlesgate Extension, 12:00–3:00pm
- **THIRD TUESDAY**
  - > Park Drive (includes inside lane), upper Boylston Street, 8:00am–12:00pm
  - > Park Drive, from Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral to Kilmarnock Street and from the Riverside Line overpass to Beacon Street, 12:00–3:00pm

Visit [www.mass.gov/dcr/sweep.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/sweep.htm) for a complete schedule and maps. **Street cleaning ends for the season on December 1.**

### ➔ TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

- **BACK BAY:** Trash and recycling on Monday and Thursday
- **FENWAY:** Trash and recycling on on Tuesday and Friday
- **MISSION HILL:** Trash and recycling on Tuesday and Friday

## S O X B O X

Mon, August 5	7:10pm	Sat, August 10	4:05pm
Tue, August 6	7:10pm	Fri, August 16	7:10pm
Wed, August 7	7:10pm	Sat, August 17	7:10pm
Thu, August 8	7:10pm	Tue, August 20	7:10pm
Fri, August 9	7:10pm	Wed, August 21	7:10pm

## New Life for An Old Park



PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

**The reconstruction of the Westland entrance to the Fens made big progress this month. New sidewalks on the south side opened, but fencing remains to protect the lawn while reseeded grass gets established. The project widened the main sidewalk (shown), moving it away from mature trees, added new lighting, and introduced 10 new trees. Work continues on the north side, next to 73 Hemenway St.**



IN MEMORIAM

Warren A. Beattie

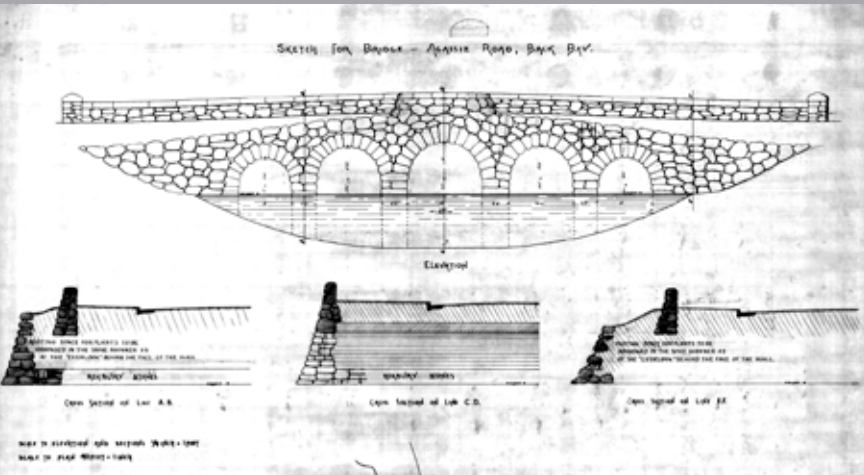
BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Warren A. Beattie, a longtime resident of the West Fens, died on July 11. He was 64. Warren was well known for his gardening and landscaping skills, and tended to and beautified the gardens at 82-86 Jersey St. One friend described him as a “kind and gentle soul.” Charles Martel, a neighbor on Jersey Street, said, “So many people who passed by on the way to the

Red Sox game stopped and complimented Warren on how beautiful the garden was.” He is survived by a sister, Heather Beattie of Hampden and his nieces and nephews. A service was held on Aug. 1 at the Hamel-Lydon Chapel & Cremation Service in Quincy. Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.



AS IT DID OTHER OLMSTED WORK, CONFLICT DOGGED DESIGN OF AGASSIZ ROAD BRIDGE



Portion of a sketch for the Agassiz Road Bridge (approximately 1875), designed by John C. Olmsted

EDITORS NOTE: This is the third in an occasional series on the Olmsted bridges in the Back Bay Fens written by Vassar College undergraduate Graeme Mills. The first provided background on the three bridges; the second discussed the Boylston Street Bridge; this piece examines the Agassiz Road Bridge; and the final article will look at the Fens/Higginson Circle Bridge.

BY GRAEME MILLS

The scenically important Agassiz Bridge features five semi-circular brick archways that cross the two basins of the Muddy River and connect Park Drive with The Fenway. As described by its architect, John C. Olmsted, the Agassiz Bridge was built in 1887 to accommodate the waterway’s rising tides—a pragmatic aim—and to achieve aesthetic impact: “Not being necessarily an imposing mass of masonry like Boylston Bridge, it was designed in an ultra-picturesque style, almost suggesting the interesting effect of a partly ruined, but still standing and useful, ancient piece of comparatively unskilled masonwork.” With expectations thus lowered, the bridge was constructed of Roxbury Puddingstone boulders taken from old boundary walls and field fences in nearby Franklin Park, itself undergoing renovation at the time. Exemplifying the principles of environmental reuse, local sourcing, and historic authenticity, Olmsted’s plan called for the boulders to be ordered in place and then precisely reassembled at the Bridge site. As if to emphasize its conformity with the landscape, the Bridge featured a central planting area and creeping vines in all the open crevices of its 10-foot-tall arches. The “ultra-picturesque” aspect of the Agassiz Bridge was realized in the carved walkways built to accommodate pedestrian viewing. Its “ruined...unskilled” character is belied by the mechanized nature of the construction process, which required the installation of temporary dams and precision dredging to calibrate the refilling of the channel. As well, considerable attention was paid to landscaping, which is described in the Annual Report as being conducted “under the immediate direction of the Assistant Landscape Gardener [and a] force of gardeners and laborers...throughout the season...in the care of the plantations.” What is more, the name of the Agassiz Bridge and Road, which has engendered some debate among historians, reflect a decidedly non-architectural intention. Whether it was named to honor ichthyologist and anti-Darwinian Harvard University Professor Louis Agassiz or his socialite daughter Ida, who was married to Boston Symphony Orchestra founder Henry Lee Higginson, the newly named Bridge took on the stature of a monument to social and economic attainment. The City of Boston likely encouraged the practice of naming bridges after wealthy benefactors; it conferred stature in spite of the elemental materials chosen by the architects.

Conflict ensued with the Olmsted firm’s design for additional footbridges, each specifying boulders. But botanist and unofficial advisor to the Boston Park Commission Charles S. Sargent had other ideas. At his urging, architectural critic Mariana Van Rensselaer published an editorial that voiced a dim view of the crude, unrefined boulder bridges of the Fens. Olmsted aimed his response at Sargent, whom he saw as “the most obstinate and implacably ‘set’ old man I have ever known” and predicted that the virtues of boulders—and his motivations in specifying them—would be proven over time. The debate between “rusticity and urbanity” and the social capital of its influencers, would play out across the Fens and Boston’s parklands, impacting successive landscape design. In the spirit of compromise, boulders were specified for smaller footbridges and seam-faced granite for major ones. Cynthia Zaitzevsky [landscape historian and author of the book “Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Parks System”—Ed.] wonders if the resulting “furniture,” for all its tasteful unobtrusiveness, ultimately lacks distinction.

Graeme Mills is an urban studies and economics student at Vassar College.

Lining Up for Protected Bike Lanes on Brookline Ave., Fenway



PHOTO: SARAH FREEMAN



During morning rush hour on June 11, more than 100 bike advocates created protected bike lanes on Brookline Avenue (upper image) and the Fenway (lower image) near the Emmanuel College campus. The City of Boston added one painted bike lane on Brookline Ave in the wake of the death of Dr. Anita Kurmann, the Swiss researcher killed in 2015 in the Back Bay while biking to work in the Longwood Area. Cycling advocates have criticized the city for a reluctance to build physically separated lanes, often called “cycle tracks.” On the 11th, the demonstrators formed a lane on the inbound side of Brookline Ave., which still has no lane for people on bikes. Around the corner on the Fenway the demonstrators targeted MassHighways, which operates that road and had just finished resurfacing and restriping it. Here, the issue was a failure to take advantage of the reconstruction to create a separated lane for biking. Activists across the U.S. have sesized on the human-protected lane in the last year to draw attention to deficient bike facilities. One event took place last fall on Congress Street by the Federal Reserve Bank. More recently, activists set out red Solo cups on Somerville Ave. in Porter Square to show where a lane was needed, but unsympathetic drivers quickly flattened most of them.

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COMIX-531



# The Arts

## Mapping the Moment (Sans GPS) at Gardner Workshop



PHOTO: FAIZAL WESTCOTT

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum’s exhibition *Big Plans: Picturing Social Reform* examines how landscape architects and photographers in the late 1800s and early 1900s advocated for social reform in Boston, New York, and Chicago. Using city plans, archival materials, historical maps and photos, the exhibition invites visitors to see how these designers advocated for social reform and explores how their work speaks to urban conditions today. Building on those themes, the Gardner organized “Map This,” a series of youth workshops and public programs in partnership with designer Nathalia JMag. In hands-on textile workshops, JMag works with teens at three community groups to generate alternative representations of their own communities. Here, she leads a workshop with Hyde Square Task Force.

## LAST CALL

Don’t just sit there—catch these three exhibits at the MFA before they close this month:

- **Toulouse Lautrec and The Stars of Paris (closes 8/4):** There’s a lot more to Toulouse-Lautrec than dorm-room posters. A serious painter, he rode a perfect storm of arts and media innovation, social upheaval, and prosperity to become the iconographer of Paris in la Belle Époque.
- **Gender-Bending Fashion (closes 8/25)**
- **Bouchra Khalili: Poets and Witnesses (closes 8/25)**

## Burgers & Vegan & Donuts, Oh My! Time Out Market Brings New Food Experience—Name Chefs, No Cash—to West Fens

PHOTO: KELSEY BRUUN



BY RUTH KHOWAIS

**A**s I entered the new Time Out Food court that has replaced Best Buy at the Landmark Center, now known as 401 Park, I felt overwhelmed. The room is huge, noisy, and very crowded. It has large concrete poles and an ugly, menacing industrial ceiling. Very long communal tables seat dozens of people. All the menu signs are high up on the wall and hard to read. No one, except Craigie Burger, had a paper or plastic menu that you could read without neck craning.

The food court, modeled after one in Lisbon, features 15 eateries and two bars. Most of the restaurants are local and well-known: **Mamaleh’s Delicatessen**, a Jewish deli from Kendall Square, features homemade bagels, pastrami, and whitefish salad. Price range is \$6 to \$24.95. Also of note is **anoush’ella** from the South End, which features eastern Mediterranean wrap sandwiches and mezze samplers with hummus, chickpea fritters, and falafel. Prices range from \$4.50 to \$16. **Craigie Burger**, from the fine-dining Cambridge standout Craigie on Main, specializes in burgers made with local beef. They serve three types of burgers: the original, based on the original

Cambridge special from chef Tony Maws; The Special with Swiss cheese and kimchi Russian dressing; and the Steakburger, with cheddar, charred umami onions, and burnt-bread steak sauce. The burgers are \$16, with add-ons for \$2. There’s also Somerville’s **Tasting Counter** from chef Peter Ungar,



PHOTOS: KELSEY BRUUN

with dishes like king crab risotto with fermented rice and smoked duck breast over garlicky greens with fermented black bean vinaigrette. Prices are \$6 to \$24.

There are also a number of vegan options. **MC Kitchen** features ingredients from local farms and has beet ravioli and buffalo cauliflower tacos. Prices range from \$8 to \$16. **Revolution Health Kitchen** has salads, smoothies, acai bowls, and soups. Prices range from \$5 to \$12.95. Even Somerville’s **Union Square Donuts** has a vegan option.

In my dedication to journalism—it’s a tough job, but someone’s got to do it—I ordered a pricey (\$27) lobster roll from Back Bay’s **Saltie Girl**. I was surprised when they wouldn’t accept cash, but it turns out that Time Out Market is a no-cash enterprise, which is a popular policy in some places but technically illegal in Massachusetts. The lobster roll had huge chunks of lobster and was in a grilled brioche bun, but it lacked flavor. Also on the menu was a wide range of seafood, including octopus empanadas, mussels in pickled sauce, and spiced sardines in olive oil. Prices range from \$8 to \$27.

I didn’t have an alcoholic beverage, but the choices were intriguing. Watermelon Wonderful was made with tequila, watermelon, agave, triple sec, and wasabi salt. Boston Blues has citrus vodka,

blueshine blueberry liqueur from Maine, cranberry-spiced ginger syrup, lemon, and ginger ale.

Union Square Donuts, now competing with Blackbird on Kilmarnock Street, offered cake, raised, and filled variations. Its Belgian-chocolate-coated donut was to die for. Also of interest were bourbon caramel and jam-filled varieties. Prices range from \$3 to \$4. Next to Union Square Donuts is **George Howell Coffee**, an Acton-based artisan roaster with locations downtown. Well known for the now-defunct The Coffee Connection, George Howell roasts his coffee in small batches producing a rich, flavorful brew.

To sum up, I found the atmosphere unpleasant, and my neck hurt from looking way up the wall to see menus, but it was fun to try great foods from famous chefs and local restaurants. (Though, I do miss Best Buy.)

It turns out there is a way to use cash at Time Out Market, but they don’t advertise this anywhere. I found out by accident that when you enter the market, a cashier at a podium will take your cash and load it on a card you can use at any Time Out vendor.

*Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens. Time Out Market, located at 401 Park Drive, is open Mon.-Thu. from 7:30am to 11pm; Fri. from 7:30am to midnight; Sat. from 9am to midnight; and Sun. from 9am to 11pm.*




Left, diners at a communal table. Above, one of the market’s bars.



# August

## CALENDAR

 THIS SYMBOL INDICATES THAT AN EVENT IS FREE.

### arts+ ENTERTAINMENT

Fri, 8/2 ➡ Sat, 8/17

In an unusual collaboration, Company One Theater teams up with Cambridge’s A.R.T. to present **GREATER GOOD**. Acclaimed playwright Kirsten Greenidge has created an immersive “tour” of a troubled elementary schools that plays out in an actual school, the Back Bay’s Commonwealth School. Moving in small clusters, audience members experience scenes that slowly come together in a thought-provoking look at assumptions about “the ways we educate, govern, and collectively strive toward the greater good.” Tue to Sat, 7:30pm and Sat to Sun, 2pm. Tickets are \$35 to \$45. Details and tickets at [companyone.org](http://companyone.org).


Sat, 8/3

**CITY-WIDE FRIENDS OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK SALE.** All proceeds benefit the Boston Public Library. 10am-4pm. Central Library (in Copley Square), McKim Building, Lower Level, Conference Room B. Best entrance is from Dartmouth Street.


Sun, 8/4

**LATINO FAMILY FESTIVAL.** More than 70 exhibitors, interactive games, family activities and afternoon music performances fill Fenway Park. Sponsored by *El Mundo*. 11am-7pm. Tickets \$10, available on Eventbrite and [redsox.com](http://redsox.com).

Sun, 8/4 & 8/11

**THE EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVATORY** presents two concerts at Jamaica Pond’s Pinebank Promontory (off the Jamaica way at Perkins Street). 8/4 see Celtic- and Appalachian-influenced music from the vocal duo Hawthorn. On 8/11 the Boston Landmarks Orchestra Ensemble performs with a program of classics and “instrument petting zoo” for kids. Both at 6pm. Details  at [emeraldnecklace.org/events/](http://emeraldnecklace.org/events/). FREE


Tue, 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, & 8/27

**RIVER FIT**, the Esplanade fitness program, consists of varied outdoor fitness classes open to all experience levels, ages, and abilities. Get fit for free in the park while enjoying beautiful river views. Tuesday is Zumba. Meet at the Hatch Shell at 6pm. Visit [Esplanade.org/Fitness](http://Esplanade.org/Fitness) for a complete program  schedule, a list of all class offerings, and to pre-register for classes. FREE

Wed, 8/7, 8/14, 8/21, & 8/28

You couldn’t ask for a more eclectic list of performers than at the **MFA’S CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD** this month. In sequence, **Tal National** fuses the musical traditions of Niger’s four main tribal groups; Latin Grammy winners **Flor de Toloache**, an all-female ensemble, reassemble the mariachi tradition; sextet **Upstate**, blends folk, jazz, and gospel; and **Party Band**, “a punk/funk brass band” from Lowell, will get you moving. 7:30pm to 9:30pm. Tickets \$24 for members and \$30 nonmembers (bring a blanket and a picnic). Members can book tables on


the patio of the 465 restaurant for \$39 or \$34 for partly obstructed views (food and drinks are extra). Details and tickets at [mfa.org](http://mfa.org).

• **RIVER FIT**, the Esplanade fitness program (full details in the previous listing) offers yoga classes open to all levels on Wednesdays at 6pm. Meet at Fiedler Field. Visit [Esplanade.org/Fitness](http://Esplanade.org/Fitness) for a complete program schedule, a list of all  class offerings, and to pre-register for classes. FREE

Thu, 8/8

**ASPIRE: FIVE-WEEK SHOWCASE CONCERT.** Berklee students show what they’ve learned during their time at Berklee’s intensive summer program for music performance. 8pm. Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave. FREE

Thu, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, & 8/29

**RIVER FIT**, the Esplanade fitness program (full details in the previous listing) offers bootcamp classes open to all levels on Wednesdays at 6pm. Meet at Fiedler Field. Visit [Esplanade.org/Fitness](http://Esplanade.org/Fitness) for a complete program schedule, a list of all  class offerings, and to pre-register for classes. FREE

Fri, 8/9

• **BEANTOWN TAPFEST** (who knew?) celebrates its tenth year with classes, panels, and workshops from Aug. 5 to 11. The festival culminates in a splashy faculty showcase at Roxbury Community College’s Media Center, with more than a dozen solo and group performers from the US and Europe. 8pm; tickets \$36; details and tickets at [beantowntapfest.com](http://beantowntapfest.com). Last year’s showcase sold out, so you might want to buy tickets early.

• Neighborhood movie night at Charlesgate East near Beacon Street. Film TBA. Presented by the Emerald Necklace  Conservancy. Rain date is Sat, Sept. 7. FREE

Sat, 8/10

**BOSTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE FESTIVAL** brings together more than a dozen performers from as far as Toronto and Dallas (and plenty of NYC-based companies) at 7:30pm with a showcase of 20 New England artists at 2pm. The format allows the audience to meet critics, dancers, and national dance leaders alongside the showcases. Huntington Avenue Theater, 264 Huntington Ave. Tickets \$15 to \$55. Details and tickets at [bostoncontemporarydance.org](http://bostoncontemporarydance.org).

Tue, 8/13

**MOVIE NIGHT AT FENWAY PARK.** Fenway Park screens *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. Doors open at 6:45pm, movie starts at 8pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids under 12. Fenway Park, uses gates A and D.

Thu, 8/15

• The monthly **THIRD THURSDAYS** events at the Gardner Museum are a relaxing mix of artful activities, cocktails, and music. Tonight, come for Game Night, featuring rowdy 60-second games, museum trivia, and scavenger hunts. Ticket \$15 adults/


### Fenway’s National Night Out Block Party



On August 14, The National Night Out block party moves to a one-time location, the soon-to-be-redeveloped Boston Cab lot on Queensberry Street. In addition to the food and kids’ activities, Operation P.E.A.C.E. has commissioned painter Julia Roth to create a mural on one of the buildings facing the lot, with help from kids in the OpPEACE youth program. 5pm to 8pm.

PICK OF THE MONTH


\$12 seniors (65 and up)/ \$10 students with valid college ID/ free for children under age 18. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 25 Evans Way.

• The MFA’s Sunset Cinema series continues with **2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY**. Bring a blanket or low chair, a picnic, and nonalcoholic beverages (beer and wine are available for purchase). Movie at 6:30pm; lawn opens at 5pm with art  activities and games. [www.mfa.org/film](http://www.mfa.org/film). FREE

Fri, 8/16

Who wouldn’t welcome a break from the city in the dog days of August? For a cheap and easy getaway, try a starlit canoe trip down the River Charles sponsored by **BROOKLINE ADULT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION**. Meet at the Moody Street dam in Waltham (next to Margaritas) for a trip through Waltham and Newton’s Auburndale under the full moon. Beginners welcome. 7pm to 10pm, \$45, pre-registration required at [brooklineadulted.org](http://brooklineadulted.org) or (617) 730-2700.

Sat, 8/17

• **EXHIBITION: BETA BLOCKS.** Beta Blocks is an innovative strategy for making sure communities determine the future of their neighborhoods. Learn more at this unique inflatable exhibit. 11am to 5pm.  Boston Public Library, Johnson Building Lobby, Copley Square. FREE

• It’s not too late in the summer to go camping, and the REI store at 401 Park Drive wants to help. At the **DELUXE CAMPING WORKSHOP** you can try out various kinds of equipment and learn the secrets for a speedy campsite set-up. 12-2pm, \$20 members/ \$40 nonmembers. Find details and reserve your spot [atrei.com/stores/boston.html](http://atrei.com/stores/boston.html).

Tue, 8/20

The **MOTH STORYSLAM** is an open-mic competition where you can tell a five-minute story on the night’s theme (or just listen). Tonight’s theme is “Influence,” whether you’ve wielded it yourself or fallen under someone else’s. Doors at 6:30, show at 7:30. Tickets \$15, available one week prior to the show at 3pm (which means you better be waiting on your computer around then—the time restriction suggests they’ll go quickly. Visit [wbur.org/events](http://wbur.org/events) for details.


Wed, 8/21

Neo-soul singer and actress **JILL SCOTT** brings her “formidable soprano” to the House of Blues. Tickets \$66, \$86. Doors 7pm, show 8pm. Details and tickets at [houseofblues/boston](http://houseofblues/boston).

Thu, 8/22


• On select Thursday evenings, the **GARDNER MUSEUM** offers free admission, available on a first come-first served basis. This summer’s series invites visitors to explore themes drawn from the special exhibition *Big Plans: Picturing Social Reform*. Each Neighborhood Night features performances, hands-on art-making, food trucks, a cash bar, and gallery games. Bring friends and family for an engaging, interactive summer

evening in the galleries and gardens.


 5-9pm. Gardner Museum, 25 Evans Way. FREE

• With **SING OUT STRONG: IMMIGRANT VOICES**, White Snake Productions teams up with WBUR to bring the stories of Boston-area immigrants to the stage at CitySpace. Composers and lyricists hail from Asia, South America and the Caribbean. A panel of immigration specialists, including DACA “Dreamers” will discuss larger questions about this hot-button issue. Doors at 5:30pm, event at 6pm. Visit [wbur.org/events](http://wbur.org/events) for details  and to reserve a ticket (required). FREE.

Fri, 8/23

This year’s **FREE FUN FRIDAYS** loaded most of its Fenway options into July, but you can view the Mary Baker Eddy Library and the Mapparium at the Christian Science Center today for free. If you’ve got visitors, or just an itch to do more, the Boston Athenaeum and Museum of African American History,  both on Beacon Hill, are also free today. FREE

Sun, 8/25

The summer’s second **OPEN NEWBURY STREET** takes place unusually close to Labor Day, which might dampen turnout. If you’re in town, enjoy the street car-free—along with sales, performances, games, and extra  outdoor seating—from 10am to 6pm. Parking ban begins at 8am. FREE

Now ➡ Sun, 9/15

**BIG PLANS: PICTURING SOCIAL REFORM** examines how landscape architects and photographers advocated for social reform in Boston, New York, and Chicago in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Using city plans, maps, photographs, and archival materials, the exhibition shows the invention of landscape architecture as a progressive response to the social and environmental conditions of working-class immigrants, and invites visitors to consider how cultural producers address contemporary urban challenges and social conditions. Tickets required and include museum admission. Adults \$15, seniors \$12, students \$10, children \$5, members free. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, 25 Evans Way. Visit [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org) for details.

## SENIOR EVENTS

Events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center or Fenway Community Center. Find the Senior Center entrance by walking into the alley between 100 and 108 Jersey St. and looking left. For more information, call 617-536-7154.

- Tue, 8/6 at 1pm: Presentation on FriendShip Works with Bryan Perkins, Friendly Visiting Coordinator.
- Tue, 8/13 & Wed, 8/14 between 10am and 4pm: Drop by 68 Kilmarnock Street to help paint a community mural!
- Tue, 8/20 at 1pm: Presentation by the Emerald Necklace Conservancy.

## @ THE CENTER

These highlights from the Fenway Community Center’s calendar are free unless otherwise noted. Visit the Center at 1282 Boylston or check out the full calendar at [www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar](http://www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar)

- Thu, 8/8 at 6pm: **ASCK** (Accessing Shared Community Knowledge) is a series of educational seminars at FCC. Join FCC on 8/8 for a discussion on basic crime scene forensics used by the FBI. RSVP at [bit.ly/FCC\\_ASCK](http://bit.ly/FCC_ASCK).

- Mon, 8/12at 11am: Join community member Maria Rodriguez as she demonstrates how to cook rice and beans! Stop by to learn the recipe and have a taste.
- Mon, 8/12, 8/19, & 8/26at 6pm: Yoga is back at FCC! For the month of August, we’ll have free, hour-long classes led by a certified instructor. All levels are welcome to attend. The community center has a limited supply of yoga mats; if possible, please bring your own.