



Nine-Unit Developments Proliferate in Mission Hill

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Civil War era housing bites the dust: the little red house at 80 Terrace St. in Mission Hill was torn down for a market-rate, nine-condo project by Wyatt Komarin's company, Primary (formerly known as General Development).

And goodbye to a multi-family from the 1880s, as the Boston Landmarks Commission director signed off on a demo permit for 3-5 South Whitney St., located on the dead-end street that urbanologist Max

The 19th-century house and barn on the parcel burned in 1965; from 1871 to 1883, the property belonged to Ivers W. Adams, known as the father of professional baseball in Boston. Marilyn Boyer, who owned 20 Delle Ave. for many decades, maintained the lot as a garden, and sold the parcels to the Grant brothers in 2017.

The Community Alliance of Mission Hill recently heard the brothers' presentation but did not take a vote on the project. Paul Grant said as a result of negotiations with Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing

that need a zoning change—hence the focus on nine-unit proposals.

And two more nine-unit market rate developments are under

from Virginia in the 1950s, and lived at Bromley Heath public housing for some years. Later as a young widow with 10 children, she purchased



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

Z Capital Development has foundation work underway on steep city-owned lots at Wensley Street and Fisher Avenue

construction: Z Capital Development has foundation work underway on steep city-owned lots at Wensley Street and Fisher Avenue, and Klaus Kimel plans nine condos at 101 Heath Street on land purchased from Toula Politis.

Also on Heath Street, occupancy for the 47 income-restricted apartments at General Heath Square—more than 2,600 households applied for the units—is expected to begin Dec. 1. The co-developers, Back of the Hill Community Development Corp. and Jamaica Plain Development Corp., recently announced that they will name the complex for Hattie Kelton, a community activist with roots in both JP and Mission Hill. She moved

a triple decker on Lawn Street in 1971. Until her death in 1998, her home was a central meeting place for her 25 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

And beginning its own real estate process, the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard (RTH) held a crucial go-ahead vote on the “snow lot” project. By a 94-92 vote, members authorized the RTH board of directors to develop vacant land at 761-765 Huntington Ave. as mixed-income multifamily housing with commercial, community space, and outdoor open space—a plan the board and its advisors, Peter Munkenbeck and Dave Traggorth, have worked on for more than a year.

MISSION HILL on page 4 >



RENDERING COURTESY OF PRIMARY

A rendering of the development Wyatt Komarin's company, Primary (formerly General Development) has proposed for 80 Terrace St.

Grinnell praised for its grittiness in his *Boston* magazine story on Mission Hill. A six-story, nine-unit project is proposed for the site.

Paul and Greg Grant, investors known for their student apartments on Calumet Street, also have a nine-unit proposal for 16-18 Delle Ave.

Services, he will make one of the apartments an “affordable” rental and agree not to rent to undergrads.

The Boston Planning and Development Agency's inclusionary development requirement only applies to market-rate housing developments with ten or more units

Without Support, College Risks Trapping, Not Boosting, First-Generation Students

BY KATE SECREST

Wealthy Americans, including a handful of celebrities, have dominated the news this year as they make their way through the courts.

Not known criminals or prominent lawyers, they're actors, CEOs, and hedge fund managers charged with conspiring to commit fraud in an effort to help their children gain admission to top universities. Uncovering their crimes has reinforced a concept many Americans know all too well: access to higher education is often reserved for those who can pay to game the system.

Earning an education after high school is one of the most crucial factors in alleviating poverty. Lacking a formal, postsecondary education often results in consequences that span generations, perpetuating a cycle of poverty. Data shows that students born into the bottom quintile of income distribution only have a five percent chance of moving to the top quintile without a college degree. Yet, when these same children receive a college degree, their chances of moving up increase by nearly 50 percent.

So, while underserved populations could potentially benefit the most from higher education, they continue to face barriers preventing them from attaining a college degree.

On the surface, enrollment statistics for low-income and minority students look promising. In fact, data from the National Center for Education Statistics show that low-income students are enrolling in college at a higher rate than their middle-income peers.

Mike Hansen, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and director of Brookings's Brown Center on Education Policy, states that while college admissions numbers have increased in recent years, underserved students still face significant challenges when it comes to earning a college degree.

Hansen explains that major gaps consistently begin to emerge in what he refers to as “persistence measures,”

that is, continuing education to completion. These gaps, he says, are much more consequential for these groups of students.

Many perfectly qualified students find it extremely difficult to succeed or persist in college simply because they're unprepared to do so. Navigating the logistics can pose a major barrier to certain students.

“There are a lot of hurdles that can be impossible for students to overcome if they have never faced them before and the parents have never had that experience either. For them this feels like a very foreign experience” says Hansen.

No Counselors, No Guidance

Northeastern student Angelika Kowalska experienced these struggles as a child of Polish immigrants who never attended college. For her, the question was not whether she would *qualify* to attend college, but whether she could *receive the support* necessary to succeed.

“I went to a massive high school in Brooklyn with a thousand other kids in my grade and two college counselors. In terms of academic advising for college, there really was none,” she says.

In 2014, the Obama administration released a study identifying some of the major barriers between underserved students and higher education. The study found the student-to-counselor ratio in high schools serving low-income, often minority, populations was 1,000 to 1, compared to a national average of 470 students to 1 counselor.

The same study also found that adding a single counselor can increase college enrollment by 10 percent.

Kowalska's high school guidance counseling did not help her plan beyond graduation. With so many students and so few advisors, very little time was invested in those students on track to graduate.

“Because my grades were better than a lot of other

COLLEGE on page 5 >

VOTE 11-5!

> DISTRICT 8 CITY COUNCILOR

Candidates Kenzie Bok and Jennifer Nassour compete for the District 8 seat being vacated by Josh Zakim.

> AT-LARGE CITY COUNCILORS

Voters will choose four at-large councilors from these candidates:

Incumbents Anissa Essaibi-George, Michael Flaherty, Althea Garrison, and Michelle Wu, and newcomers David Halbert, Julia Mejia, Erin Murphy, and Alejandra St. Guillen.

> FIND OUT WHERE TO VOTE

Visit WhereDoIVoteMa.com.

EVENT ALERT AT FENWAY PARK

NOV 9-10

SPARTAN RACE

7AM-9PM

20,000 EXPECTED EACH DAY

NOISE OR MISBEHAVIOR?

Report excessive event noise or bad behavior to these numbers. It's most effective to call all three.

CITY LICENSING BOARD • 617-635-4170

SOX COMPLAINT LINE • 617-226-6424

311 • CITY PROBLEM LINE


SOCIEDAD LATINA MARKS 50 YEARS



Mission Hill-based Sociedad Latina hosted a 50th-anniversary gala on Oct. 9 at the MFA. The youth-development nonprofit creates spaces for young Latinx people to be heard, make an impact in their community, and share their vision for a better city. Above, actor and writer Manny Pérez joins Sociedad Latina's executive director, Alexandra Oliver-Dávila, at the gala.

STATE OK'S PARCEL 12 PLAN, BUT SHADOWS ON HISTORIC BUILDINGS NEED RESOLUTION

The proposal for Air Rights Parcel 12, at Mass. Ave. and Boylston Street, has received state environmental approvals in the form of a certificate issued by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs on Sept. 27. The project includes a 20-story office building with a two-level underground garage along Boylston Street, and a 12-story building, either a hotel or housing, next to the turnpike on-ramp and Newbury Street Extension. A deck spanning the eight lanes of the turnpike and commuter rail line will connect the buildings and support a two-level public plaza. The planned overlook will offer sunset views over the Pike, an amenity residents at public meetings said they did not want the neighborhood to lose. There remain bumps in the road to final approval, however. The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) issued a finding of adverse impacts on historic resources. It said shadows will affect Fenway Studios, the Frederick Ayer Mansion, the Back Bay Historic District, and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. Ongoing consultation with MHC is required to explore alternatives that "would eliminate, minimize, or mitigate" those impacts.



Simmons Forum Examines Nexus of Media, Race, and Democracy



On Oct. 19, Simmons University hosted its first annual Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts, and Humanities Forum. The event brought together industry experts for a dynamic discussion on the interrelationship among media, race, and democracy. Here, Asma Khalid, political correspondent for National Public Radio interacts with Maya Valentine, press assistant for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Priscilla Kenzie Bok
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

Endorsed by KRISTEN MOBILIA

"I promise to be a Councilor dedicated to addressing both the block-by-block issues of daily life in our neighborhoods, from sidewalks to street trees to safety, and the long-term challenges we face, such as affordability, education, transportation, and climate change." - Kenzie Bok

Kenzie's leadership, work, and commitment to our city has earned her the support of trusted organizations and local leaders:



For District 8 Boston City Council

VOTE KENZIE BOK NOVEMBER 5

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Kenzie Bok www.kenziebok.com

JENNIFER NASSOUR
for BOSTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 8

Jenn is running to:

- Make our streets and sidewalks safe for all of us
- Tackle the opioid crisis
- Fix every school for every student
- Clean up trash, littering, and the rats they bring

JENN WILL WORK TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL RESIDENTS IN DISTRICT 8.

Vote Jennifer Nassour for Boston City Council!

Vote November 5!

Голосуйте за Дженнифер Нассур в городской совет Бостона!

¡Vota por Jennifer Nassour para Consejera Municipal de la ciudad de Boston!

More Parts of the City Begin Feeling Displacement's Sting

BY MORGAN LLOYD

Ronel Remy was once a tenant in Boston. Not anymore. He was evicted six times from apartments around the city, each time landing further outside Boston proper. From Somerville to Dorchester, then Hyde Park and Roslindale, everywhere he went, it was the same story: Rents rising beyond what he could afford. “I worked. I worked hard. I was a cook for over 20 years in the city. I couldn’t cut it,” Remy said.

He eventually moved into the basement of his sister’s house in Randolph. “I only moved because I couldn’t afford those apartments. They were too expensive for me. There was some kind of invisible hand just driving me away,” said Remy.

At the time, Remy didn’t understand why rents were going up. He only saw the effects on him and those around him being forced out of their apartments and homes. Now, he understands why the development he once welcomed led to his eviction. “Going around the city, you see these big restaurants, these big hotels,” Remy said. “You don’t think these things will affect you. You’re happy to see them. Your city’s nicer because of them. But those are the same things that are driving you away.”

The housing market in Boston is booming. In the West Fens and Mission Hill, development projects are everywhere—from luxury apartments to micro-units to condominiums, the real estate market is bringing new market-rate housing options to the young professionals flocking to these neighborhoods.

For some, this means new wealth and opportunities. But for a growing number of individuals in low- and middle-income housing, the rise in property values leads to displacement.

Remy sees it daily. He has returned to the organization he came to as a tenant, City Life/Vida Urbana, a 45-year-old grassroots tenants’ rights organization that is fighting the Our Lady’s Guild House evictions in Kenmore Square. Now, Remy is an organizer for City Life, helping tenants in his Haitian community and beyond face building-wide clear-outs and rent hikes they cannot afford.

“Everybody brings something to this city, and when you let them get evicted that way, and when you refuse to let them know they have rights if they’re facing eviction so they can fight back, what kind of message are you giving to them?” Remy said. “Either you’re telling me I don’t belong here, I’m not worth it,

or I’m not on the agenda. The plans you have are not for people who look like me.”

Evictions are nothing new for Boston tenants, but their increasing frequency points to a larger problem. As land prices rise and new residents move to the area, landlords look to renovate their apartments and sell them as condominiums or charge higher rents. In order to do so, they evict all current residents of the buildings. The city doesn’t track building-wide clear-outs, but they appear to be on the rise. In the past five years, City Life has supported tenants in 75 full clear-outs, many in East Boston, where he group has opened a satellite office.

These evictions reflect a larger trend of displacement reaching crisis proportions. In Boston, rents rose more than 6.5 percent over the last year, according to Zilpy, a website that tracks rental market trends. In neighborhoods facing gentrification, the rent increase has been worse: the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in East Boston increased by over 17 percent in one year.

For month-to-month tenants (also known as “tenants at will”), the reality is clear. In Roxbury and Mattapan 60 to 70 percent of tenants are “rent-burdened,” according to the Boston Displacement Mapping Project, which is to say they pay more than 30 percent of their income in rent. As the cost of housing continues to rise, these tenants, unable to keep up, are forced out.

This problem disproportionately harms communities of color and marginalized communities. Neighborhoods like Roxbury and Mattapan, bastions of black culture and heritage in Boston, are pricing out the residents who long called them home.

More than 90 percent of the households City Life supports are households of color. Helen Matthews, communications director for City Life, said that real-estate based discrimination is the deepest example of institutional racism facing the city today.

“The displacement crisis is a racial justice crisis,” Matthews said. “When you talk about real estate what you’re really talking about is race dynamics.”

Finding solutions for the growing problem has proved problematic. For instance, City Life championed a petition seeking to require Boston landlords to notify the city for all evictions, after which the city would notify tenants of their rights. Although the organization focuses more on work “in the trenches,” they fought for the passage of the Jim Brooks Commu-

nity Stabilization Act for years along with other activist groups in the Right to the City Boston coalition. The city council and Mayor Marty Walsh signed off on the petition, sending it to the state legislature. However, in July 2018 the bill was sent to study, after which no further progress was made.

Soon afterward, Remy broke the news that the bill would not move forward to a man he was helping face eviction. The man had lived in an apartment near Hyde Park for 38 years, but recent back surgery had left him unable to stand for more than five minutes at a time, and he could no longer work. Now, his landlord had raised rents throughout the building. He had hoped for legislative relief that, Remy now had to tell him, would not be forthcoming.

“He gave me a look of despair,” Remy said. “He said, ‘I knew it wasn’t going to pass. Why would the city ever give us anything? When have they ever done that?’

“He said, ‘I just hope they let me die here.’ But it doesn’t look like it’s going to happen.”

A struggle to remain

The front window of 1 Rosa St. in Hyde Park was dark. The light in the entranceway was out and had yet to be repaired. Inside, the only light came from a fixture on the basement level, down a short set of stairs. A dozen tenants had gathered there just outside a teal apartment door, some sitting on the steps or peering down from next to the front door. Some lived in 1 Rosa St., others down the street. A few had lived in their apartment for 20 or 30 years. All but one at the tenants’ meeting had upcoming dates in Boston Housing Court.

All those at the meeting rented from American Property Management, a landlord company owned by Helge Capital, a real estate investment and management company. Helge Capital currently owns 20 properties in Boston, many in Hyde Park and Mattapan. The company presents itself as an emblem of the American dream: Its founder and CEO Oleg Uritsky says he emigrated from Russia with 60 dollars in his pocket. Its website describes the company’s business model as pursuing “multifamily properties in areas currently or soon to undergo positive transformation.”

At the meeting, Remy, as organizer, started off asking everyone to share “a rose and a thorn,” one positive and one negative thing in their lives. The

RENTS on page 9 >

Host a Massachusetts Promise Fellow



For more information:
Lauren Currie, MPF Director
l.currie@northeastern.edu
617-373-5712

The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship (MPF), in partnership with Northeastern University, will be releasing the 2020-2021 RFP to host an AmeriCorps Massachusetts Promise Fellow on November 25th, 2019. Fellows lead out-of-school time programs focused on academic enrichment and college and career exploration for youth in grades 6-12.

40 Fellow positions will be awarded to non-profit organizations, city agencies, and schools across Massachusetts.



Northeastern University
City and Community Affairs

Using Tech to Map, Explain Flashpoints of Southern History

BY KATE COIRO

Editor’s note: While earning a master’s degree in public history and digital humanities at Northeastern, Caroline Klibanoff created the Atlas of Southern Memory. The interactive map tracks buildings and roads across the southern US named in honor of the Confederacy, the Civil Rights movement, and American presidents.

Despite spending most of her life immersed in history, Caroline Klibanoff, 29, said she wouldn’t time travel if she got the chance. “I’m good in this time,” Klibanoff, a program manager at the National Museum of American History, said. “I really love the opportunities of the digital age.”

Originally from Atlanta, Klibanoff earned a bachelor’s degree in American studies and film and media from Georgetown University before entering Northeastern to pursue her master’s degree.

While in Boston she also served as an exhibitions project manager at the MIT museum. She has also worked as a digital strategist at the Bridge Alliance and Big Ten Nation, organizations that seek to enhance civic engagement through innovative communication practices. She is a founding editor of *Sistory*, a history blog she maintains with her two younger sisters.

Klibanoff talked about her work and her views on technology as an essential tool for informing young people about the past. [This interview was edited for clarity and brevity.]

Fenway News: Clearly, history has been

a passion of yours for a long time. Were there any experiences from your childhood that may have shaped this side of you?
Klibanoff: My sisters and I grew up being taken to all these historic sites by our parents. We found ourselves, because we have a pretty stark sense of humor, having [more] fun at these historic sites then maybe you’re supposed to. It really sparked a curiosity in all of us.

Are your parents historians as well?
No, just good parents who made their kids learn about things.

How has your passion for history evolved since childhood?
I thought forever that I would have to choose between history and media. New media—film, video, the internet—we should be using those digital tools. I

really enjoy finding new ways to discover history and talk about it with people. Instead of just listening to hip hop music, I now listen to it and think, what if you did a data visualization of all the food and drink mentioned in hip hop songs over the last couple [of] decades?

That sort of thinking must have inspired you to create the Atlas of Southern Memory. Can you tell me a little bit more about your motivation for that project?
I wanted to find a way to use digital tools to solve this problem of forgetting our past. No one had really done that yet. So that was the idea of that project. Could I map these statues and other sites of commemoration to find out what stories we were telling about ourselves? These places are everyday places, yet their names carry a lot of weight. In some places, a street will have one name in one place and another name in another



happen, shows that people are engaged with history. That’s what I care about. It feels like now is a moment when people are talking about history. It’s not just delivered to us in a book.

What would you say to someone who is afraid that changing the names of historical sites will mean forgetting valuable history?
We should use digital tools to preserve the past but also to preserve the debate about the past.

Do you think this debate will play a prominent role in the upcoming presidential election?
I would like to see public history as essential in the next presidential election but I don’t think monuments will be on the top of debate.

Even if that’s true, from your involvement with Bridge alliance and the Big Tent Nation, I gather that you are invested in modern-day politics, at least to some extent. How are politics and history related to one another, in your opinion?
For me to do the history work I do without the civil engagement piece is meaningless. They have to go hand in hand. It’s all about empowering people to participate civically, meaning in their communities, in the nation. That could be voting or organizing around issues important to you. To do that with the tools that history can provide is, like, my whole thing. Let’s bring history and the humanities to the same table as civics and democracy because you really shouldn’t have one without the other.


Politics aside, history seems to be a source of entertainment for you and your sisters. How would you describe you and your sisters’ take on history, as it appears on Sistory? What sort of voice or perspective do you think you offer your readers?
I think we’re all kind of children of the Internet Age. There’s a lot of pop culture references.

Caroline Klibanoff

place. There is a lot of power in those names.
What do you mean by power?
To me it says that the public can take history into their own hands, that history is ours to shape. The future is ours to shape. How we remember the past is up to us, the people.

Did any surprises arise while you were creating the Atlas?
There are a lot of hard things about mapping projects that people don’t realize. It was a lot of manual labor, just finding whatever data did exist and then extracting it into the map.
Two years ago, Heather Heyer was killed during a protest over the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in Charlottesville, Virginia. That fueled a national debate about historical commemoration. What’s your stance on this debate?
I think if a community wants a different history to be reflected, the act of taking that on, battling the city, getting the financial resources, and making it

You recently moved to D.C. to work at the Smithsonian. What’s that like?
Being at the American History Museum is so awesome. The chance to step out and see the star-spangled banner or the national mall is really incredible. It’s a great place to me and it took a long time to get here.
I understand that you’re on a team charged with planning the country’s 250th-anniversary celebration. What do you hope to accomplish through this project?
We’re planning programs and digital products in the years leading up to the 250th anniversary that will basically engage Americans in history and civics. We want to reach 50 percent of millennials and generation Z and help them engage with history when they think about their history, and help history organizations reach young people and be relevant. The ultimate goal is to increase civic engagement informed by history.
Kate Coiro is a journalism student at Northeastern University. View the atlas at atlasofsouthernmemory.com/the-atlas

 **Public Meeting**

Rescheduled: 1252-1270 Boylston Street

Wednesday, November 6
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

TransNational Building
Fifth Floor (Enter through Boylston Side)
2 Charlesgate West
Boston, MA 02215

Project Proponent:
Scape Boylston, LLC


Project Description:
Note: This meeting was previously scheduled for November 4.

Scape Boylston, LLC proposes to build an approximately 226,700 square foot mixed-use programming, comprised of approximately 477 residential rental housing units and an activated ground-floor retail podium fronting on Boylston Street. The Project also includes the ‘Boylston Black Box’, a 10,000-square-foot LGBTQ-centric venue for the performing arts – anchored by a 156-seat theater which will be delivered and operated on a not-for-profit basis.

mail to: **Tim Czerwienski**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201

phone: 617.918.5303
email: tim.czerwienski@Boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
11/22/2019

BostonPlans.org |  @BostonPlans
Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

> **MISSION HILL** from page 1
Utile Design has completed preliminary scenarios for a potential 5- to 16-story building on the 8,300-square-foot parcel, informally known as the “snow lot” because companies plowing snow within the development use it for dumping.
A second vote at the Oct. 24 special meeting also involved Munkenbeck and Traggorth. However, that vote was 92-90 to oppose redevelopment of the 109 apartments in the old neighborhood. Traggorth and Munkenbeck, backed by the board, had proposed a \$24 million upgrade for the properties—known as RTH Community Apartments, RTH Community Hous-

ing, and 777-779 Huntington Ave.—including installation of sprinklers and fire alarms for all units that currently don’t have them.
Many residents, however, questioned the additional plans for improvements that potentially included dividing larger apartments into smaller units and required tenants to relocate for construction. During the Q&A, uncertainties about the plans troubled some members, and it was clarified that RTH had the funds to carry out the fire-safety upgrades, which could occur without the disruption of the broader plan.
Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

FGS Joins National Network to Welcome, Feed, Hatch Monarchs



PHOTO: ELENA SAPIORTA

Last year, the Fenway Garden Society (FGS) registered the Victory Gardens as a Monarch Waystation with the University of Kansas through the conservation group Monarch Watch. Waystation requirements include planting various milkweeds and nectar sources, as well as providing shelter to support all life stages of the monarch—egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, and butterfly. Planning starts at the winter solstice, when gardeners plant milkweed seeds in winter sow jugs in advance of our New England winter. In early April, the first seeds start to germinate, and by Memorial Day, gardeners are ready to transplant milkweed seedlings into the gardens. By early July, monarchs arriving from the south lay the first eggs on the milkweed. July and August are busy months, with waves of monarchs flying through Boston, and eggs quickly hatching in three to four days. It takes 30 days for a monarch butterfly to develop from an egg, so there are tremendous changes taking place daily. (A caterpillar increases its weight 3,000-fold from the day it hatches until it's ready to form a chrysalis!) After the chrysalis stage, newly-emerged butterflies need three to four hours to dry their wings before they are ready to take flight. This year, the Fenway Garden Society released more than 250 monarchs. Left: a monarch butterfly in the Victory Gardens. Right: a young boy learns about the project; FGS provides pollinator education to visitors of all ages.—ELIZABETH BERTOLOZZI



PHOTO: ELIZABETH BERTOLOZZI

> COLLEGE from page 1

people in my high school, the counselor would tell me I was fine, and I'd get in somewhere. That's pretty much where the conversation stopped," she says. "Their focus was more on kids who maybe weren't going to graduate."

So, while they may be perfectly qualified to attend a college of their choice, many students are left navigating the process alone. Such was the case for Kowalska who, now in her fourth year of college, has transferred schools and switched her major upwards of three times.

"The whole college application process was hard for me because I didn't even know where to start. I didn't even know it was a thing to tour schools. People talk about wanting to go to a school because it was a good 'fit', but I still don't even know what that means. That's pretty much why I ended up transferring," she explains.

Ill-advised students are often left navigating the logistical barriers such as financial aid, scholarship applications, or enrolling in classes and purchasing necessary materials throughout their undergraduate education. This alone leads to a significant financial barrier that discourages many students from continuing their education.

Gaps in College and Career Readiness

Students who lag significantly behind their peers are often required to take remedial courses before they can begin working toward a degree. These classes address gaps in an individual's education while building up core academic skills. While these courses are intended to be beneficial to the students, Hansen, from Brookings, says they may be doing more harm than good.

"It takes effort and they are spending money to go to school, often going into debt to do this, and yet they don't have any college credit to their name," says Hansen. "It's a very demoralizing pitfall that catches many people off guard and stops their progress."

Many experts say that while college graduation rates have increased to roughly 80 percent, the number of kids who meet the benchmarks for college and career readiness hovers somewhere in the range of 30 to 40 percent.

"What that means is that there is a huge disconnect between the percentage of students who graduate and the percentage of students who graduate who are actually ready to go on to college," says Lindsay Dworkin, policy expert at a national advocacy organization called Alliance for Excellent Education.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2015. The law replaced No Child Left Behind and aims to ensure that public schools are providing quality education for all students. It allows states more control in how they quantify student achievement.

"The federal role in education and the role of the Every Student Succeeds Act is really a civil rights role," says Dworkin. "It's to make sure that states are transparent in how students, particularly underserved students and subgroups of students, are doing, what kind of achievement gaps exist, and what states are doing to close those gaps."

Massachusetts and ESSA

Under the new law, states are charged with creating Every Student Succeeds Act plans which explain their specific strategy for addressing these gaps.

Lindsay Dworkin, a policy expert, explains that a lot of the work done by the Alliance for Excellent Education involves looking at each state's ESSA plan and comparing it to what they are actually doing. They work to ensure that states are adequately identifying students for support and taking sufficient action to close education gaps.

The results of this analysis are summarized in the Alliance's state-by-state ESSA Equity Dashboards. Each showcases the strengths and weaknesses of each state's ESSA plan.

Massachusetts achieved particularly good ratings on several indicators including long-term goals. The plan aims to have 81 percent of students proficient in reading and 75.9 percent of students proficient in math by 2022. Additionally, the plan also plans to reduce the proficiency gap by one third for each student subgroup by 2022.

In the category of support and intervention, however, the state did not receive high ratings. Specifically, the plan received a poor rating in their attempt at defining schools that are "consistently underperforming" and should be targeted for additional support. This means certain schools that require additional funding or support may well fall under the state's radar.

These generally positive results do not come as a surprise for those familiar with the history of education in Massachusetts. U.S. News consistently ranks Massachusetts first among all states in terms of quality education, and a 2017 report by the National Assessment of Educational Progress showed Massachusetts tied for first in the nation in terms of both math and reading assessments of students in fourth and eighth grade.

But while the state may appear on paper to be a high-achieving hub of educational achievement, a prominent and lingering achievement gap continues to exist among students in Massachusetts. In order to address some of these inequalities, the Massachusetts Education Equity Partnership, made up of organizations like the NAACP Boston and Educators Educators for Excellence, released a report titled Number One for Some, Opportunity and Achievement in Massachusetts. The report pointed to some fairly alarming statistics regarding achievement gaps underserved students.

"We thought it was extremely important to highlight that although Massachusetts is a leader in education and has been a leader in education for a long time, there is an opportunity and achievement gap across the state," said David Mendez, outreach director at Educators for Excellence.

Specifically, the report found that less than one out of every three Black and Latino fourth grade students met the standardized reading level. Additionally, only 28 percent of eighth graders from low-income families performed at their grade level in math, less than half the rate of their higher income peers.

"We often say that we are over-achieving and are leaders among states across the country, but if you look deeper into the data a lot of our students of color or first-generation students are facing a large achievement or opportunity gap," said Mendez. "It's important not to forget these large groups of people that we are failing to educate."

Inadequate or inequitable resources, specifically funding, can be seen as one of many sources of disparities across the state. Massachusetts was

traditionally among the top states in terms of funding for low-income, high-poverty districts; however, as of 2014, the state allocates nearly the same amount of funding to high-poverty districts as it does to wealthier, low-poverty areas.

The effects of these disparate and inadequate resources can be detrimental for the future of the student, and quite frankly, the economy as a whole.

Wider Implications for the Economy

Following the Great Recession in 2008, 11.6 million jobs have been added to the American workforce. However, these are not the same types of jobs that were lost during the recession. While the majority of jobs eradicated during the Recession mainly consisted of blue-collar work such as manufacturing, the majority of jobs added after 2008 have been managerial or professional jobs. Consequently, 99 percent of jobs added have been awarded to workers with more than a high school degree. This leaves only 80,000 jobs available for the approximately 90 million adult Americans without any credentials beyond a high school diploma or GED.

In today's economy, the benefits of a post-secondary education are more apparent than ever before. Recipients of a college degree are more likely to receive greater earnings, lower unemployment and lower poverty throughout their lifetime.

In addition to the negative aspects for the students themselves, an education system that neglects a substantial percentage of students does not bode well for the United States economy, or its ability to compete on a national level.

"If people are educated, crime rates go down, the economy grows, there's more talent going into small business or joining the job market. There's absolutely a larger effect to it," says Mendez.

In fact, in 1990 the United States ranked first in the world in four-year degree attainment for ages 25 to 34, today the country is ranked 12th.

Evidently, the state of education for underserved students in America is flawed; however, it leaves ample opportunity for improvement. Many organizations in the U.S., and Massachusetts specifically, are working to enact meaningful and impactful solutions for underserved student populations.

The Massachusetts Education Equity Partnership, for example, is working on efforts to lobby the state legislation and push for an increase in money allocated to those students that need it most. On a national level, the Alliance for Excellent Education advocates for more money to go into Title 1, the main federal vehicle for providing funding for underserved students.

There is an evident need in Massachusetts, and the United States as a whole, to address and work towards closing gaps in education. The effects of doing so are likely to play out for generations as more and more people gain the tools to alleviate themselves from poverty, join the workforce and contribute to the health of the economy. Conversely, neglecting to do so may lead to increased crime and poverty while significantly impacting the health of the country as a whole.

As Lindsay Dworkin states, "There's nothing more important we can do than educate our kids."

Kate Secrest is a journalism student at Northeastern University.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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



The Benjamin Franklin Institute (endowed by Franklin’s own will) has cashed in on its primo site in the booming South End. It hasn’t yet sold its 110-year-old building but has plenty of suitors. It plans to move to the site of the shuttered Harrison Supply store near Dudley Square. Many of its 550 students come from nearby, the school says; it plans to build an 85,000-sq-ft building. ➡ **At a community meeting on Oct. 30, the Red Sox ownership delivered plenty of news that will affect its neighbors. First, it will go before the city on Nov. 20 and ask for a license to book up to 12 summer concerts (and might go back to for more if it can fill those). It will break ground on the new performance venue on Ipswich St. this month and targets a 2021 opening. And it confirmed that it has a five-year commitment from two college athletic conferences to help it launch a late-fall college bowl game.** ➡ MFA curator Dennis Carr, who organized several major shows in his 12 years on Huntington Ave., will move to California to become chief curator of American Art for the Huntington Library in San Mateo. ➡

DASHBOARD

➔ STREET CLEANING (APRIL 1-DECEMBER 1)

- Fenway streets get cleaned 12-4pm 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. Along the Back Bay Fens:

 - **SECOND THURSDAY**
The Riverway, 12:00–3:00pm
 - **SECOND FRIDAY**
The Fenway (includes inside lane), Charlesgate Extension to 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 for a schedule and maps..

➔ TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

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



During this era of rapid growth and development in our city, Michael Flaherty continues to lead on addressing quality of life concerns for all Bostonians.

Michael Flaherty has worked with communities across Boston on efforts to expand access to affordable housing, address the issue of displacement, extend tenant protections, and advocate for resources to stabilize our neighborhoods.

Michael Flaherty championed the passage and adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which has now collectively granted an approximate \$42 million for 91 projects across the city devoted to affordable housing, historic preservation and open space.

Michael Flaherty has consistently called for increased access to treatment on-demand for those suffering from substance-abuse disorders and mental health issues, along with advocating for expansion of resources for community health centers across Boston.

Michael Flaherty has called for closing the academic achievement gap by supporting the Student Opportunity Act and introducing an optional Year 13 to prepare students for college and beyond.

On Tuesday, November 5th, Re-Elect Michael Flaherty! #1 on the Ballot

www.MichaelFlaherty.com
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Michael F. Flaherty

Michael Flaherty
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

Kaji Aso Studio A Spot of Beauty art exhibition



Prudential Center (near Lord & Taylor)
October 29-November 16
Free and open to the public

Opening Reception: Saturday, November 2, from 3 to 5 pm
Artists at Work: Saturday, November 9, from 2 to 5pm
Evening of Music: Sunday, November 10, from 3:15 to 4pm

SPECIAL THANKS TO

PRUDENTIAL CENTER | SYMPHONY SUSHI | JAPONAISE BAKERY
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, LLP
BOSTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

617-247-1719 | administrator@KajiAsoStudio.com | www.KajiAsoStudio.com

Neighborhood Newsline

Final OK for 1241 Boylston Hotel Hinges on Landscaping Plan

On Oct. 28, the Boston Parks Commission unanimously approved the hotel proposed for the site of the Shell station at Ipswich and Boylston streets in the West Fens. Architect Harry Wheeler called it a “blighted site.” Chris Cook, Boston’s Chief for Environment, Energy, and Open Space and now a member of the commission, said he was happy to see the gas station go. The vote requires the developers to provide a landscaping plan to Liza Meyer, Boston’s Chief Landscape Architect. Wheeler said the developers have hired Halvorson Design to complete that work. Cook found it challenging to review the project without it; “We need to see the plan,” he said. No public comments were made at the meeting. The community benefits package will include restroom access for Victory Gardeners, a \$25,000 contribution to the Garden Society, and \$100,000 for The Fund for Parks. When the BPDA board reviewed the project in August, the developer offered to pay \$5,000 installments over 20 years, but now the payment will come as a lump sum on receipt of a certificate of occupancy.

Arts Academy Will Get Public Art, Two Major Donations

Early last month, the City released an international call for artists to create two permanent public works of arts for the new Boston Arts Academy building on Ipswich Street—a \$300,000 project for the interior and the a \$200,000 exterior work. Funding will come from the City’s Percent for Art program. The call set a Nov. 1 deadline for entries. Separately, public arts high school has received two major donations. A partnership with the Red Sox Foundation and Fenway Music Company includes a pledge of \$500,000 to be paid over the next five years. An anonymous donor will give the school \$500,000 and provide an additional \$500,000 for a challenge grant to match donations of between \$10,000 and \$100,000.

Scape Projects Sees Major Changes

Scape North America, which had proposed student housing at 1252-1270 Boylston St. (the Ramrod-to-Baseball Tavern block), has revised its plans. Now, Scape wants to build market-rate rental housing—approximately 477 rental units, ground-floor retail space, and an LGBTQ-focused black box theater inspired by the Machine nightclub. In a *Globe* article on the new plans, Andrew Flynn, Scape’s CEO, said, “We’re not just repackaging this to get it permitted. We’ve listened and responded to the Fenway community and understand that housing stability is a key issue for the neighborhood.” The BPDA has opened a public comment period that runs through Nov. 22 and will host a public meeting on Nov. 6 at 6pm at the Fenway Community Center. See the public meetings box on page 10 for more details.

Nahant Residents Say NU Violated 1965 Preservation Pact

On Oct. 10 *The Huntington News*—Northeastern University’s independent student newspaper, reported that Northeastern has begun clearing a previously preserved tract of land in Nahant for a 55,000-square-foot coastal sustainability institute. The university promised to maintain the land as a wildlife preserve when it built its Marine Science Center in 1965. *The Huntington News* reported that Northeastern notified officials in the North Shore town on June 28 about testing it would carry out, but said the university failed to make clear how much damage the work would cause. In July, members of the nonprofit Nahant Preservation Trust (NPT) notified the university of their intent to sue. NPT members believe the land is zoned as a public park. Before NPT could file its suit, the university countersued on Aug. 9.

Fenway Health Receives Grant For Opioid Harm Reduction

RIZE Massachusetts Foundation, an independent nonprofit foundation working to end the opioid epidemic in Massachusetts, awarded grants to six organizations, including Fenway Health, that focus on harm reduction. The approach stresses techniques for reducing the negative impacts of drug use and helping people embrace any positive change in their lives and health. Interventions can include services such as overdose education, syringe services, and naloxone distribution.

Two Food Retailers Open on Tremont Street in Mission Hill

Boba Me, a new bubble tea shop with banh mi sandwiches, softly opened in August at 1520 Tremont St. On Oct. 29, Mayor Marty Walsh attended a ribbon cutting at the shop. Down the street, Tavern of Tales, a board-game cafe at 1478 Tremont, is in “beta mode.” In late October, it offered free reservations to gamers while working out the kinks. Tavern of Tales will host a grand opening Nov. 15-17, featuring free appetizers and swag bags.

Farmers Markets

November brings hearty greens like broccoli, bok choy, and brussels sprouts, as well as root vegetables like parsnip, winter squash, and pumpkin.	ROXBURY CROSSING T STATION (THROUGH NOV. 26)	
	Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
	COPLEY SQUARE (THROUGH NOV. 26)	
	Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
	MISSION HILL: VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (THROUGH NOV. 20)	
	Thursday	11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

FENWAY HEALTH

Your Care, Your Community



Looking for world class health care
in the Fenway neighborhood?
We’ve got you covered.

FENWAY HEALTH | 1340 Boylston Street | Boston, MA 02215
617.267.0900 | fenwayhealth.org

Diehard (and Hungry) Ramen Fans Feed Long Line at Santouka

BY TAYLOR DRISCOLL

If you’ve ever traveled on Hereford Street between Newbury and Boylston, you’ve probably passed a long line of people. Curious about the line, you’ve looked up to see a sign reading “Santouka” hanging over their heads and wondered, What’s all the hype? Santouka is a small ramen restaurant that can only hold a limited number of patrons at a time. This has led to the long lines outside. Some people, intrigued by the line, want to know what’s so special about the food. “I think probably the long lines [first drew me in]. There’s always people, no matter what time of day, waiting,” Jake Delaney said from the line. “I think I’ve been here dozens of times.” Patrons wait for what seems like hours for a taste of Santouka’s signature ramen dish. “I’ve definitely waited over an hour,” Delaney said, “I usually wait for about half an hour.” Begun in Asahikawa, Japan, by Hitoshi Hatanaka. Santouka has grown to ten countries worldwide. In the Boston area it also has a location in Harvard Square. Its famous ramen is the main reason for the restaurant’s



popularity. “My friends and I were debating on whether to get ramen or pho tonight,” said Alyssa Goh as she patiently waited in line. “It’s a good restaurant from what I’ve heard.” “I’m excited and there was not a line when we walked by,” said Nicole. “We were supposed to go home and cook, but now we can’t miss this opportunity.” Not everyone is riding the Santouka wave. Adam Stocker did not think the food justified the wait time. “I personally wouldn’t wait in a line to go to any restaurant, but I only did it because my friend was adamant in going,” he said. “I just think it’s an overhyped experience” With a number of other ramen places in the area, he’s not the only one who finds the line a turn-off. “Since I haven’t eaten here I don’t think I would have waited in the line,” said Goh. “I don’t think I would invest the time.” Taylor Driscoll is a journalism student at Northeastern University.



Burns Returns: Poet’s Statue Comes Home to the Fens

After nearly 45 years, a statue of Scottish poet Robert Burns has returned to the Back Bay Fens from downtown. Sculptor Henry Hudson Kitson completed the statue of Burns (and his dog Luath) in 1910; it was installed in 1920. It originally stood near Daniel Chester French’s monument to Irish-American poet and journalist John Boyle O’Reilly near the Boylston Street Bridge. The placement of the statues was meant to recognize Scottish and Irish literary tradition in a setting reminiscent of the mens’ work. [More connections: Kilmarnock and Queensberry streets in the West Fens both took the names of locations in poems by Burns.] The sculpture was moved to Winthrop Square in 1975, where it had been displayed for decades without context. Millennium Partners, which needed to move the statue so it could build a new tower in Winthrop Square, coordinated the process of getting the statue to a conservator’s workshop and then back to the Fenway. Rigging and moving specialists Shaughnessy & Ahern transported and installed the sculpture on Oct. 25 (shown here). A welcome ceremony took place on Oct. 30.



A VOICE
BOSTON DESERVES
ERIN MURPHY
FOR BOSTON CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE
ERINFORBOSTON.COM



HONEST • HARD-WORKING • INTEGRITY

**VOTE FOR ERIN MURPHY
CITY COUNCIL
AT-LARGE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Erin J. Murphy

Dear Boston Neighbors,

We are writing to encourage everyone in Boston to vote for Erin Murphy for City Council At-Large on November 5th. We know Erin Murphy as a friend, the veteran BPS teacher of our children, the neighborhood leader who always shows up to help out however she can, and as a person of integrity who is running for office for all the right reasons: To represent the voices of every-day residents in every neighborhood; To improve City services for our seniors, children, and our most vulnerable neighbors; And to bring her formidable work ethic to the full time job of being a Boston City Councilor.

Tuesday’s election is an important one. There may be as many as five new City Councilors elected this year, and we hope every resident will make it to the polls on November 5th. All the neighborhoods of Boston deserve a City Councilor who will be a truly independent voice.

Learn more about Erin at **erinforboston.com** and please consider Erin Murphy for one of your four At-Large City Council votes on Tuesday, November 5th. Erin has earned her reputation as the “hardest working candidate in the race” by knocking on thousands of doors across the City and meeting residents where they live and work to listen and learn so that she can be a leader who is truly responsive to the needs of our neighborhoods. For a sensible, honest, hard-working At-Large Councilor in City Hall, vote for Erin Murphy!

Sincerely,

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nicole Shand
MATTAPAN | Doug MacDonald
CHARLESTOWN | Kristin & Stephen Walsh
DORCHESTER |
| Susan & Danny McMorro
WEST ROXBURY | Anne Cullinane
ROXBURY | Kathleen Chardavoyne
CHARLESTOWN |
| Anne & John McGahan
SOUTH BOSTON | Billy Cosetta
SOUTH BOSTON | Dan Daly
BRIGHTON |
| Nancy Doherty
JAMAICA PLAIN | Jack “JK” Kelly
CHARLESTOWN | Judy Kelly Manning
SOUTH BOSTON |
| Jeff Ross
SOUTH END | Deirdre Manning
DORCHESTER | Brian & Susan Donelan
ROSLINDALE |
| Luis Grillon
EAST BOSTON | Angel Argueta
EAST BOSTON | Marguerite LeBlanc
HYDE PARK |
| Michael & Michelle Kelley
WEST ROXBURY | Eddie Brown
HYDE PARK | Kelly Pellagrini
CHARLESTOWN |

AS MFA PURSUES DIVERSITY AGENDA, ICONIC STATUE MAY GET A RETHINK

Like institutions and municipalities around the country, the Museum of Fine Arts now refers to Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day. For the Opening Our Doors showcase on Oct. 14, the museum offered free admission and featured activities celebrating Native American culture. Volunteers and education staff organized a display soliciting responses from the public to the Cyrus Dallin sculpture "Appeal to the Great Spirit," to inform future reinterpretation of the work. Posters on the Huntington Ave. lawn, arrayed in front of the piece, displayed some ideas already shared in a discussion jump-started by a panel on the statue's meaning held last March. In a statement, the museum framed the issue directly: "Dallin's monumental equestrian sculpture is one of the Museum's most visible—and understudied—works of art. Does 'Appeal to the Great Spirit' portray a dignified Native American figure, as the artist intended, or does it simply uphold the 19th-century stereotype of Native Americans as a 'vanishing race'?" Add your thoughts on social media using the hashtag #MFAIndigenousPeoplesDay.



PHOTO: ALISON PUTNAMAS

ARTISTS JOIN FORCES WITH MASS HISTORICAL TO SHOWCASE FENWAY STUDIOS

Pop-Up Exhibit Sets Stage For Open Studios, Nov. 9-10



PHOTO COURTESY OF FENWAY STUDIOS

Last month, the Massachusetts Historical Society and the artists of the Fenway Studios opened a pop-up exhibit celebrating the studios at MHS headquarters. A national historic landmark, Fenway Studios occupies the oldest purpose-built live/work space for artists structure in the U.S. still used for its original intent. Built in 1905 after a fire destroyed a different studio complex, the building took 19th-century Parisian atelier studios—in particular their high, north-facing windows—as models for the building's 46 artist spaces. The exhibit, which closed Oct. 19, celebrated the history of Fenway Studios by shining a light on contemporary work produced by current artist-residents alongside rarely shown paintings from the MHS collection created by past residents. Here, supporters attend the opening reception on Oct. 3. Fenway Studios will hold an open-studios celebration Nov. 9-10; see the Calendar section on p10 for details.

> **RENTS** from page 3

Sunday after Thanksgiving last year, the meeting's attendees shared their thanks for their families, their homes, and for the help of City Life. But there were more thorns than roses, with complaints echoing from person to person. Mice, cockroaches, and bedbugs in the apartment. Doors that wouldn't lock properly. And above all, the specter of rent increases and eviction.

Stephanie Rouse, a 10-year tenant at River Street Terrace, was one of the meeting's attendees. She'd received notice of a rent increase of \$465 for the next year. If she didn't sign the lease by the end of December, she was preparing to go to housing court. "Last year [the rent increased] over \$200, and now it's over \$400," Rouse said. "If I can't pay the \$200, how am I supposed to pay the \$465?"

Rouse is retired and takes care of her grandchildren, living on a fixed income. She said she considered going back to work to pay the rent but didn't want to lose her benefits. "If I try to go to work, they will cut some of my Social Security. I'm between a rock and a hard place."

Rouse mentioned numerous problems she had with her apartment. She said she'd been taking pictures of everything to get ready for a housing court date. "I have a leak in my living room ceiling, and they haven't fixed it yet. The back door doesn't have a lock on it, so anybody can walk in the back door. It takes them a long time to come and fix things, two to three weeks when something goes wrong."

As it is, however, Rouse feels that moving elsewhere is not a viable option. "It's always really hard to try to move, because everywhere you go the rent is ridiculously high," Rouse said.

Rouse wasn't the only one in her building facing increased rent. She'd heard of several people around her who were being evicted. They, however, were not at the tenants' meeting. "In these other buildings, people have to pay gas and lights and things like that. They don't figure that into it either. People have to work two and three jobs just to pay the rent."

Convincing tenants facing eviction to fight their landlord's demands is one of the biggest struggles that Remy faces as an organizer. For many, Remy said, it is easier to pack up and leave than face a struggle in housing court, especially when tenants don't know their rights.

The reality of evictions is that most are not

court-ordered. According to a Boston Globe report published in December 2016, 80 percent of those evicted in Boston don't go to court. One cause is a lack of knowledge among tenants about their rights. Many are unsure or unable to go through the process, including preparing for a court date, necessary to avoid an eviction.

Remy tells people at each City Life meeting to "leave your fear and shame at the door." Only by doing so, he said, can tenants take advantage of the help City Life offers. As time goes on, however, and the problem worsens, it gets harder for tenants to keep fighting. "Folks feel deceived in many ways," he said. "They lose that drive to fight. Some of them are discouraged. I know many, many Haitians who told me they're sending stuff home, that they're going home regardless. It's not fair. And we knew it wasn't fair before, but it's even worse now."

A fight for housing justice

The Jim Brooks Community Stabilization Act was a study in compromise. In its first iteration, it featured much stronger wording, including protections for renters that would leave landlords unable to evict without proving just cause. Slowly, through negotiation many of the initial provisions were taken out, something Matthews, the City Life's communication director, regrets.

"The bill was incredibly watered down through the process of the campaign," Matthews said. "It was an incredibly uphill battle with conservative members of the City Council and the State House to win just-cause protections."

In its modified form, however, the petition passed the City Council and was signed by Mayor Walsh. As a home-rule petition, however, the act had to be approved by the state legislature. There, the House sent the bill to study, making any further progress unlikely.

However, activist groups aren't the only ones concerned with the issue of displacement in Boston. The mayor's office is taking steps to alleviate the problem as well. In 2016, Walsh launched the Office of Housing Stability to support tenants facing displacement and inform them of their rights. In a December 2018 email, deputy director Domonique Williams said, the office preserved 518 tenancies in 2017.

Now, in Walsh's housing plan, *Housing a*

Changing City, Boston 2030, updated in September 2018, displacement is a prominent concern. The mayor's office plans to convert 1,000 rental units into affordable housing, with long-term restrictions on affordability. Walsh also wants to impose restrictions on short-term rentals, something the City Council took steps to do in June. Additionally, Walsh wants to create an "Eviction Prevention and Tenant Stability Working Group" that will study the problem and report back with recommendations.

There are some signs that these efforts are working to combat the problem of mass evictions. The rate of evictions executed in court decreased by around 8 percent between 2011 and 2014, even though the number of eviction cases remained constant, according to Boston Housing Court data compiled by Project Hope, Homestart and the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative. Unfortunately, the city doesn't track evictions that don't end up in court, leaving it impossible to tell if this decrease represents a larger trend. And more recent data has yet to be released, so these numbers don't reflect recent market trends. Still, it's a sign that the legal assistance offered by City Life, the Office of Housing Stability, and others might be starting to pay off.

Despite positive signs, evictions continue, and Remy will keep fighting. And lately, he said, the fight has only become more arduous. He and those in his community see other more advantaged groups benefit from the upturn in the housing market, while they remain excluded.


"No matter how hard you work, no matter how hard you try, they're always going to have something against you," Remy said. "If they can't make it all they have to do is change the laws. They can do that and they have done that. Someone once told me 'Every time we get closer they move the finish line further and further away.'"

It's easy to see the effects of evictions, Remy said. Homeless shelters are overcrowded. City Life has a constant stream of tenants seeking legal help. And yet, the problem persists. "They say this is the American dream, that you come here, you buy a house, you have a family, you have a car, that you make it," Remy said. "The American dream has turned into a nightmare now."

Morgan Lloyd is a journalism student at Northeastern University.

November

CALENDAR

 THIS SYMBOL INDICATES THAT AN EVENT IS FREE.


arts+ ENTERTAINMENT

Fri, 11/1

BOSTON AREA RAPE CRISIS CENTER ANNUAL GALA. Eat delicious food and listen to inspiring speakers while supporting survivors’ healing and make BARCC services possible. \$250, tickets available at www.classy.org/event/champions-for-change-gala-and-auction-2019/e246024. 6-11pm. Marriott Copley Place. **Now ➔ Sun, 11/17**

Wheelock Family Theatre presents **ROALD DAHL’S WILLY WONKA**, a musical version of the familiar children’s tale with songs from the 1971 movie (see review on p11). Fri, 7:30pm; Sat-Sun, 2pm. ASL and AD performances Sun, 11-10, 2pm; Sat, 11-16, 7:30pm. Tickets \$20-40 by phone, at the Wheelock box office (180 The Riverway), or wheelockfamilytheatre.org.

Fri 11/1 & Sat, 11/2

The City of Boston teams up with the Consulate General of Mexico to present a two-day **DÍA DE MUERTOS** (Day of the Dead) celebration 12-9pm. A formal event and  speaking program are scheduled for 11/2 at 5pm. Copley Square. FREE

Sat, 11/2

BoCo Cares, the student-run Boston Conservatory at Berklee affiliate of Broadway Cares, presents **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL—ONE ACT EDITION**. Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS has raised tens of millions of dollars for HIV research; all proceeds from these performances will go to the group. 7pm and 9:30pm at the Richard Ortner Studio Building, 132 Ipswich Street. \$10 suggested donation.

Sat, 11/2 & Sun, 11/3

Working with community groups, the venerable **HANDEL+HAYDN SOCIETY PRESENTS “EVERY VOICE,”** a pair of “uplifting concert[s] for justice and peace, honoring the many voices of Boston and highlighting those of the Jewish and black communities.” Performers include members of the H+H orchestra and chorus, the H+H youth chorus, and counter-tenor Reginald Mobley (who also directs), and each show features short talks by community members. FREE, but reserve at handelandhaydn.org/

@ THE CENTER

These highlights from the Fenway Community Center’s calendar are free except as noted. Visit the Center at 1282 Boylston or check out the full calendar at www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org/calendar

- **THU, 11/14 AT 6PM: Fenway Film Series presents *Nova ADDICTION*. An unflinching look at the opioid crisis with a 53-minute documentary and a community conversation about Boston’s efforts to mitigate the epidemic. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Fenway Civic Association and Fenway Community Center.**
- **THU, 11/21 AT 6PM: Overdose Prevention with Narcan Training. Prepare to recognize and respond to an emergency overdose. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Boston Public Health Commission, Fenway Civic Association, and Fenway Community Center.**
- **MON, 11/4, 11/18, & 11/25 AT 4PM: Mudwork Mondays. Join us after school to make and play with a variety of dough and sculpture materials. Free and open to children of all ages.**



concerts/every-voice-2019

- Saturday: speakers from two **JEWISH CULTURAL/POLITICAL** groups join the program. 3pm, First Church in Roxbury, 10 Putnam Street (roughly two blocks past the Reggie Lewis Center). FREE
- Sunday: *Globe* columnist **RENEE GRAHAM** will speak. 3pm, Union United Methodist Church in the South End, 485 Columbus Ave. FREE

Sun, 11/3

To celebrate 25 years of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum’s Artist-in-Residence program, the **CLAREMONT TRIO** performs a selection of works connected to the museum’s collection and Gardner herself. Tickets, \$19-\$36, online, by phone at (617) 278-5156, or in person. 25 Evans Way. 1:30pm.

Mon, 11/4

- This year, the **FIRST MONDAYS SERIES** at New England Conservatory explores friendships among the giants of 19th-century music. The November concert focuses on Felix Mendelssohn, a prodigy who went on to establish himself as a pillar of Romanticism and helped revive interest in J.S. Bach’s music (almost  forgotten when Mendelssohn took up his cause in the 1830s). NEC’s Jordan Hall, 7:30pm. FREE.
- Longwood Symphony presents a concert and panel on **“THE INTERSECTION OF MUSIC, MEDICINE AND INNOVATION.”** The four musicians, all doctors or PhDs, follow their performance with a panel discussion. 7pm, Klarman Hall, Kresge Way, Harvard Business School. Reserve tickets  (required) at longwoodsymphony.org/concerts-1/2020/hbs. FREE.

Thu, 11/7

BERKLEE’S WOMEN MUSICIANS NETWORK presents its 23rd concert featuring women-identified artists from the school. The performers range all over the musical map, from Cuban jazz to R&B to Korean folk to a capella to flamenco. 8pm, Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave. Tickets \$10 advance/\$15 day-of from the box office or at berklee.edu/events.

Wed, 11/6 ➔ Fri, 12/20

THE PAINTED PLACE. Artist Mia Cross explores color, the human figure, and narrative. Her oil paintings, and in particular her portraiture, demonstrate a fixed fascination with pattern and skin. Simmons Trustman Art Gallery, 300  Fenway. Opening reception is Thu, 11/7 at 5pm. FREE

Thu, 11/7 ➔ Sun, 11/17

The MFA screens seven films from the **BOSTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL** on Nov. 7,

COMMUNITY meetings

WED, NOVEMBER 6 1252-1270 Boylston Street public meeting. Scape Boylston proposes to build a 226,700-sq-ft mixed-use development compromising approximately 477 rental housing units and a ground-floor retail podium facing Boylston. 6pm at 2 Charlesgate West, 5th floor. Contact Tim Czerwienski at Tim.Czerwienski@Boston.gov or 617-918-5303 with any questions.

WED, NOVEMBER 7, 14, 21, & 28 Free one-to-one financial coaching, 1-5pm, Fenway CDC conference room, 70 Burbank St. To schedule an appointment, contact Kris Anderson at kanderson@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x29.

MON, NOVEMBER 11 Join Fenway CDC for a delicious, hot, free meal with neighbors at the monthly community dinner. All are welcome! 6-7pm, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Dr. For more info contact Helen Murphy at hmurphy@fenwaycdc.org, (617) 267-4637 x21.

Housing as History Series




“subsidized housing” (1154 Boylston St.) Free, but registration required; sign up at masshist.org/calendar/series/housing-as-history. Both presentations begin at 6pm.

9, 16, and 17. Read film summaries and order tickets at www.mfa.org/series/the-boston-jewish-film-festival. Tickets \$16 members/\$18 general.

Fri, 11/8 & Sun, 11/10

Handel+Haydn Society pairs **MOZART’S MAGNIFICENT JUPITER SYMPHONY** with Beethoven’s Carolian Overture and a CPE Bach’s Cello Concerto in A major (with soloist Guy Fishman performing on a 300-year-old Italian cello). Both performances at Symphony Hall. Friday, 8pm; Sunday 3pm. Tickets \$24-100 from the BSO box office or handelandhaydn.org/

Sat, 11/9 & Sun, 11/10

FENWAY STUDIOS HOSTS THEIR ANNUAL OPEN STUDIOS. If possible, bring a non-perishable food item for their food drive benefiting the Greater Boston Food Bank. 11am-5pm. 30  Ipswich St. More at fenwaystudios.org/openstudios.php FREE

Tue, 11/12

GUITAR NIGHT: JAZZ AND BLUES STUDENT SHOWCASE. Top Berklee students play jazz and blues. 8pm at Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave. \$10 in advance; \$15 day of show.

Wed, 11/13

BSO 101 CLASS. In a 90-minute session, the symphony’s director and assistant director of publications discuss new ways to listen to and appreciate upcoming programming. 5:30pm at Symphony Hall, followed by an optional free tour of the building. Reservations are required; use the “Best Available Seats” button at www.bso.org/Performance/Detail/105307. FREE

Thu, 11/14 ➔ Sun, 11/17

Boston Conservatory at Berklee re-imagines **SHREK: THE MUSICAL** in an urban setting, where the titular ogre, BFF Donkey, and stalwart Princess Fiuna battle villains and discover “the power of celebrating your true self.” Thu-Sat, 8pm; Sat-Sun, 2pm. Tickets \$25-30 with discounts for seniors, students,

WED, NOVEMBER 13 & 27 Fenway Fair Foods, 3-5pm, Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Dr. Get a bag of fresh seasonal fruits and vegetables for just \$2. Everyone welcome! To learn more, contact Helen Murphy, hmurphy@fenwaycdc.org, (617) 267-4637 x21.


TUE, NOVEMBER 19 Boston Ward 4 Dems November meeting will feature a discussion on housing policy with Rich Giordano of Fenway CDC, Karen Chen of the Chinese Progressive Association, and Mike Leyba of City Life/Vida Urbana, followed by a presentation on the Driving MA Forward campaign by Julia Schlozman of JALSA. 6pm. Union Church, 485 Columbus Ave.

SAT, NOVEMBER 23 Fenway CDC Friendsgiving. Morville House Community Room, 100 Norway Street. 2-4pm. Contact Jasmine Vargas at jvargas@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x13 with questions.


This series assembles expert panels to look at the history of six housing sites across Boston and examines the conditions for affordable and public housing today. Nov. 13: the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative and Orchard Gardens (122 Dewitt Drive, just off Melnea Cass near Dudley Square). Nov. 20: new directions for


WGBH members, and others. At the Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway Street. Details and tickets at bostonconservatory.berklee.edu/events/series/center-stage **Through Sat, 11/16**

KAJI ASO STUDIO’S ANNUAL GROUP ART SHOW “A Spot of Beauty” at the Prudential Center’s Newbury Arcade, near Lord and Taylor.


 Opening reception for the show is Sat, 11/2 from 3pm to 5pm. FREE

Tue, 11/19


South End resident and *Fenway News* contributor Alison Barnet celebrates the publication of her new book **“ONCE UPON A NEIGHBORHOOD”** with a reading at the South End  Historical Society. 6pm. 532 Mass. Ave. Info at 617-536-4445. FREE

In tonight’s “Collective Power” discussion, the **MFA’S CITY TALKS SERIES** examines how working together can make community activists, artists, and entrepreneurs stronger  and more effective. 7pm, Linde Gallery. FREE.


Fri, 11/22

The BSO brings its **COMMUNITY CHAMBER CONCERT SERIES** to the Fenway Center in the East Fens. The program by a quartet of BSO musicians includes works by Frank, Haydn, Dvorak, and Stephan Koncz. 1:30pm at 77 St. Stephen Street. Reserve tickets at bso.org/Performance/Detail/105369  (required). FREE.

Sat, 11/23

Boston Conservatory faculty member **ALEKSANDR POLYKOV PRESENTS A PIANO RECITAL**, with works by Schumann, Rachmaninov, Poulenc and Strauss. Renowned cellist Egor Antonenko will join him in the performance. 8pm, Seully  Hall, 8 The Fenway. Details at bostonconservatory.berklee.edu/events?page=6. FREE.

Tue, 11/26

In the age of “fake news” the Boston Public Library offers a **WORKSHOP ON DECONSTRUCTING THE NEWS**. Learn a 7-step “process to analyze and judge the reliability of news reports.” 1-2:30pm, Community  Learning Center Classroom, Johnson Building. Click the events tab at www.bpl.org. FREE

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.

- **Thu, 11/7, 11/14 & 11/21 at 1:30pm: Exercise with Simmons physical therapy students**
- **Tue, 11/12 at 1pm: Sleep apnea with FASCO.**
- **Tue, 11/19 at 1:30pm: Gut Health Presentation with Alexandra Hill, registered dietician at Ethos**

PICK OF THE MONTH

The Arts

Dance Project Opens Cultural Doors for Colleges of the Fenway Students

BY TAYLOR DRISCOLL

Colleges of the Fenway (COF) Dance Project started its fall semester with more than 300 students from Wentworth Institute of Technology, Mass. College of Art and Design, Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health Science, Simmons University, and Emmanuel College.

The program, started in 2006 by Kristen Young, provides students of the COF with opportunities in the performing arts that they might not have had access to in high school.

“I became a part of this because this felt like there was a need for this art experiences for the students of the Colleges of the Fenway, and they were really interested in providing this experience. I just love connecting to students through dance. I think dance is so important and the arts are so important,” Young said. “I love providing them with the opportunity to share this art form with the community.”

With the idea of inclusivity and the welcoming nature of the faculty, the program offers a wide-range of dance styles and backgrounds, like West African, Afro-Contemporary, and traditional Cambodian dances that let students share and experience different cultures.

“It truly is a very inclusive program. Everyone is welcome, and we offer a diverse offering of classes and experience,” Young said. “At the moment we are trying to offer as many opportunities as we can to learn different dance forms that are multicultural.”

Carla Otero, a former Dance Project

student and current instructor and assistant director, has been with the group since its beginnings. The Project was founded during her first semester at Simmons.

“When I decided to go to Simmons for college, I definitely wanted to continue having dance in my life—probably not as strong as a focus as when I was a teenager, because I had my academics, but I wanted it to be still prevalent, because I would have still been lost without it.” Otero said. “It’s always been a passion of mine.”

From there Otero became more involved with the program and began to help teach classes, which later led her to becoming an instructor.

“‘It was welcoming to all different levels of dance,’ Otero said. ‘You didn’t necessarily have to be like me, who was dancing all their life, you could literally just walk on in having no dance experience and still participate.’”

On top of the range of classes offered, there are opportunities for students to become choreographers. The process includes a proposal for the piece you want to choreograph and an “audition” that takes place with the directors to see where they can place the piece. Graduate student Melissa Mirza became a part of this when she attended Simmons for her undergraduate studies.

“I continued making and exploring different things that were interesting to me in the semester and eventually it led me to choreograph larger works that weren’t necessarily seeing the COF stage because they were a little bit longer and



Young said. “Our students get to take classes and have really important conversations about relevant issues and they get to perform for one another.”

The COF Dance Project also hosts two events every year to showcase the dances the students practice and perform during the fall and spring semesters.

“We let the students bring their experiences to all of our concerts and they have

the opportunity to choreograph on their own as well as perform

COF Dance Project performed at Evans Way Park during the Fenway Alliance’s Opening Our Doors day, Oct. 14.

a little bit more abstract,” Mirza said. “We were able to bring it to the American College of Dance Association [ACDA] regional festival and I was able to bring it to an adjudicated concert like that and get feedback on what works.”

The program is also involved with the ACDA regional festival that is held every year and brings together college dance programs around the nation to celebrate dance. The COF Dance Project attends the Northeast conference in New York.

“We participate in the New England Area conference and we get together with schools and colleges from New England and beyond who have dance there,”

in the faculty pieces,” Young said. “We produce a full dance concert with all of these styles, and we do this at MassArt.”

The program will present its fall semester performances on Nov. 15 and 16 at the MassArt Tower Auditorium.

“This reflects back to what the program is about. It’s about an inclusive experience,” explained Young. “Everyone gets to share in this art form and express themselves through dance and movement and performance. It’s a real opportunity to celebrate being human, to move and to be joyous.”

Taylor Driscoll is a journalism student at Northeastern University.

Wheelock Unwraps A Delicious Confection with Willy Wonka

BY ALISON BARNET

After reading Roald Dahl’s original *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964)—upon which the Wheelock Family Theatre production is faithfully based—I had to wonder how Wheelock would stage the chocolate factory—five rooms entered by a narrow passageway: “turn left, turn left again, then right, then left.” This is to say nothing of the room with a valley in it: “There were green meadows on either side of the valley, and along the bottom of it there flowed a great brown river.” There is also “a tremendous waterfall,” and how about the glass elevator that goes “sideways, and longways, and slantways” and shoots right up through the roof? Let’s not even mention the tiny naked Oompa-Loompas!

Not easy, but Wheelock Family Theatre pulls it off. The river, for instance, is represented by a large table on wheels covered by a waving orange cloth, and the Oompas are fully dressed in striped overalls and helmets. The play starts and ends with a big white box in the middle of the stage, this in front of a wall of moveable imaginary boxes. At the end, the box becomes the “sideways, and longways and slantways” elevator.

This is the musical version, with many candy-themed pop songs. I didn’t realize it at the time, but most of the songs come from a 1971 film (new songs have been added).

Act I features the five lucky children who find a golden ticket in Wonka Chocolate Bars and therefore get a tour of the factory by the highly eccentric owner, Willy Wonka. They are each announced by excited actors holding large letters: BBC International News. First is the enormously fat boy who has to eat all the time—although the young actor playing him isn’t the least bit fat and should have been. Then there is the rich and outrageously spoiled little girl—the most animated and funny of all; a chronic gum-chewing girl; a boy addicted to TV—and, making it up-to-date—the computer and cell phone. See what happens to them! Last but not least comes our hero, Charlie Bucket, a poor boy with a starving family. Some great scenes involve Charlie’s elderly grandparents (both sets), who are forced to share a bed and don’t hear well, so comically misunderstand and repeat.

All in all, it’s an excellent production, funny, hilarious. “So much energy!” commented a friend who went to the show with me.

Willy Wonka is so candy-centered that, after we left, the Muddy River looked like a river of chocolate.

Alison Barnet lives in the South End. Willy Wonka runs through November 17. For tickets call 617-353-3001 or visit wheelockfamilytheatre.org.



The Bucket family’s overcrowded bed, with, from left, Carolyn Saxon, Gary Thomas Ng, Lisa Kate Joyce, Lisa Yuen, Neil A. Casey, and Jamie Leslie.

MASSIVE NEW SCULPTURE LOOKS LIKE STONEHENGE-ON-THE-CHARLES

In front of the 61-story One Dalton residences sits a newly installed 52-ton stone sculpture, far weightier than Alexandre da Cunha’s concrete circles at the Pierce on Brookline Ave., and definitely not suitable for sitting. Meghan Post of Rasky Partners, One Dalton’s PR firm, shared information about the artwork by artist Darrel Petit, located at the corner of St. Germain and Dalton streets. Called “Event,” the work’s two monumental granite blocks were quarried from the historic Stony Creek quarry in Branford, Connecticut, and from Barre, Vermont. The artist’s interventions are only visible in the parallel quarry marks and polished areas worked in counterpoint to the natural texture of rough stone. The Lyman Allyn Art Museum in New London, Connecticut, exhibited the work from 1999 to earlier this year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RASKY PARTNERS

A community organizing itself:
The Fenway News helped build
a movement that saved the Fenway.

State Senator Will Brownsberger
Congratulates the
Fenway News
on 45 years of building community

willbrownsberger.com
617. 771.8274