

Mission Hill Playground-Redesign Process Begins

The middle terrace of the Mission Hill Playground, with Mission Church (the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help) in the background.



BY ALISON PULTINAS

It was a small meeting for a big project: Abigail Chatfield, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department’s project manager for the upcoming capital improvements to Mission Hill Playground, also known as Sheehy/Smith, led a Zoom meeting on Nov. 5. This was the first of three meetings for a redesign of the significant green space next to Mission Church on Tremont Street.

During the meeting, just seven community members spoke, including Mary Alice Sandy, a teacher from the Tobin Elementary School on Smith Street. Landscape architects Kyle Zick and Danielle Desilets from Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture presented an overview of the park’s history and their initial review of the current conditions.

The park, built in 1915, was a creation in Mayor Curley’s administration based on an earlier plan by the Olmsted firm. In 1931, the Parker Hill Branch Library was built on a portion of the park. The parking lot behind the library, used primarily by Tobin School staff, and the driveway leading to the parking lot are still part of the designated parkland and

are included within the site boundaries for the playground renovations.

Surprisingly, no interpretative services were offered at the Nov. 5 meeting. Paper surveys, in English only, were available for the public to fill out across the street at Lily’s Pasta, at the library, and online on the Parks Department website. On the website, follow the link from park information to design and construction projects. A video recording of the meeting is also on the website, although the chat was apparently not recorded.

The expansive scope of the project seemed to surprise participants. Parks Department Chief Engineer Rob Rottenbucher announced that the City had received word the day before that an additional \$400,000 would come from a state grant, bringing the total anticipated budget to almost \$3 million. All three levels of the playground are now included in the project—a change from the initial proposal advertised in April.

The City’s request for qualifications (RFQ) described the targeted elements as the passive terrace on Tremont Street, named for Dr. John Sheehy in 1972, and the

playground equipment on the middle terrace. With the additional funds, the lower ballfield is now included. The RFQ also specifies that “integration of the proposed changes with the existing artwork [are] to remain.”

Defining what qualifies as public art can be complex and personal; is it the artful archway at the Tremont entrance that seems to frame a view of the Prudential tower and the railings along the stairway that mimic designs in the church façade? The elegant splash pad

designed by artist Ross Miller, the “Rose of Venus Fountain,” was a Browne Fund project in 2004 and was envisioned as a year-round sculptural piece with theatrical nighttime lighting. However, in response to a query, Kristina Carroll of the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture said the piece was not voted into the City’s public art collection by the Boston Art Commission. Project Manager Chatfield said it would be renovated or replaced. Kyle

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REP. PRESSLEY ADDRESSES PROTEST OVER E LINE CUTS

Last month, U.S. Rep. Ayanna Pressley spoke at a rally protesting proposed cuts in service on the E branch of the Green Line. The MBTA has proposed dramatic service reductions across the system as it scrambles to plug a projected budget deficit of hundreds of millions of dollars created by the pandemic induced drop in fare revenues. See article at the bottom of this page.

CIVIC AGENDA

- **THU, DEC 3, 6:30PM:** The BPDA hosts a public meeting to discuss changes in the Kenmore Sq. Redevelopment Project proposed by the developer. See ad on p6 or the Calendar for sign-in details.
- **TUE, DEC 8, 6:00PM:** Fenway Quality of Life Alliance hosts a virtual meeting for a brief update on Dr. Erica Walker’s 2019 Fenway noise study. See listing on p10 or www.FenwayCommunityCenter.org.

Outrage, Protest Greet Plan to End E Line Service at Brigham Circle, Cutting 5 Stops

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

As COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on our physical and mental health, it has also affected the economic health of the MBTA.

The MBTA expects a shortfall of \$575 million in this fiscal year, and ridership that has dropped to a quarter of pre-COVID levels. The transit agency has threatened to reduce the scope of services because of decreased ridership and soaring deficits. It has joined the ranks of major cities such as New York and Los Angeles, which face similar circumstances as a consequence of the pandemic.

When the MBTA announced its plan to end service on the E branch of the Green Line at Brigham Circle instead of Heath Street, residents and city officials reacted with outrage. The proposed change would leave a gap of five stops and 0.8 miles for commuters.

Within two days of the announcement, a rally was organized at Heath Street station. It took place on Nov. 11. About 50 residents attended the rally, including disabled veterans, city councilors, representatives from the North American Indian Center and U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley.

Pressley pointed out that “transit justice is racial justice” and reminded residents that when services are cut with the intent of being temporary, those changes often become permanent. City Councilor Kenzie Bok called it “nothing less than a death spiral” because people will stop taking the MBTA, which will lead to more cuts. City Councilor Matt O’Malley called it a “needlessly cruel” plan that

would affect essential workers who live in Mission Park, those who work in Sherrill House, at the VA Medical Center, at Hope Lodge Cancer Center and at the North American Indian Center. Councilor Michelle Wu expressed concern for veterans who live at New England Center and Home for Veterans, located at Government Center, who rely on the E branch to take them to medical appointments at the VA facility at Heath Street.

Jim Evers, president of Boston Carmen’s Union, Local 589, stressed the fact that Mission Hill is one of the city’s most transit-dependent neighborhoods. Scott Page, a Green Line delegate from the Carmen’s Union, reinforced that point at a system-wide hearing on Nov. 19, stating that the E-line branch cuts through some of Boston’s most diverse neighborhoods. On the Carmen’s Union website, Evers also stated that the union will push for a moratorium on any additional cuts that would affect essential workers.

While the MBTA argued that increased service on the 39 bus would fill the gap left by the shortened E Line route, residents argued that the 39 is one of the busiest bus routes and it might be difficult to practice safe social distancing without both options.

The proposed cuts would shrink or eliminate a lifeline for many residents who depend on the E branch of the Green Line. The MBTA has conducted meetings throughout November to present the issues and plan to the public. The public can submit feedback online at MBTA.com/forging-ahead. A final systemwide meeting will take place on Dec. 2.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

MBTA PLANS TO ELIMINATE 55 BUS ROUTE

MBTA plans to eliminate the 55 bus route between the West Fens and Copley Square. An MBTA vote on the proposed change is scheduled for Dec. 7. Previous attempts to stop the elimination by residents and customers seems to have gotten nowhere. Refer to op-ed in the October *Fenway News*, where Conrad Cizek eloquently describes his use of the bus to get from Copley to the East and West Fens. While walking is not an issue for the young and healthy, the bus has been a necessity for the elderly and disabled. Any changes made on Dec. 7 will likely go into effect in March 2021.

| 2020 Election Results | | | | | | Unofficial City of Boston totals by ward/precinct | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|--|--|
| | 4/5 | 4/6 | 4/7 | 4/8 | 4/9 | 4/10 | 5/2 | 5/2A | 5/10 | 10/1 | 10/2 | 10/3 | 10/4 | 10/5 | 10/6 | 10/8 | 21/1 | | |
| TURNOUT (proportion of registered voters) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % VOTING | 59.5 | 52.7 | 51.9 | 43.2 | 38.4 | 40.2 | 59.2 | 59.4 | 53.9 | 63.4 | 53.4 | 51.0 | 57.4 | 55.1 | 57.9 | 62.0 | 38.4 | | |
| PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BIDEN/HARRIS | 788 | 652 | 698 | 543 | 360 | 192 | 871 | 603 | 827 | 581 | 492 | 478 | 924 | 630 | 719 | 1,171 | 652 | | |
| TRUMP/PENCE | 100 | 105 | 68 | 104 | 398 | 13 | 85 | 76 | 149 | 57 | 57 | 57 | 193 | 59 | 73 | 101 | 82 | | |
| QUESTION 1 (Right to Repair) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| YES | 653 | 537 | 567 | 457 | 255 | 130 | 729 | 497 | 704 | 383 | 389 | 395 | 663 | 544 | 559 | 945 | 869 | | |
| NO | 168 | 166 | 174 | 122 | 95 | 50 | 192 | 157 | 236 | 167 | 124 | 166 | 219 | 137 | 186 | 253 | 270 | | |
| QUESTION 2 (Ranked-Choice Voting) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| YES | 545 | 496 | 502 | 423 | 231 | 136 | 695 | 464 | 639 | 323 | 359 | 355 | 614 | 508 | 562 | 877 | 882 | | |
| NO | 272 | 207 | 239 | 168 | 113 | 45 | 232 | 181 | 301 | 189 | 148 | 149 | 266 | 175 | 185 | 313 | 267 | | |

Like Other College Papers, *Huntington News* Must Choose Censorship or Financial Woes

BY HELEN SNOW

When the posters started showing up around the Northeastern University campus, many students had to do a double take. “You pay \$67,800 to go here. Why not an even \$70 ,000?” they read. “Tired of having no place to study? Your donation could add one more seat in Snell!” Emblazoned with the typical Northeastern red and black, they matched perfectly with the other “Giving Day” promotions that had been emblazoned across entire walls of the school for weeks.

The school’s advertisements had been controversial—many felt that it was in bad taste for the school to so blatantly ask for more money from students and parents who were still paying tuition. Maybe that’s why students so easily assumed that these new posters were simply more tone-deaf advertisements from the school. It was easy to miss the text at the bottom of the posters stating that “This website and related posters are

in no way affiliated with Northeastern University.” One student told the school paper that “When I first saw [a poster], I wasn’t sure if it was real or not, but honestly, if it was, I wouldn’t be surprised.” The posters went viral, attracting thousands of likes on Reddit.

Soon, this story was splashed across the front page of the school paper. It’s one of many critical and controversial stories that the paper, *The Huntington News*, has been reporting in recent years, and it’s the kind of story that the university might not want making the rounds.

For many years, *The Huntington News* felt pressure not to publish negative stories about Northeastern—the paper’s primary funder at the time. So, in 2008, the *Huntington News*, which formerly operated like any other club on campus, established itself as an independent paper. “Literally everyone at *The Huntington News* just packed up and left, and we took all of Northeastern’s equipment with us,” said board of directors’

liaison Hannah Bernstein. That decision has guaranteed the paper’s ability to criticize the administration without threat of censorship, and thus fulfill what staff members feel is one of their most important functions.

“I think [becoming independent was] a very good idea,” said Jonathan Kaufman, director of the journalism school at Northeastern. “I think it’s important for student publications to have that freedom to write about a range of issues, and sometimes they’re writing positive articles, and sometimes they’re writing negative articles.” When student publications remain affiliated with their school, they often have a hard time maintaining editorial independence, and many have struggled against pressures from administration to become PR mouthpieces for their schools.

But becoming independent leads to a new set of challenges. *The Huntington News* soon found that it had a difficult time reporting on the campus community it was supposed

to serve. “Faculty are fine, but staff members? We can’t even talk to the maintenance facilities division. We can’t talk to housing, we can’t talk to RAs, res-life, anybody,” said Bernstein.

Administrators are quick to point out that these challenges are the best training a young journalist could receive from the real world, and they’d be right—non-transparent administrations and uncooperative sources are the daily woes of many journalists. Some journalism-school administrators even draw a straight line back to their own days at their college newspaper, where they faced similar problems. “When I see what *The Huntington News* is going through, it reminds me a lot of what I went through as editor-in-chief of my [independent student] newspaper, and I think they’re handling it well,” said Kaufman. “It’s frustrating, and I get that, but I also think that it’s... good training.”

But facing tight competition, universities have been forcefully guarding their reputations, generating increased tensions between universities and their papers. And

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Zick and his colleague did not elaborate on the issues with the fountain. Community Alliance of Mission Hill President Gary Walling pointed out that it was the only aquatic playground in the neighborhood and gets a lot of use in the summer. However, what happens in the spring and fall? Sandy, the Tobin teacher, said the poles can feel like they are in the way when children are playing.

Both Sandy and Maggie Cohn, a former director of Mission Hill Main Streets, were involved with the 2004 improvements and spoke at the Nov. 5 meeting of how much thought went into the renovation process. City Councilor Kenzie Bok said the park was the heart of the Mission Hill community and has a wide mix of users. Bok said the redesign deserves a robust process with creative on-the-ground strategies for community involvement.

Sandy shared ideas from students, including a rock-climbing feature. The park shares a tall stone wall with the church, which seems to organically incorporate pudding stone outcroppings. She noted that the wall has a historic gate that students gravitate toward. Even more tantalizing now, there are glimpses through the gate of the new preschool play yard that Mission Grammar, the parochial school next door, has created behind the Basilica.

Older students, both from the Tobin and Mission Grammar, use the public playground daily. Sandy liked the many benches in the middle terrace and the bench circling a tree that an entire class can fit around on the

Sheehy Terrace.

Both the landscape architects and community members observed that the ballfield is walled off from the playground terrace; there is no connection without walking through the driveway alongside the Tobin. Gary and Cindy Walling mentioned the worn-out slope alongside the stairs. While this area was intended as a grassy sitting area in 2004, it has more often been used as a playing field for games of tag. The Wallings commented that ironically, Mission Hill, a neighborhood of hills, has no sledding slopes. Could the redesign be an opportunity to create one?

Project manager Chatfield shared that the Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture is currently working on a master plan for another Boston park, Ringer Park in Allston. The firm also produced the redesign of Adams Park in Roslindale Square and the 2017 Franklin Park Entrances and Pathways, Phase V.

The design team’s initial assessment of the playground was that everything will be evaluated for adherence to accessibility and safety codes, because standards have changed in the last 15 years. They noted that the playground equipment has served its time and needs replacing. Zick conducted an outdoor lighting audit with a light meter; the area behind the library was the darkest and could present a safety concern.

The date for the December meeting has been scheduled for Dec. 15 at 6pm. For questions and comments contact the project manager at abigail.chatfield@boston.gov.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



The historic gate in the wall the church and the playground share.

PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS

WANT FRIES WITH THAT TREE?



Restaurants continue to struggle with pandemic restrictions, but Tasty Burger has found an unusual income stream: a pop-up Christmas tree shop on the corner of its West Fens site. Weston Nurseries plans to keep the shop open through Sunday, Dec. 13 (assuming supplies last), Weds-Fri, 4-8pm and Sat-Sun, 10am-8pm.

Mission Hill Could Get Addiction Treatment Ctr.

ALISON PULTINAS

In November, Mission Hill’s Community Alliance heard a remote presentation about a future addiction treatment center at 63 Parker Hill Ave. at the corner of Fisher Avenue, currently the location of an assisted-living facility near the top of the hill.

The presenter was William Giovanucci, a partner with Haskell House LLC, one of the corporations linked to the ownership of the Landmark at Longwood property. Haskell House was the historic name for the New England Baptist Hospital nurses’ residence, which was purchased from the hospital to be remodeled for assisted living.

Giovanucci’s and Cliff Boyle’s corporation, Simsbury Associates, which is associated with the Landmark chain, opened Landmark at Longwood, also known as Landmark Senior Living, almost 20 years ago.

They received historic tax credits for their renovation of the property and low-income tax credits to open a facility specifically for elders of low- to moderate-income. However, bankruptcy has threatened their operations, and the State’s Executive Office of Elder Affairs has ordered the facility to cease enrolling new clients more than once due to multiple safety violations. A 2018 report by the state listed occupancy as 89 residents, including 17 in a dementia special-care unit.

During the meeting, Giovanucci’s role with the current and past management of Landmark at Longwood was not clear. However he is now promoting the plan to convert the site to an addiction center, which, in his words, is a more financially lucrative business plan.

Questions from Mission Hill residents focused on the assisted-living clients and the current owners. An investigative journalist, Andrea

Estes of *The Boston Globe*, wrote in September of this year that state officials suspended certification of the Landmark facility “after inspectors discovered that employees were locking dementia patients in their rooms to enforce a quarantine aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19.”

Giovanucci could not state how many residents currently live at Landmark at Longwood. The future operation would be named Landmark Recovery Center, a brand of for-profit treatment programs with locations in Kentucky, Oklahoma, and other states. Seven more are in development, apparently taking over failed nursing home facilities. A director of Landmark’s facility in Louisville, Kentucky, took part in the call and described how clients with working-class jobs with generous insurance policies benefitted from the month-long inpatient recovery program.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

| AREA | TOTAL NUMBER TESTED | PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE TESTS (CUMULATIVE) | % OF POSITIVE TESTS FOR CURRENT WEEK | TESTING RATES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Back Bay/ Beacon Hil/ West End/ Downtown/ North End | 31,273 | 3.4% | 4.7% | 56,122.2 |
| Fenway | 54,902 | 1.5% | 1.2% | 100,319.8 |
| Mission Hill /Roxbury | 28,559 | 6.9% | 9.9% | 66,220.7 |

| CASES: RACE/ETHNICITY ANALYSIS | KNOWN CASES | % OF CASES |
|--|-------------|------------|
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 995 | 4% |
| Black/African American | 6,245 | 27% |
| Latinx/Hispanic | 7,556 | 33% |
| White | 6,332 | 28% |
| Other | 1,772 | 8% |
| Total Boston Cases with Race/Ethnicity Identified | 22,900 | |
| Of 26,160 cases in Boston, 87.5% include data for race/ethnicity | | |

| DEATHS: RACE/ETHNICITY ANALYSIS | KNOWN DEATHS | % OF KNOWN DEATHS |
|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 59 | 7% |
| Black/African American | 312 | 34% |
| Latinx/Hispanic | 102 | 11% |
| White | 406 | 45% |
| Other | 27 | 3% |
| Total Race/Ethnicity Identified Deaths in Boston | 906 | |
| Of 906 deaths in Boston, 100% include data for race/ethnicity | | |

PRESERVATION-FUND GRANT PROCESS GETS A FEW TWEAKS

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The 2021 competitive round for Boston’s Community Preservation Act grants has begun. The three-year-old Community Preservation Committee (CPC) charged with decision making met in October and again on Nov. 23. This round, there are changes to the process and an adjusted timetable.

CPC staff, working with Meghan Aldridge and Emme Handy of the City’s Treasury Department, created a framework of funding tiers that sets draft limits on the individual grants for open space and historic preservation. For example, only one open space project can receive between \$750,000 and \$1 million (the maximum amount). Among historic preservation projects, \$2.5 million in grants can be spread among five large projects that receive up to \$500,000 each. The framework has suggested tiers for mid-sized and small project as well. The draft tiers were shared with eligible applicants in October in time for the Nov. 13 deadline. Staffer Thadine Brown announced that 75 requests for preservation grants were received by the deadline.

At the November meeting, committee member Carol Downs said members wanted to avoid losing the “secret sauce” of the review process if guidelines for applicants and tiers of funding were overly prescriptive.

Sally Zimmerman of the CPC staff described another change specifically for small historic preservation projects. The program will now allow up to 15 percent

of the award to be used for an assessment of building conditions, if one hasn’t been completed in the last ten years. In addition, the City will actively recruit large architectural firms to provide pro bono professional planning to assist with some projects.

Application deadlines have also changed. In order to give the City’s Department of Neighborhood Development adequate time to review and to coordinate with the state Department of Housing and Community Development’s annual schedule for public subsidy requests, housing proposals had the earliest deadline, at the end of September. Those agencies then give their own recommendations to the CPC. If the state fails to approve a proposal, the City will also hold back.

Total suggested allocations, reflecting past practices, will yield approximately 50 percent for housing and no less than 20 percent each for open space and historic preservation. The remaining 10 percent will provide funding flexibility for final reviews in January and February.

The CPC recommendations won’t become final until the committee reviews all applications from the three programmatic areas. All CPC meetings are public and listed on The City of Boston’s public notices calendar. Three meetings in December are scheduled to discuss housing applications. Weekly meetings in January will focus on the open space/recreation and historic preservation applications.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

COVID UPDATE

COVID rates continue to rise in Boston and might spike in the coming weeks as a result of Thanksgiving travel. Some area colleges, including BU, told students who went home for the holiday not to return to campus but to complete the semester remotely. These data are from Boston Public Health Commission as of Nov. 25, 2020. [See page 6 for a list of area locations for getting tested for exposure.]

MASCO Receives Award for National Guard Flexibility

BY KELLY GARRITY

In November month, the Longwood Medical Area’s (LMA) Medical Academic and Scientific Community Organization (MASCO) received the Patriot Award, a recognition from the Department of Defense’s Employer Support of The Guard and Reserve.

MASCO, a nonprofit community organization, was established in 1972 to address traffic and parking problems in the rapidly-developing LMA. Today, MASCO consists of 16 members and four associate members, ranging from hospitals and museums to religious and educational facilities. MASCO continues to facilitate transportation in the LMA, as well as coordinate sustainability, access and emergency preparedness efforts.

According to the ESGR website, the Patriot Award “reflects the efforts made to support citizen warriors through a wide-range [sic] of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed.”

Jefferey Brown, an operations coordinator for MASCO and infantryman in the Massachusetts National Guard, nominated MASCO, and specifically MASCO’s vice president of operations, P.J. Cappadona, for the award. “In the private sector, there are some companies that do a lot better than others,” said Brown.

“I was surprised and grateful to Jeff for the nomination,” said Cappadona in an email. “I’ve been working with Jeff for just over a year, but it’s been a year where requests for his participation with the National Guard have been far more than he expected, due to the events we have seen over the past several months. Jeff’s experience in the Guard has helped tremendously with the role he plays in emergency management and planning for MASCO and the LMA, and I’ve always wanted to be nothing but supportive of that part of his life and career,” Cappadona said.

By nominating Cappadona, Brown recognized that support and the support he has received from MASCO as a whole.

“MASCO reworked their policy so [that] when I have to take time off when I’m called up, it’s similar to paid time off,” said Brown. MASCO’s military leave benefit allows Brown and other employees in similar situations to take up to 17 paid days off a year to fulfil their military duties. This time allotted for military leave has no impact on the employee’s other paid time off.

Brown nominated Cappadona after a hectic year for members of the Massachusetts National Guard, which required Brown to spend significantly more time away from work than he would have to in an average year. In a typical year, Brown would have taken around 15 to 20 days off to fulfill his commitments as an infantryman. In 2020, he has been activated for over 50 days, in addition to his regularly scheduled duties. This has included activations this spring at the Boston Hope Field Hospital in the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, this June during Black Lives Matter protests, and in November for the presidential election.

At one point, Brown said, he only had 45 minutes’ notice before he had to report to his armory. One of Brown’s activations even happened while he was in the middle of a meeting. “MASCO has been really good about rolling with the punches this year,” said Brown.

Part of what motivated Brown to nominate Cappadona was how understanding Cappadona was in this situation. “He told me to take the rest of the day to figure everything out,” said Brown.

“My immediate reaction was, ‘okay’ and ‘we got this,’” said Cappadona, in reference to Brown’s mid-meeting activation. “In my job as vice president of operations for MASCO, I manage and monitor transit in the LMA on a daily, and sometimes hourly, basis, and one of the key components of my job is to be able to quickly change tactics if the situation requires me to do so. I view this moment as within the scope of that work; a situation presented itself that changed how we would be working for the near future, and based on the planning and conversations we had previously with Jeff, we knew how to quickly adapt so there was no loss in service for the LMA or MASCO members,” Cappadona said.

Kelly Garrity is a student at Northeastern University.

Meeting Offers View of Progress on Charlesgate Park

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

On Nov. 19 the Charlesgate Alliance presented a meeting on Zoom, attended by over 80 people, to update the public on the Charlesgate Park Restoration Project. The last update was in June at the Emerald Necklace Conservancy’s annual meeting.

In 2017, the Charlesgate Alliance formed to improve the quality of Muddy River water, activate the site with new uses, reconnect the three park systems and neighborhoods across Charlesgate, and celebrate Charlesgate. 2019 saw short-term improvements: lighting repairs, replacement of railings first designed by Olmsted, and the addition of movable chairs.

Currently, a playground and dog park are proposed and are in the design stage. Another proposed project would remove two non-structural walls that block access to the area. The Charlesgate Alliance is looking for matching funds to supplement grant money it has been awarded for the removal. In July, the group received a grant for new trees from the Red Sox.

Cleaning the water of floating trash, sewage, plastics, and phragmites has been an ongoing issue. In August the WaterGoat pilot project was launched. The Muddy Water Initiative, a grassroots educational and advocacy group for stakeholders focused on climate resilience and stormwater management, received \$12,000 from the State to purchase a “WaterGoat,” which is not a live goat but a trash-collecting net that will help clean the river near the point where it joins the Charles. With the help of volunteers, the pilot project has successfully reduced levels of trash in the water.

During the meeting, co-designer of the restoration project, urban landscaper Marie Law Adams, spoke about soil management. Since the Back Bay and Fenway neighborhoods sit on filled-in marshland, said Adams, the plan proposes keeping as much of the soil as possible on the site and incorporating it into the project. She said that the soil volume can be managed on site. The architects are also working on a plan to address stormwater drainage from the Bowker Overpass.

Emerald Necklace Conservancy President Karen Mauney-Brodek spoke about “The Big Picture.” Currently, one cannot travel from the Esplanade to the Emerald Necklace. A larger goal for this project is eventual reconnection of the Esplanade and Charlesgate. Mauney-Brodek reminded the audience that even though it is hidden, the Muddy River does flow directly into the Charles. Since the state’s Department of Transportation plans to replace the Bowker Overpass (it connects the Fenway and Storrow Drive above the Mass. Pike) and has begun the design phase for reconstruction, Mauney-Brodek said this is an opportunity to daylight the river and free up parkland by converting existing culverts.

The restoration project has the support of elected officials, including City Councilor Kenzie Bok, State Sen. Will Brownsberger, and State Rep. Jon Santiago.

To volunteer with the alliance or learn about the restoration plan, contact charlesgatealliance.org or facebook.com/charlesgatealliance/.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.

❁ Remembering David Scondras ❁

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our last issue carried a short notice of David Scondras's death. *The Fenway News* board, however, knew that the paper needed to present a more complete picture of someone who looms so large in the Fenway's history. The introduction below, adapted from a remembrance by East Fens resident Mat Thall, creates some context for the extraordinary comments submitted by friends, neighbors and colleagues that you'll find on page 5. We owe Helen Cox special thanks for collecting these comments.

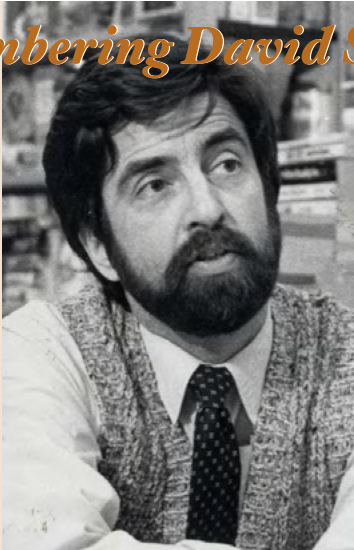
The outsized impact Scondras had on the Fenway of the 1970s continues to reverberate today, not simply in institutions like Fenway Health and the Fenway CDC, but also in the form of hundreds of people he worked with and inspired. Many remain leaders in the neighborhood and city today; others have become leaders elsewhere. They represent a key part of Scondras's legacy to the community and the world.

BY MAT THALL

David was a lifelong activist and reformer who occupied roles as community organizer, tenant organizer, statistical researcher, politician, teacher, and writer over his 74 years. He changed the Fenway, the City of Boston, and the global war against AIDS. A passion for social and economic justice and LGBTQ rights inflamed him throughout his life.

Raised in Lowell, David attended Harvard College, where he had his first brush with institutional homophobia when the university pressured him into seeking psychiatric "help" as an openly gay student. Settling in the Fenway after graduation, he deepened his involvement in antiwar and civil rights work. He worked to establish the neighborhood-focused and LGBTQ-supportive Fenway Community Health Center, initially run out of a basement on Haviland Street. He was a driver in the fight against the Fenway Urban Renewal Plan, organizing the plaintiffs in a lawsuit that ended demolition of historic housing stock and ultimately changed the way federal urban renewal operated nationally.

In 1973 a rash of mysterious fires struck buildings on Symphony



Road and Westland Avenue. Scondras became the leader of the Symphony Tenants Organizing Project (STOP), formed to protect tenants and fight the City's official narrative that they were burning down their own homes. Mounting a sophisticated research effort, STOP developed a model for identifying where fires would occur and helped Attorney General Frank Belotti indict and convict 33 people in an arson-for-profit conspiracy.

In 1983 Scondras made a tough decision to work for change from "inside the system," deciding to run for city council from the newly created District 8, which includes the Fenway and Mission Hill. He won, then spent five terms on the council pushing through measures to

protect tenants from condo conversions; generate linkage funds for affordable housing from commercial development; and enact one of the first gay-rights and antidiscrimination ordinances in the country—all while his office delivered an unprecedented level of constituent services.

After 10 years in office, David returned to "private life" in 1994. Initially focusing on gay-rights issues, including as leader of the newly formed Boston Human Rights Foundation, he moved increasingly into AIDS activism, an issue that had become intensely personal: his beloved partner Robert Krebs had become infected with HIV. Thus was born Search for a Cure (SFAC).

Initially SFAC operated as an advocate for easier access to promising treatments and a translator of complex scientific information to people with HIV. By the late 1990s SFAC was working in India and in East Africa, and David was doing things like persuading Harvard Business School to develop the financial and logistical plan for a massive AIDS-treatment program for the country of Malawi.

After nearly 40 years in the Fenway, David and Robert moved to Cambridge, where Robert, an architect, redesigned the Victorian house that the couple operated as a B&B to help fund SFAC. The 2008 recession, however, cut other funding to a trickle, and David, facing declining health, wound down the organization.

But in my humble position as inspector—that's what they call poll workers who sit at the check-in table—there should also be signs that say *How to check in*. They would instruct people to first give the name of their street, then the street number, their last name and then their first name. Amazing how many people come up to the table and give their names first, even their first names.

It's always been a problem, but with face masks it's become downright confusing.

"Hi. What's your address? Did you say Columbia? Sorry, I can't find it. Oh, is it maybe Columbus or Cumston?"

"Did you say 430 or 37?"

"What's the name again? Crowley or Rowley?"

"Tim or Tom?"

All of this is a variation on social distancing.

It's quite a relief when couples come in together: same address, same last name.

Some people, young men, in particular, look similar to each other while wearing masks. Sometimes I wonder if people are sneaking in, trying to vote twice, but when I check off their names, I see they've never been there before.

But I'm not complaining; it's always an interesting day and later I'll look down and see the patriotic sticker still affixed to my shirt: Inspector Alison.

Alison Barnet lives in the South End. She is the author of Once Upon a Neighborhood, A Timeline and Anecdotal History of the South End of Boston.

An Inspector Walks Into a Polling Station...

BY ALISON BARNET

When Massachusetts started early voting a couple of years ago, I naively thought computers would process the ballots. But when I went into my polling place to work at six in the morning, early voting envelopes were piled high—literally to the ceiling. Although I wasn't one of those who stayed—there's a reason I'm now part-time—other poll workers were stuck working on them until 3 a.m.

This year, on Nov. 3, my warden was rightly concerned when by 2 p.m. the mail-in ballots hadn't been delivered. Early Voting ballots, yes, but those were nothing compared to maybe thousands of mail-in ballots. He didn't like the thought of working until 3 a.m.—or longer! Who would?

It interests me that with all the news reports of the mail-in

count getting higher and higher and, in some cases, poll workers working

GUEST OPINION

into the next day or even the next, poll workers as people weren't named or interviewed. Or did they look too exhausted? Reports made it sound like it was nothing, just counting. In reality, envelopes have to be opened and names and addresses entered in two books and then put through the scanner, just like when voters come in. We're not paid enough for all those hours.

Zillions of signs are posted at polling places: *Vote here*, *Your voting rights*, *How to mark your ballot* and signs in other languages.

Readers, We Need Your Help!

Even under the best of circumstance, making ends meet has always challenged *The Fenway News*. And who would call 2020 the best of circumstances?

Even before the pandemic, which forced us to suspend printing a physical paper, we'd run up a substantial debt with our saintly printer. But the days when they'd overlook that are over, and we need to pay down that debt. At the same time, the pandemic has forced us to take a long look at how we strengthen our pitiful digital presence (although we do plan to print again).

So. We've got one big problem and one big

opportunity. To move forward on either will require money. Which brings us to you, dear reader.



Hyperlocal since 1974.

and believe—that you want to see the paper survive and thrive as much as we do. So please support our GFM drive.

—THE FENWAY NEWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 remains online-only for the duration of the pandemic. Our next issue will appear on **Friday, January 8**.

➤ DEADLINE ◀

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, January 1**.

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IN CASE YOU EVER WONDERED, THIS IS WHAT A RED ALERT LOOKS LIKE.

Remembering David Scondras

I am so sad to hear the news of David's passing. Together we enacted the first rental-protection and anti-displacement law for poor people in Boston—when most politicians and the media were against poor people's right to housing. David fought for social and economic justice and never backed down. Rest in peace, my friend.
RAY FLYNN, MAYOR, 1984-1993

David had greatness in him. He was original, charismatic, a great mind who thought outside the box. When I think of the Fenway, he looms large.
BETTE KEVA, JOURNALIST; FORMER EDITOR OF THE FENWAY NEWS

David Scondras was a remarkable progressive politician. When he won an uphill battle for City Council, representing the Fenway, tenants were his political base and the city's real estate industry his outraged opponents.

As a City Council member, he mastered the “inside-outside” approach. He hired community organizers on his staff, continued to help build grassroots movements, and served as the voice and chief ally of Boston's tenants—a majority of the city's population—on the council. He was also the first openly gay member of the City Council and became a stalwart voice for LGBT equality.

David could be goofy, sardonic, brilliant, funny, and angry, which made him charming—and sometimes unpredictable—but he was always strategic, and he never wavered as an activist for social justice.

David lived a fulfilling life. He was a working-class kid from Lowell who went to Harvard but never forgot where he came from. He was constantly causing what the late John Lewis called “good trouble.”
PETER DREIER, MAYOR FLYNN'S HOUSING ADVISOR; PROFESSOR AT OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE

As a Boston City Councilor David won passage of ordinances expanding protections against evictions and condo conversions. However, I feel his work ought to be most remembered for his sweeping human rights ordinance that established protections against discrimination in employment, housing, and many other areas based on sexual orientation, gender, race, and religious preference. In organizing passage of the ordinance, David combined his passion for including everyone with his political strategy of building the biggest possible constituency...David was probably the smartest person I ever met. He had an intense passion for helping the most disadvantaged of people. He was my mentor and my friend.
JACK HALL, SCONDRAS CAMPAIGN MANGER, CITY COUNCIL STAFF DIRECTOR

I probably met David around 1971 during the protests against the Christian Science Church's demolition of the neighborhood under the BRA's urban renewal plan. I had made a film about urban renewal in the Fenway and was excited to meet the wonderful, dynamic people who were doing all sorts of interesting community work. David was a cyclone of political and intellectual energy amidst us all. He was never cynical or defeatist about our fight against huge financial and political forces at work to destroy our wonderful urban neighborhood. His positive “can-do/why not?” attitude kept the energy level high for years way beyond my residency in the Fenway.
JOHN NEWBY, FILMMAKER

David's 1983 city council campaign was exhilarating, a turning point in Boston politics as Mel King became the first person of color to make the mayoral run-off, and David became the first openly gay person—and democratic socialist—elected to the city council...In his office I learned that democracy could be an antidote to wealth's privilege. I also

had a wake-up call that year as a middle-class white boy: the destitute elderly mugging victim who was told Medicaid wouldn't cover her “cosmetic” jaw surgery since she could still manage to eat; the trans prostitute beaten by police, with only her word against that of three cops; the uninsured person with AIDS left on the street to die; a troglodyte city councilor whose campaign workers threatened to drag my boyfriend and me behind their pickup...David's outside-the-box thinking often reminded me of the quote attributed to RFK: “Some see things as they are and say, ‘Why?’ I dream of things that never were and ask, ‘Why not?’”
FRENCH WALL, CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEER, LEGISLATIVE AIDE

When it came to building coalitions, there was nobody any better, especially when it came to [including] a cross section of cultures.
MEL KING, FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE; FORMER MAYORAL CANDIDATE

Ours was the only city council office with a “foreign policy” and became the City's greeter of foreign officials. Our office staff was a collaboration of young citizens, senior citizens, and interns who together came up with ideas for improving the city as well as for helping people—now commonly called “constituent services.” For example, a young man called our office around Christmas one year asking for help. He told us that he had AIDS, was homeless, and was selling sexual services to survive. He wanted to get clean and get off the street. David used his influence to get this man into a rehab program, find a home, and secure a small job. Some congressional offices today don't do as much as that city council office did. May David rest in peace, and may Robert be comforted by knowing that things are a little better because they were together.
GARY DOTTERMAN, CITY COUNCIL STAFFER

David—Thank you for the rollicking rollercoaster ride you gave us over several decades as your inventiveness, wit, and curiosity contributed to creating several new layers to the Fenway's ongoing identity as a community of joy seeking justice. Your warmth and vulnerability were special gifts from on high. I wish you much peace, my friend.
BOB CASE, ACTIVIST; LONGTIME FENWAY RESIDENT

Not many people know that David was by training a mathematician. In the mid-1990s, he and I often got together to discuss problems that interested us. During one of those sessions, the phone rang. He picked it up, and next thing I heard was “Hey, Dapper! How are you?” That was the start of a lengthy and animated conversation, perhaps a half-hour long. Albert “Dapper” O'Neill, served on the council with David and had a reputation as an old-school, grandstanding Irish-Catholic politician, and “politically incorrect” in the extreme. When David finally hung up, I said, “David, I thought you two hated each other.” David responded, “No, Jon. The truth is we always understood that we were the only council members who actually believed what we said and weren't there just to make business connections. And I'll tell you another thing: If Dapper had been born 30 years later, he'd have been on our side.”
JON BALL, MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTOR AT UMASS BOSTON; FORMER FENWAY RESIDENT

David founded, helped build, or engaged with organizations that are today the backbone of the Fenway neighborhood and its commitment to diversity in every way, including Fenway Health Center, Fenway Community Development Corporation, and The Fenway News. David was brilliant, caring, and often way ahead of the rest of us in seeing what was



possible. He was also funny, generous, quirky, proudly gay, and gave us four volumes of a wonderful biography that chronicles some of that history. I will miss knowing that he's out there making the world better and so much more interesting.
NIKKI FLIONIS, DIRECTOR OF MISSION SAFE; LONGTIME EAST FENS RESIDENT

David Scondras was one of the most complex, interesting people I've ever met. We all know his political and educational activism, but he was interested in and excited about everything! I have memories of his forays into Kirlian photography, making avgolemono soup, and having camp-outs on the Edgerly Road playground. He was so unique and energetic!
KARLA RIDEOUT, ACTIVIST; LONGTIME FENWAY RESIDENT

It was a total shock to learn of David's death! It seemed impossible that someone so dynamic, so creative could have died. David loved being Greek! He loved pushing the envelope! He loved making things happen...and so he did! In the Fenway. On the city council. In health care. In ways too numerous to enumerate. David made a difference!!! What else need be said? Except that we shall miss him for years to come.
ROSARIA SALERNO, FORMER CITY COUNCILOR; FORMER MAYORAL CANDIDATE; LONGTIME FENWAY RESIDENT

I miss David. What an impact he had on who I am—our intense, successful work to end arson-for-profit's devastation in the Fenway; our conversations with a Nobel laureate and a tremendous musician; and our witness to human rights abuses in El Salvador and subsequent work to stop Reagan administration complicity in the regime's terrorist attacks on its people. I can sum up my years as David's legislative director with this quote from him: “Government is about sharing, more than anything else in the world...The issue is very simply do you or don't you agree that we're a family? If we're a family than we've got to make sure we take care of each other.”
JACK MILLS, ACTIVIST; COUNCIL STAFF DIRECTOR; FORMER FENWAY RESIDENT

David Scondras was one of my most reliable allies on the Boston City Council. We co-sponsored many policy initiatives, including the South Africa divestment ordinance, the assault-weapons ban, creation of the Human Rights and Arson commissions, rent control and many other progressive measures. In 2013, he even supported my campaign for mayor of Boston. He was a friend of the working people of Boston and a champion of human rights. He will be missed.
CHARLES YANCEY, FORMER CITY COUNCILOR; FORMER MAYORAL CANDIDATE

I will always remember David as one of the most creative and challenging community organizers and politicians. Even before he drew me into his work in the Fenway, I remember marching with him in one of the first gay pride parades—which he helped invent.

During the 1980s, when our state and city districts overlapped, his advice was crucial as I made decisions on the first gay rights bill and the state's response to the AIDS crisis. David leaves us saddened yet so appreciative and so much better.
BYRON RUSHING, FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE

I got to know David as an organizer for the Massachusetts Tenants Organization and later on the staff of the Fenway CDC, two organizations that sometimes seemed to be extensions of David's city council office—or maybe the other way around, as we worked together so closely in the fight for affordable housing and to protect tenants. David hired great folks to work for him and was constantly generating ideas for legislation or programs or for new ways to win allies to our cause.
BOB VAN METER, FORMER ORGANIZE; PAST DIRECTOR OF THE BOSTON OFFICE OF LISC

David Scondras was the James Michael Curley of District 8. Although David's politics were the polar opposite of Curley's, he had all the passion, political savvy, and brilliance of the former mayor. In David's heyday as city councilor for the Fenway, Mission Hill, and the Back Bay, he knew everyone, made it his business to stay in touch with his constituents, and focused intently on their needs. David was gentle when he needed to be, but he also had the capacity to become a passionate messenger of truth and insisted on justice when fighting for the neighborhoods and constituents he represented and for the city he loved so much. I'm sure he's already campaigning for the rights of his fellow angels. We miss you, my friend.
BARBARA BURNHAM, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FENWAY CDC

I met David [while] fighting for justice. David was committed to an inclusive democracy. He represented his district on issues that affected the whole city, and his successes changed our society. David made a difference.
FELIX ARROYO, FORMER CITY COUNCILOR; SUFFOLK COUNTY REGISTER OF PROBATE

I got to know David through Elaine Noble, with whom I had worked at Emerson College, along with Irene Alinsky. This was in the early 1970s, and Irene was inspiring all of us, as was her late husband, Saul. In an era when issues of race, of sex, of sexuality and gender (and, later, language, careers and culture) were all reforming, David's inspiration and irony contributed to all of our community—which, we previously would have called “communities.” We learned to work and share with each other in ways that transcended those boundaries. David's success, his grace, and his readiness to ask rather than dictate solutions were both inspirational and pragmatic, warm, and welcoming to many opinions once thought polarizing. Just a few months ago Irene Alinsky died. Now, with David gone as well, we cherish what we learned from them all the more, and look forward to a future with the culture they helped create.
JOE BECKMANN, FORMER AIDE TO STATE REP. ELAINE NOBLE; RETIRED EMERSON FACULTY

David Scondras was a brilliant, visionary leader. His local impact alone was staggering, and I doubt many people realize how much they owe to him, as it's easy to take for granted the structures he put in place to keep our community safe and healthy and housed. I will always be grateful to David for waking me up to the opportunities for community impact that each of us is presented on a daily basis. He made the most of his opportunities, and in his honor we should each do the same.
BRIAN CLAGUE, MUSICIAN; LONGTIME FENWAY RESIDENT

I knew David when we were boys in Lowell in the late 1940s and early 1950s. His mother's family owned a grocery store on the first floor of the tenement I lived in, on the corner of Suffolk Street and Broadway across from the Western Canal. We attended religious school together at the Transfiguration Church on Saturdays. He was also whip-smart and would go on from “the Acre,” historic home of the Greek immigrant community in Lowell, to Harvard.
DAVID SPEROUNIS, CHILDHOOD FRIEND

David had an indelible impact on my life, as he did on the lives of so many. He was a wild man, a gifted strategist, and a natural leader. I met him in 1975 shortly after I moved to the Fenway. He was central to my initiation in community organizing, LGBTQ rights, and community development, and his first city council campaign was my crash course in election field operations. I'm 3,000 miles away and in a completely different career—urban planning and higher education—but those Fenway-nurtured, Scondras-influenced values and spirit still guide me. We will miss him.
CHRIS TILLY, FORMER FENWAY ACTIVIST; CHAIR OF THE UCLA PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Lack of effective treatments and bureaucracy slowed studies of promising therapies in the early days of the AIDS pandemic, leading to the birth of ACT-UP. David saw the need for a confrontational approach, but he also understood the value of opening dialogue between affected community members and researchers. This led to the birth of Search for a Cure. David's training as a scientist enabled him to ask key questions, and his political skills allowed him to develop friendships with key players at the NIH and several companies. His activism greatly enhanced community education and helped shape thinking about the structure of studies and getting experimental medications to those in need as expeditiously as possible. He was a great thinker and great soul, and will be sorely missed.
KEN MAYER, M.D., HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBER; MEDICAL RESEARCH DIRECTOR AT THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

David never realized he had been an inspiration to so many. His middle name was *social justice*; it was *human rights*; it was *love thy neighbor*. To quote civil rights leader John Lewis, America needs many Davids “to make trouble; to make good trouble.”
HELEN COX, CHAIR OF THE SCONDRAS STEERING COMMITTEE; LONGTIME FENWAY RESIDENT AND ACTIVIST

David and Robert were my neighbors on Edgerly Road, where we owned adjoining rowhouses. They were good neighbors, sociable, political, and generous—before they built their own house, they let me use the lot as a garden. I served as campaign treasurer when David ran for city council.
GALEN GILBERT, FORMER NEIGHBOR

David loved the people he worked and lived with. He loved his neighborhood and his district. It was evident in the way he looked at and spoke to you that he cared. He combined his aptitude for numbers with a passion for people to make change. He used the power of love to be one of the fiercest champions of social justice this city has ever seen.
MICHAEL KING, FORMER MATH STUDENT OF DAVID'S; DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH END TECHNOLOGY CENTER

David taught us all what it means to be an “activist.” From his prescient commitment to equality to his leadership on the front lines of the AIDS crisis, we have lost a true champion.
MIKE ROSS, FORMER DISTRICT 8 CITY COUNCILOR

COVID-19 TESTING SITES

The City of Boston lists four testing sites easily accessible to Fenway and Mission Hill residents. You don't need to have symptoms to get a test. In fact, the City now encourages anyone to get a test to help develop a clearer picture of how widely the virus has spread.

DIMOCK CENTER

- 45 Dimock Street, Roxbury
- Mon-Fri, 10am-12pm
- Appointment required; call (617) 442-8800, ext. 2683
- Notes: Check with your health insurance plan to learn how much of the cost it will cover.

WHITTIER STREET HEALTH CENTER

- 290 Tremont Street, Roxbury [a block from the Orange Line's Roxbury Crossing stop]
- Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm; Sat, 9am-12pm
- (617) 427-1000
- Free

FENWAY HEALTH

- 161 Park Drive (Holy Trinity Orthodox parking lot)
- Mon-Fri, 8am-12pm
- Appointment required; call (617) 927-6000
- Free

BRIGHAM & WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

- 75 Francis Street (LMA)
- Appointment required; call (617) 732-5500 for schedule and insurance coverage info

Cyclists Union Brands Its New HQ



The Boston Cyclists Union's new office at 1419 Tremont St. in Mission Hill [across from the Rosbury Crossing stop on the Orange Line], sports new signage. Note the sculptural bike rack on the sidewalk with the word "Mission" and local landmarks along the top.

> **HUNTINGTON NEWS** from page 2

there are some serious challenges that student newspapers are facing for the first time, challenges emblematic of those facing the journalism industry as a whole. “I think that the entire industry is going through a shift that makes a lot of people feel uncomfortable,” said Lauren Smart, faculty advisor at *The Daily Campus* at Texas’s Southern Methodist University. “[Student papers] become a microcosm of that.”

Like many local papers, school papers are finding it hard to stay afloat. “*The [Huntington] News’s* becoming independent in 2008 meant we had no funding coming from the university. We were instantly left to find our own office space and [to pay] for printing costs and equipment,” said Charlie Wolfson, editor in chief of *The Huntington News*.

The paper was left to fend for itself, and soon it was deep in debt. But finally, after almost a decade, the paper started to turn things around. It stopped renting its own office and now works out of various rooms in Holmes Hall when there are no classes. It cut down on printing, and staff fundraised tirelessly, asking alumni and parents for money. As of January 2019, the paper was finally out of the red.

Other independent student papers haven’t been so lucky; some have re-affiliated with their school or drastically cut down on printing. Many face an impossible choice—do they re-affiliate with their school and risk losing editorial freedom, or do they maintain their independence in the face of overwhelming financial difficulties, and risk losing everything?

Helen Snow is a journalism student at Northeastern University.

BOK SEEKS SIMPLER ZONING THAT COULD BOOST AFFORDABLE HOUSING

BY ALISON PULTINAS

On November 10, the City Council’s Planning, Development, and Transportation Committee discussed a request from Councilors Kenzie Bok and Matt O’Malley to consider options to give zoning relief to 100-percent-affordable and deeply affordable residential projects in Boston.

Bok’s and O’Malley’s opening remarks focused on the city’s housing crisis for low- and middle-income households and the potential delays for new projects that face overly restrictive zoning, lengthy design review, or even lawsuits, as happened this year in Jamaica Plain with a large development proposed by the Pine Street Inn.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored what we’ve long known to be true—housing is public health,” said Councilor Bok in a press release. “We need housing for all our residents to make Boston a more equitable city, and removing the delays and barriers to building more 100 percent and deeply affordable projects is a step towards housing for all.”

The panel, including Boston Planning and Development Agency housing policy director Michelle McCarthy and deputy director for regulatory planning and zoning Bryan Glascock, convened to discuss current practices and potential options, including how existing zoning overlays work. Glascock said that if a project is already as-of-right (meaning it needs no changes in zoning) there is really no need for a community process. Tim Davis, deputy director of policy development and research at the Department of Neighborhood Development, said that abutter challenges affecting affordable housing units happen maybe once a year, but

the data is apparently not tracked.

Other area communities, including Cambridge and Somerville, have begun implementing zoning overlays that create as-of-right, automatic zoning approval for deeply affordable housing proposals.

If the City were to add an overlay amendment to the zoning code, the details and nuances of what projects would be included could be controversial. District 9 Councilor Liz Breadon said she supported mixed-income developments. Another speaker asked if developers building for households that meet 70 percent of AMI could qualify.

A home-rule petition that Mayor Walsh signed last year to incorporate Boston’s Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) into the zoning code has similar goals. Under current practice, only developers of buildings with 10 or more units that need zoning relief or that build on City-owned land have to set aside a portion of onsite units as income-restricted. They can also meet the requirement by building income-restricted units offsite, or paying into the IDP fund.

When and if the legislature acts favorably on the home rule petition, the Boston Zoning Commission would establish new regulations promoting inclusionary development of income-restricted housing that would apply regardless of any need for zoning relief. However, the mayor’s petition does not set percentages or outline the specifics of an overlay amendment. Those details would be worked out through a three-step process involving the BPDA, the City Council and, finally, the Zoning Commission. The approach that O’Malley and Bok propose would also require approval by the Zoning Commission but would not require a vote of the legislature.

Emily Brown, Bok’s director of policy and communication, said that the councilor would craft a draft ordinance to reflect the goals discussed in the hearing.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



Virtual Public Meeting

Kenmore Square Redevelopment Project NPC

Thursday, December 3
6:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/KenmoreSqDec3
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 665 1938

Project Description:

Article 80 Public Meeting to review the proposed Notice of Project Change (“NPC”) for the Kenmore Square Redevelopment Project, which was submitted to the BPDA by Related Beal, LLC (the “Proponent”) on November 2nd, 2020. As approved in November of 2018 by the BPDA Board, the Beacon Building was originally contemplated to include approximately 125,000 square feet of office space and approximately 20,500 square feet of retail space.

With the November 2020 NPC, the Proponent has proposed a revision to the programming of the Beacon Building to now include approximately 127,700 square feet of lab/research and development space and approximately 8,560 square feet of retail space.

mail to: **Aisling Kerr**
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email: Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
12.11.2020

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Teresa Polhemus, Executive Director/Secretary

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

It should come as no surprise that several local institutions figured prominently in a *Globe* article on efforts to diversify the boards of some of Boston's biggest cultural institutions, spurred by events this year that laid bare for white Americans the way that structures of racism lie embedded across American society. On a list of 12 high-profile cultural institutions, five call the Fenway home. That list cited the racial make-up of the groups' boards and trustees. Of the Fenway institutions, the Gardner Museum ranked as the most diverse, with 29% of representation by people of color. [tied with the American Repertory Theater]. The MFA was close behind, with 23%, followed by Handel + Haydn Society [11%], the BSO [10%], and Huntington Theater [8%]. Far ahead of the pack at 73%, the Museum of African American History has the only majority-nonwhite board in the list. 🏹 **The American Association of Retired People (AARP) awarded Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative a \$10,000 Community Challenge grant to create “an intergenerational dialogue series held via Zoom.” AARP chose 184 applications across the U.S. out of more than 2,800 submissions.** 🏹 Setting aside its very white board, the Huntington did get a chance to display its staff's talent at Downtown Crossing. The area's business improvement district tapped several cultural institutions walloped by the pandemic and paid each to decorate a vacant storefront, using a theme of its own choosing. Huntington created a window celebrating New Year's Eve, "for obvious reasons," as assistant props master Justin Seward told the *Globe*. "Everyone wants to put 2020 behind us." 🏹 **Joslin Diabetes Center and Beth Israel Lahey announced that they've begun hashing out a plan to move Joslin under the BI umbrella. Geographically, the move makes sense, since Joslin sits right between Beth Israel's west and east campuses [the latter, of course, is the former New England Deaconess hospital], but the announcement describes the plan as the logical outcome of decades of collaboration on research and treatment.** 🏹 The *Globe*'s annual list of the 100 biggest women-led businesses in the commonwealth included some familiar local institutions. The rankings, based on multiple factors including head counts and revenue levels, put Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in the pole position. Following along were Children's Hospital [#4], Brigham & Women's [#6], Simmons University [#19], and Whittier Street Health Center [#77]. 🏹 **Speaking of Whittier Street, the health center has begun operating a Monday-Friday food pantry, and anyone can use it. The organizers prefer that you call (617) 989-3152 to schedule visit, but they'll accept walk-ins.** 🏹 Pandemic casualty #1: First Night—whose footprint normally includes the MFA, Berklee Performance Center, and Hynes Convention Center—has abandoned all live events in this year of plague. It will mix a telecast on NBC10 and affiliates with live streaming at firstnightboston.org. 🏹 **Pandemic casualty #2: No Beanpot tourney this year. All four schools in the crosstown tourney, including Northeastern and B.U., agreed to scrub the February event.** 🏹 If you're keeping track at home, you can add the Guitar Center to a long list of retailers that have declared bankruptcy as a result of the pandemic. Drawn by the Fenway's concentration of music education and musicians, the retailer operates in both the East and West Fens. It said the public won't notice any difference, with operations—including sales and staff salaries—continuing as normal while it tries to shed debt and add new investors. 🏹

TRASH & RECYLCING

PICK-UP SCHEDULE

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



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Neighborhood Newsline

ACNA Weighs In on 819 Beacon Street Proposal

The Audubon Circle Neighborhood Association (ACNA) and area residents have given Scape CEO Andrew Flynn a lot of feedback, but are they being heard? The public comment letters for the project at 819 Beacon St.—a partnership between Boston Children's Hospital and Scape—uniformly endorse replacing a surface parking lot with housing, but the scale of the project and the current plan for small furnished apartments has raised plenty of criticism. The review process for the proposed 500-plus-unit complex hasn't ended, and whether ACNA members get their wish for a smaller development remains uncertain. Quoting from an October seven-page letter to BPDA project manager Eddy Carmody, ACNA's priorities for the project are:

1. Reversing the proposed ratio of studios to one-, two-, and three-bedroom units, so that studios account for no more than 25 percent of units.
2. Reducing the number of units and overall size of the building by 50 percent and significantly improving the design and massing of the building.
3. Barring undergraduate students from living in the building, unless they live with their parents.
4. Setting minimum lease agreements at one year in length, excluding executive suites or short-term-stay units, and making no agreements with educational institutions.
5. Barring the City from issuing resident parking stickers to building residents.
6. Assuring that the number of IDP (project-related affordable) units meets or exceeds the City's goals and are built in the Fenway.
7. Making adequate space available onsite to accommodate drop off/pick-up and loading/unloading demand from the building.
8. Devising a more robust set of public benefits.

The Boston Civic Design Commission gives its first feedback December 1. Undoubtedly, there will be follow-up subcommittee reviews.

Simmons Enters the Online Degree Race

In late October, Simmons University announced the launch of CompleteDegree@Simmons, an online undergraduate program geared toward adult learners. Beginning in May 2021, Simmons will offer online undergraduate degrees in communications, business management, computer science and social work. The program will include live, face-to-face discussions, small group discussions and activities, interactive coursework, and mentorship from faculty and staff.

Berklee Student Wins Film-Scoring Scholarship

Current Berklee student Xiyue “Diana” Lizhao of Beijing has been named the recipient of the annual BMI Film Scoring Scholarship, awarded each year to a student selected by Berklee's Film Scoring Department based on musical ability, financial need, and potential for career success. Oscar- and Grammy-winning composer Ludwig Göransson and Mike Steinberg, executive vice president at Broadcast Music, Inc., presented the scholarship in a Zoom celebration. Lizhao is a double major in film scoring and contemporary writing and production and is also taking filmmaking and film-industry courses through New York University to further understand the art form.

Boston Cannabis Board Approves Boylston Street Shop

Boston Cannabis Board commissioners approved Redi, a marijuana store that will set up shop in the Little Steve's Pizza space—despite opposition from Berklee College of Music. Redi will be owned by Cypress Tree Management, which has pledged not to sell prerolled joints. The Board was impressed by plans for security and line management and several employee benefits. In addition to this license, Redi still needs a Zoning Board of Appeal waiver from a city rule mandating a half-mile between every marijuana establishment, as another store has been approved a few blocks away. It must also still complete the state licensing process.

BSO Scores Three Grammy Nominations

The Boston Symphony Orchestra's latest recording on the Deutsche Grammophon label, *Adès Conducts Adès*, received three Grammy nominations for Best Classical Instrumental Solo, Best Classical Compendium, and Best Contemporary Classical Composition. The album, released on Feb. 28, consists of world-premiere recordings made live at Symphony Hall in 2016 and 2019.

Local Colleges Set Varied End-of-Semester Travel Rules

Due to COVID-19, Fenway-area colleges approached Thanksgiving travel cautiously this year:

- The School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University told students who chose to go home for Thanksgiving, “you cannot return to campus and instead must finish the semester remotely.”
- Similarly, Boston University and Emerson College told students who traveled for the holiday not to return after the holiday.
- Northeastern allowed students to come back to campus but imposed a strict testing protocol for those who did and allowed students to finish the semester remotely if they preferred.

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Work Begins to Add to Boylston’s ‘High Spine’



Work on Scape Boylston—a midrise apartment building with a black-box theater—has shifted into higher gear as Suffolk Construction prepares to raze the 1252-1270 block of Boylston Street. Suffolk Construction, the contractor, must finish asbestos remediation inside the building before demolition can begin. Fencing went up around the building last month, closing the sidewalk in front. In the parking lane the contractor built a foot-high temporary sidewalk with reflective striping and traffic cones on the street side and thermoplastic crosswalks connecting back to the sidewalk at both ends. On November 10 the project went before the Boston Landmarks Commission because of the age of the existing structure. The commission discussed the site’s significance to Boston LGBTQ history, specifically the period 1969-1988, when the 1270 Club was open. The Boston Ramrod also operated in the block during that period and beyond. Commissioner John Amodeo requested that the Scape team follow up with The History Project, an independent LGBTQ archive, for suggestions on documenting and preserving that aspect of the site’s history.

Lawsuits Challenge Samuels’s Air Rights Project

BY ALISON PULTINAS

At the end of a four-hour virtual hearing on Oct. 27, the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) took up the last agenda items, five identical requests grouped together under the heading “interpretation.”

Abutters to the 1001 Boylston St. air rights development at Massachusetts Avenue and Boylston Street had filed appeals to the ZBA in the summer “seeking a determination that the Inspectional Service Department (ISD) erred in issuing the building permit in July.” Abutters are challenging the issuing of the permit because of apparent unapproved height increases.

Attorney Benjamin Tymann of Tymann, Davis & Duffy, represented two of the aggrieved parties, condominium owners Paul Lewis and Dr. Sean Doherty of 360 Newbury St. Lawsuits have been filed in Suffolk Superior Court, but there has not yet been a hearing. The Massachusetts Historical Commission’s sign-off on the project is also being questioned, given a controversy about the height,

which would generate shadow impacts on historic resources, including the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. The commission’s approval came after the Massachusetts Department of Transportation board voted to approve the plan on March 23.

Other lawyers were also present during the Oct. 27 hearing. Attorneys Jill Meixel and Vincent Pisegna, of Krokidas & Bluestein, represented Arthur Ullian of the Eliot Hotel, and Thomas Butters represented Kensington Newbury Street LLC and KRT Holdings, the owners of 361 Newbury St. and 100 Mass. Ave. All are co-plaintiffs in the case against ISD.

After a brief question-and-answer session, ZBA chair Christine Araujo referred the complaint to the city’s law department. Other ZBA members did not ask any questions.

Araujo was adamant that documents from the BPDA process that the three attorneys wanted to discuss—the Preliminary Adequacy Determination, the Certificate of Compliance, and linkage fees—did not fall under ZBA jurisdiction

because the development qualified as a Planned Development Area project reviewed under Article 80 of the zoning code.

However, the core argument of the complaint is that the project’s two towers will be taller than stated in those documents as well as on the building permits. That argument appears to be based on what is being built on the rooftops.

Boston’s building code allows rooftop structures as long as they take up less than 33 percent of a roof’s square footage. However, Tymann contended that the amenities planned for the roofs of both the 20-story office building and the 14-story hotel at 1001 Boylston exceed the 33 percent criterion. And he claimed that despite the separate areas of jurisdiction, appeals opposing the issuing of building permits can be raised with the ZBA.

Goulston & Storrs attorney Kevin O’Flaherty, representing developer Samuels & Associates, asserted that when the BPDA documents and the building plans are handed off to ISD, the project has

already been approved “as of right.”

Work on the project started in mid-summer. Utility work and excavation started on terra firma on Newbury Street Extension and the Boylston Street site on the other side of the Mass Turnpike; contractors are also working directly from the turnpike. According to the project updates from Suffolk Construction, as of the third week of November, workers had already begun installing building foundations from under the bridge that carries Massachusetts Avenue above the turnpike.

When interviewed, Tymann said there has been no response yet from the City’s law department. He called the review process technically flawed and said city and state agencies analyzed the wrong project heights for their shadow impacts. Tymann said that instead of 298 feet tall, the office tower will be 322 feet and the hotel’s height on Newbury Street Extension will be 176 feet, instead of 158 feet.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill

DREDGING CONTINUES AT TWO SITES ALONG THE MUDDY RIVER

The number of construction zones in the neighborhood continues to increase—but not just for new buildings. Weekday shutdown of Agassiz Road will continue for two years, due to the federally funded cleanup of the Muddy River. Dredging started in October across from Simmons University on the Fenway. According to the most recent update from Jennifer Flanagan, the Army Corps of Engineers project manager, Charter Company, the contractor, is removing 140 cubic yards of sediment per day—digging one to eight feet into the river’s center channel. Later in the winter, the amphibious excavator will move to the site of the former Evans Way Bridge and along the Fenway across from the MFA.

In late November, another Charter Company team started dredging at a second location, on the Riverway (shown in this photo). The update describes the site as being near Beth Israel Hospital, but to be more specific, the work is across from Vining Street in Mission Hill. Pedestrians and cyclists must reroute themselves to the Brookline Avenue side of the river for the duration of the Muddy River Project’s Phase 2. Charter will periodically close one outbound lane on the Riverway to accommodate the haul trucks carrying off dredged material. The trucks will carry the sludge to the “Central Processing Facility” on Agassiz Road next to the Duck House, where it gets mixed with stabilizers that will harden and compact it. Trucks then deliver it to the Pine Avenue landfill in Niagara Falls, New York, which is operated by Republic Services. If an in-state facility were to be used in the coming months, Flanagan said it would be the Lynn Landfill.



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

IN MEMORIAM

BY STEVEN BURKE

East Fens resident Florence Dunn, known as “Flossie,” died on Oct. 12 at Sherrill House. She resided in the East Fens for more than 60 years.

A talented musician, educator and a loyal Red Sox fan also known for her excellent clothes and large hats, she summed up her own life by saying, “I’m living the dream!”

Flossie was born in North Adams and grew up in Williamstown. She graduated from Williamstown High School in 1940 and went on to the

New England Conservatory, where she earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees. While at the conservatory, she was appointed Dean of Women and Resident Head. Later, she received the Alumni Award, recognizing her for distinguished service by the Alumni Association. In 1977, she received a Lifetime

Florence Dunn

Achievement Award from Choral Arts New England.

Flossie was an accomplished pianist and organist and sang in the choirs of The Church of the Advent, Old South Church, and Trinity Church. For 21 years, she was a beloved elementary school music teacher in the Brookline Public Schools.

Flossie was a member



of the faculty of the Berkshire Music Center in Lenox. She entertained at private parties and had been an organist in several churches. Flossie also participated in concerts with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Tanglewood Chorus. For more than 40 years, she was associated with the Apollo Glee Club.

Flossie is survived by two nieces in New Mexico and Connecticut. Due to COVID-19, a service is planned for a later date.

Steven Burke lives in the East Fens.

The Arts

IN PANDEMIC, KAJI ASO’S ‘SPOT OF BEAUTY’ EXPLORES A NEW MEDIUM



BY MARY ANN BROGAN

Kaji Aso Studio Institute for the Arts at 40 St. Stephen St. was founded by its namesake, artist Kaji Aso, in 1973. It has been well loved and used by residents of the Fenway for many years. At the institute, classes are available in painting and poetry. Kaji Aso even hosts a tea ceremony, which is available to the general public.

In previous years, the studio has mounted a year-end exhibit at the Prudential Center. For obvious reasons, however, this year the exhibit was hosted virtually instead. The exhibit is available to view on YouTube, and it is well worth a visit. It features alternating presentations of visual art and poetry, with three poetry and four artwork components.

There is a plus side to this virtual presentation, as the art slides feature musical accompaniment, allowing the viewer a multimodal sensory experience of the visual punctuated by sound. By contrast, each poetry reading—with just the sound of the poet’s voice—showcases the music and cadence of the voice.

The first artworks presentation features

ABOVE: Pond Study #216 by Leslie Ann Eliet; BELOW LEFT: Rock Around the Clock-2 by Deborah Cake; BELOW RIGHT: Comet Neowise by Lainie Senechal. All images courtesy of Kaji Aso Studio’s YouTube.



works by Kaji Aso, *Dragon is Born* and *Stars on the Other Side*, accompanied by Linda Papatopoli, pianist, playing Francesco Paoli Tosti’s “Sogno,” and the tenor voice of Kaji Aso. This is followed by other artists and students of the studio presenting works of nature and calligraphy, including Katherine Sloss, Michiko Imai, Leslie Ann Eliet, and Takahiro Miyao. Music for subsequent art sections included “Goldberg Variations: Aria” by J.S. Bach with Christy Liao on piano, music by Sarah Tenney composed for original artworks, and “Time-Space-Human” composed by Mikiko Sato.

The poetry sections included

several haiku, senryu and “zen conversation” poetry. Senryu and haiku have the same structure: three-line poems with 17 syllables written in a five/seven/five syllable count. However, they focus on different themes—human activity (senryu) versus nature (haiku). “Zen conversation” poetry invites the poet to make sense of nonsense. Poetry themes range from nature, changing seasons, darkness of winter and whiteness of ice to COVID.

“Where will I be,” addresses the discomfort of wearing masks and the uncertainty of it. Some of the poetry alludes to more introspective themes of “unsettled symphonies” in the mind while memories of baking with King Arthur Flour and making jam bring a welcome lightness.

Artwork presented in the different sections ranged from still lifes to landscapes, including comets and the universe, seasons and reflections of nature in the Fenway and along the Charles. Wall hangings of ceramic and stone were also part of the mix. Rural scenes near and far, and beaches and boardwalks stir a yearning for renewed travel. Urban scenes of Kenmore Square and Fenway Park embellished a familiar feel in the fourth and final section of the presentations.

Kaji Aso Studio is supported by grants from the Boston Cultural Council, the City of Boston’s Arts and Culture COVID-19 Fund, and the MHFNT.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.



Close to the Music, Yet Distanced: Street Stage Calls at theMFA



On Nov. 19, Boston Lyric Opera’s mounted two concerts in the MFA parking lot, limiting audiences for each to 50 socially distanced spectators. Left: the “BLO Street Stage” before being opened for the concerts; below: Chelsea Basler performs.



EATS BEAT

> A story in the *Globe’s* “Food” section focused on a COVID-inspired dining twist. Uni, the sushi restaurant at the Eliot Hotel run by chefs Ken Oringer and Tony Messina, has created “semi-private dining suites”

in some of the hotel’s bedrooms. With the beds out up to six diners can share dinner in each, with deep cleanings between bookings.

> The same issue of the paper included a profile of Eastern Standard Provisions, a spin-off of the currently closed Kenmore

Square restaurant. Its “artisanal soft pretzels” (crunchy outside, croissant-like inside) took off just a year ago after landing on Oprah Winfrey’s annual list of favorite things. According to the profile, the pandemic has pushed sales even higher, which created a logistical

nightmare for the company. Initially, staff members moved into the CEO’s house in Maine to create a bubble (talk about working from home!) before eventually relocating to a Waltham space better suited to industrial-scale packing and shipping.

December

CALENDAR

Tuesday and Thursdays

LIFEBOAT FOOD PANTRY. 4-6pm. Free, fresh food available to Boston residents with food insecurity; sign up at bit.ly/lifeboatbostonregistration. Boston Temple 7th-Day Adventist Church, 105 Jersey Street.

Wed, 12/2 & 12/16

FENWAY FAIR FOODS. Fair Foods welcomes community residents to get a bag of fresh fruits and vegetables for \$2. Home deliveries are prioritized for immuno-compromised

or homebound residents. Pick up at 165 Park Drive. For inquiries or to volunteer, please contact Jasmine Vargas at jvargas@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 213-2295.

Thu, 12/3

FIRST THURSDAY. The Gardner Museum has resumed free entry on Thursdays, 3-9pm. Reserving tickets in advance is required at tnew.gardnermuseum.org.

Sat, 12/5

“MAKE WAY FOR DUCKLINGS.” Wheelock

Family Theatre hosts a live performance of this beloved children's classic on Zoom. 4pm. Free, but registration is required at wheelockfamilytheatre.org/ducklings.

Mon, 12/7

- The 2020 **HOWARD ZINN MEMORIAL LECTURE** at Boston University takes place on Zoom. This year it features renowned author and advocate for racial justice Ibram X. Kendi. Register at <https://trusted.bu.edu/s/1759/2-bu/19/1col.asp?sid=1759&gid=2&pgid=9699&cid=18203&dids=478&bledit=1>. 5pm.
- Massachusetts Historical Society presents an online lecture by Joshua R. Greenberg. **BANK NOTES & SHINPLASTERS: THE RAGE FOR PAPER MONEY IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC** discusses the 10,000 distinct bank notes in circulation prior to the Civil War, and how ordinary American handled this complex system. 5:30pm. Register at <https://18308a.blackbaudhosting.com/18308a/Bank-Notes-and-Shinplasters-The-Rage-for-Paper-Money-in-the-Early-Republic>.

Wed, 12/9

The Jewish Arts Collaborative and the MFA present an **ONLINE CELEBRATION FOR THE FIRST NIGHT OF HANUKKAH** with music, talks, crafts and candle lighting. More information at www.jartsboston.org. 4:30pm.

Thu, 12/10

MassArt Art Museum (MAAM) and the MassArt Illustration Department present **NOODLE & DOODLE**, a free virtual music drawing event featuring live performances by Jess Collins of Set Fire and Eric Waxwood of Sugar Blood Jinx. 6:30pm. Register at https://massart.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArde2rpz8pGtcTCTHl_A_x_yE0Y92zvLs.

Thu, 12/10 & Tue, 12/15

FLU SHOTS AT FENWAY HEALTH. During the pandemic, your annual flu shot is more important than ever. Schedule yours by calling Fenway Health at (617) 926-000. Fenway Health will hold pediatric flu clinics at 1340 Boylston St. on Thu, 12/10, 5-7pm and Tue, 12/15, 7-9am. The CDC recommends that children 6 months and older get flu vaccines. Call (617) 926-000.

Tue, 12/15

BOSTON WARD 4 DEMS HOLIDAY PARTY. 6pm. Join fellow Democrats from Back Bay, Fenway, and the South End for some (virtual) holiday cheer. Email ward4dems@gmail.com for Zoom information.

COMMUNITY meetings

THU, DEC 3:

- Kenmore Square Redevelopment Project virtual IAG meeting. 5pm. Use www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_HidLR9olQeyZBT6kDuCM2w or call (833) 568-8864 and enter meeting ID 161 727 6690 to join. Contact Aisling Kerr at (617) 918-4212 or Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov for more information.
- Kenmore Square Redevelopment Project public meeting. 6:30pm. Use www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_n3n2SrbFRSaK3oVjptPYYQ or call (833) 568-8864 and enter meeting ID 160 665 1938 to join. Contact Aisling Kerr at (617) 918-4212 or Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov for more information.
- 220 Huntington Avenue virtual public meeting. 6pm. This is the first public meeting for the proposed redevelopment of the Midtown Hotel. The National Development team will share its vision for the project and hear community feedback. Use www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_j_W383ShSSmm9578myC-rw or call (833) 568-8864 and enter meeting ID 161 015 9471 to join. Contact Nupoor Monani at (617) 918-4425 or Nupoor.Monani@

[Boston.gov](https://www.boston.gov) for more information.

TUE, DEC 8:

- Fenway CDC hosts action hours for the Coalition for a Truly Affordable Boston, a network of community groups working to improve the City's Inclusionary Development Policy, which requires private developers to include just 13 percent affordable housing in new buildings. 12pm. They will be making calls to the mayor and BPDA Director Brian Golden, signing a petition, and posting about the campaign to social media. Join via computer go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85907318858?pwd=b3ZyZGI5V0M1YVRcMWFraXpZREAvQT09>
- Fenway Quality of Life Alliance presents an update on the Fenway noise report completed last year. Meeting followed by Q&A. Find the link at <https://fenway-communitycenter.org/calendar/>.

TUE, DEC 15:

Join the 2nd Community Meeting on the project to renovate Mission Hill (Smith-Sheehy) Playground. Join the meeting on the computer at bit.ly/Missionhillplayground2 or access by phone by calling (301) 715-8592 and entering ID: 864 7429 4334.

@ THE CENTER

During the pubic health emergency, the Fenway Community Center has shifted to virtual activities. Find links for all activities at fenwaycommunitycenter.org.

- **Monday, Dec 7 at pm: VOICE & JUSTICE.** On the first Monday of every month, share your voice with your neighbors and work toward racial justice, one step at a time.
- **Wednesdays at 6pm: GUIDED MEDIATION.** Fenway residents & licensed instructors Pallavi and Vaibhav lead you in reducing stress, improving emotional health, and practicing self-compassion.
- **Wednesdays at 8pm: TRIVIA NIGHT.** Noncompetitive fun with neighbors and friends.
- **Thursdays at 8pm: GAME NIGHT.** Play Drawful and other online games, all suitable for all ages.



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Northeastern University

[NORTHEASTERN.EDU/PROTECTTHEPACK](https://northeastern.edu/protectthepack)

If you see a Northeastern community member not following COVID-19 guidelines,

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