

Design Board Appears Ready to OK Proposed Dorm at 840 Columbus



This rendering shows the view looking southwest toward the proposed dorm at 840 Columbus shows

BY ALISON PULTINAS

On Feb. 16, the Boston Civic Design committee that reviewed plans for 840 Columbus agreed the project was ready to be approved at the full board at its meeting on March 2. Commissioners Andrea Leers, Kirk Sykes, and Bill Rawn praised the revised design. The only suggested architectural change was to make the public entrances more inviting.

Northeastern and American Campus Communities, the university's private-developer partner, have planned the 25-story, 810-bed dorm as a southern gateway to the campus, with public programming in the lower floors.

This is the development that Kathy Spiegelman, campus planner, promises will trigger the return of apartments-turned-dorms to the community for housing. The university has not shared any details yet about which Fenway dorms it intends to close.

However, controversies continue in the Roxbury community about the looming presence of a 25-story dorm and with student activists questioning whether the "luxury dorm" will truly have an impact on Boston's housing crisis. NU for the Common Good, a campus-based coalition, has argued that the dorm just replaces less expensive campus housing with more expensive campus housing.

The required University Accountability Report, filed last October with the City's Department of Neighborhood Development, listed the number of undergraduates living on campus as 6,215 and the number living off campus as 4,635. These figures do not include students living at home. The report did not break the statistics down by neighborhood.

The public-comment period for both the university's institutional master plan amendment and the environmental impact report submitted to the BPDA ends on April 12.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



PHOTO: CAROLINE TOTH

Ceremony Honors Displaced Roxbury

On Jan. 25 the Friends of Melnea Cass Boulevard held a memorial with luminaria on the 52nd anniversary of stopping the Inner Belt. Proposed as part of a larger highway project in 1948, the Inner Belt would have circled through Boston and neighboring cities and towns, starting at Massachusetts Avenue and Southampton Street and eventually connecting to what is now I-93. While neighborhood activists eventually stopped the highway's construction, their victory came too late to save areas of Lower Roxbury cleared for the project. The memorial honored the families displaced, homes destroyed, and the community disrupted. The boulevard follows part of the path the highway would have taken.

CIVIC AGENDA

- **MON, MAR 1, 6:30PM:** Rescheduled meeting for the redevelopment of 601 Newbury St. Under the City's small-project review, this will be the only public meeting for the proposal. See the ad on p6 for details. Sign in at bit.ly/3clZyDj; use meeting ID 161 018 9112.
- **TUE, MAR 2:** Deadline for comments to the state Dept. of Environmental Protection about the environmental impacts of eliminating the #55 bus. Send comments to Erin.Flaherty@mass.gov or MEPA@mass.gov. Put Project #16324 in the subject line.

New W. Fens Apartments Near Start

The residential project being developed by Cabot, Cabot and Forbes (CCF) on the former Boston Cab site at Kilmarnock and Queensberry will move ahead this year after all. On February 11, Joe Cappellino, an engineer from civil engineering firm VHB, presented plans to the Boston Public Improvement Commission for pedestrian easements required when the property is fenced off for demolition. He also described upcoming accessibility work at the intersection. CCF's Jacob Vance explained in an email that the existing crosswalks and wheelchair ramps are non-compliant. Vance said Cabot is committed to improving the intersection as well as to building a level sidewalk on Kilmarnock, with a new planted border between the street and the pavement. Vance said the work will relocate light poles as necessary to accommodate the new ramps. In December, a cell antenna pole was installed at the corner by the former Hidyan restaurant.



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

Last month Fenway Park opened as a one of the state's high-volume COVID-19 vaccination sites (there's also one at the Reggie Lewis Center on Columbus Ave.). Vaccines are administered within main concourse, with a check-in station inside of Gate A. Following vaccination, individuals move to an open-air sitting area for 15-30 minutes of observation, with the length of time varying depending on their risk level, history of allergic reactions to vaccines and other reasons. The site could ultimately handle several thousand people daily as vaccine supplies become more plentiful.

WITH SOX AWAY, ROOM FOR JABS ON JERSEY



PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

13 CONCERTS, MOST EVER, WIN CITY'S OK

The Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing released a letter on Feb. 23 allowing Live Nation to mount 13 concerts at Fenway Park this summer. The decision carries a big asterisk: it's "subject to Governor Baker and [Boston Public Health Commission] guidance on when large venues can reopen and subject to all gathering numbers and any other COVID-19 restrictions or guidelines." As the letter notes, large venues like stadiums can't resume business until the state reaches Phase 4 of its reopening plan, so some earlier concerts in June and July—last year the Red Sox suggested that Live Nation had rebooked at least 9 cancelled concerts—might not take place. We'll have more on the story next month.

FCA Annual Meeting Focused on Green Spaces, Infrastructure

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Fenway Civic Association's deftly managed virtual annual meeting on Feb. 9 balanced updates from multiple elected officials or their representatives, more than 80 attendees, and two lead speakers.

Association president Tim Horn spoke briefly about membership, mentioning the group's different committees, which include Licensing, Events, Parks, and Open Space. He suggested that in the coming months FCA might host candidate forums for the mayoral and at-large city council races.

Boston Parks commissioner Ryan Woods and District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok both spoke on a subject prioritized by many Fenwickians—Boston's green space. The talks were recorded and are available at www.fenwaycivic.org.

Commissioner Woods spoke about the \$7.5-million-dollar capital project approved in last year's city budget for the Back Bay Fens pathways to support improved pedestrian connections. He emphasized there is no preconceived plan and expects to hold two or three community meetings prior to the final design. Priorities will include areas that flood frequently. Adding new signs, benches, and maybe even exercise equipment are all possibilities. The proposed schedule is a design phase in late summer/early fall for this year and a construction from fall 2022 to spring 2023. Woods suggested that DCR might partner on the project to

address sidewalks along the park's perimeter.

In response to a question from Leslie Pond, Woods said permeable pavement is under consideration. However, he cautioned that it would not work for all pathways, specifically those close to a roadway. As of now, the Parks Department is conducting a pilot program for permeable walkway surfaces; both construction and maintenance are more complicated than standard treatments.

Councilor Bok shared her vision for a citywide conservation corps, in her words "to turbocharge climate justice and mitigation preparedness for the city." She envisions a training program for young people that could connect with the future urban forestry plan and accelerate Boston's climate goals, including improved stormwater management through green infrastructure. On Dec. 15, the Council's Committee on the Environment heard support from many advocates, but the question is how to scale up what nonprofits like the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's Green Team and the Parks Department's own "blue shirt" teen employment program do now. Bok suggested that the City's capital budget is under-used and that supporting a pilot program could represent the next step. In February, Bok and fellow councilor Michelle Wu refiled an order for a second public hearing to focus on the plan's implementation.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

THEATER WORK SHUTS HUNTINGTON SIDEWALK



Renovation of the Huntington Theatre has closed the sidewalk on the south side of Huntington Ave. Plans include an addition to the theater's rear west wing, interior renovation, new roofs, and an enlarged front terrace. All fixed theater seating will be replaced, but other historic elements will be salvaged.

FOR THE RECORD

Our February story on the Fenway Community Development Corp.'s proposed Burbank Terrace housing development requires some corrections and elaboration:

- Under the BPDA's Article 80E Small Project Review for developments between 20,000 and 50,000 square feet) the proposal will require a vote of approval by the BPDA board. A vote is expected at the March 11 meeting, but the board will hear no public testimony.
- The February story used an outdated rendering. The current design for the facade appears at right.
- The Fenway CDC's director of real estate is Suneeth John; we misspelled his name once in the story.



Citing Worries About Child Health, Anti-Vaccination Advocates Say They Educate But Don't Seek to Convert Others

EDITOR'S NOTE: The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines has been met with excitement but also hesitation from some individuals. This vaccine reluctance is not specific to COVID-19. This story, written by a Northeastern University student, examines the issue of general anti-vaccination beliefs.

BY ASHER RAPPAPORT

Kai Tsao's legs dangle from his perch on the exam table. He shifts in his cushioned seat, the thin sheet of paper wrinkling and tearing beneath his palms. The paper betrays his every movement as he waits patiently under the blinding fluorescent lights of the doctor's office. His shoes lie in a pile at the edge of the room and one sleeve is rolled up to his shoulder. Tsao has just turned 18, so he is the only one in the room. Any minute now, a nurse will knock on the door bearing needles, cotton swabs, and cartoon-themed bandages.

Tsao is about to get his vaccines, but unlike most American children his age, this is his first time—his parents had refused to vaccinate him as a child.

Tsao's brother, who was diagnosed with autism when he was three years old, was born the same year that a study linking autism to the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine was published. Alarmed by the uncanny coincidence, Tsao's parents decided not to vaccinate him and his brother.

"That left an impact on my family," Tsao said.

And so, Tsao grew up in the anti-vax

shadow. As a kid, he learned to adopt his parents' fear of vaccines. "My parents just conditioned me to be really scared of vaccines," he revealed, "and so I would believe that [it] was killing me." But as he grew older, his opinions changed. When he turned 18 and became legally able to make his own medical decisions, he made his dad take him to the pediatrician to get all of his shots.

Tsao was caught in the middle of a fiery battle that parents, activists, doctors, and politicians have been waging across the country for the last twenty years.

On one side, there are those known as "anti-vaxxers": traumatized parents who believe that their children have been injured by vaccines fight alongside some pediatricians to advocate for the health and safety of their own kids.

And on the other side, there is the greater medical community and those who oppose the anti-vaxxers, who want to ensure that all are immunized.

But it has been an uphill battle for the anti-vaxxers. They are a minority, and the other side has the support of legislators, medical professionals, and pharmaceutical companies. While others advocate for the safety of the greater population, these anti-vaxxers fight for their own children, and they face backlash, criticism, and hate.

The anti-vax movement stems from a 1998 research paper published in *The Lancet*, a British medical journal. The paper by doctor Andrew Wakefield alluded to links between the MMR vaccine and autism spectrum disorder. However, the paper was formulated based on a case study—detailed reports about specific patients' medical histories—involving

just 12 children. Most medical studies rely on a much larger sample.

In 2004, Wakefield's study was revealed to be fraudulent, and *The Lancet* retracted his paper. But still, 15 years after the study was exposed, anti-vax advocates continue to cite it as support for the movement, often extending the alleged causation of autism to all vaccines.

In Tsao's home state of California, the number of students entering kindergarten with medical exemptions has tripled, now at 0.7 percent, since the state repealed the option of claiming a personal exemption. Today, 33 states and the District of Columbia allow religious and medical exemptions from vaccines, and only five of those states expressly exclude philosophical exemptions.

Here in Massachusetts, however, legislation actually supports vaccinations.

"There's no law requiring anyone to be vaccinated," explained Dr. Larry Madoff, the director of the Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. "The only laws pertain to school attendance. So, in Massachusetts, in order to attend schools, you need to be vaccinated...and the exceptions are for a medical contraindication to vaccination, and that's a constant less-than-half a percentage of the population."

But Madoff is optimistic about the local presence of the anti-vax movement. "We don't have a big problem. We're lucky," he insisted. "Is there some anti-vax sentiment? Yes, certainly, but I would say it's not large, it's not big, we don't have a big problem here. Which isn't to say that we don't have any problem

with it. There are areas of the state where the vaccine exemption rate is higher than others."

Massachusetts School Immunization Surveys found that Franklin, Dukes, and Nantucket counties have the highest rates of kindergarten students with exemptions, with Dukes leading at 12 percent. Franklin and Dukes have the highest rates of students with exemptions and no vaccines at all, at 3.2 percent and 3.3 percent respectively.

Suffolk County's presence was negligible in these statistics, but the survey found that an unparalleled 19.5 percent of Suffolk kindergarten students were not meeting school requirements. This means that almost 20 percent of Boston kindergarten students are insufficiently immunized or lack proper documentation of received immunizations.

But for those on the other side of the debate, this isn't the "problem" that Dr. Madoff insists it is. For Candice Edwards, one of the biggest problems is the opposition she faces for trying to protect her son.

Edwards, who chairs the local anti-vaccine advocacy organization Health Choice Massachusetts, recounts her experience after her son was diagnosed with autism: "It's when...you start speaking up and you say that it's the shots, you end up being pushed into this world where you're made to basically feel like a piece of [expletive] and that you're crazy. You lose friends, you get picked on, your child gets excluded from playdates...I'm known as that crazy anti-vaxxer, and I always say I was not an anti-vaxxer. I went into that room thinking that I was absolutely doing the best thing for my child. And that's the frustrating part for me."

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Mutual Aid in the Shape of A Refrigerator

The faux-brick shed next to the outdoor seating at Mei Mei restaurant at 506 Park Drive in Audubon Circle doesn't look like much. Yet, what it lacks in esthetics it more than makes up for in heart. Welcome to the Fenway Fridge, part of a global network of open-source food pantries set up in out-of-the-way but accessible spots. Many sprang up across the US in response to pandemic-fueled food insecurity, and like all community refrigerators, this one provides free and healthy food and care kits for people in need. Here, a Cambridge resident named Haithem—he asked that we not use his last name—loads five grocery bags' worth of food into the fridge. He said he stocks fridges in Cambridge regularly but decided to donate at this site because he was headed into the Fenway on the day we met him. Donating requires nothing more than the decision to do it and observance of a few guidelines. Don't bring raw meat, poultry or seafood. Do bring fresh produce, eggs, milk, yogurt, cereals, and granola bars. To find out more about donating or about the sponsor—Earthy Boston, which has set up other fridges around the city—follow them on Instagram under @earthy.boston.



PHOTOS: STEVE WOLF



Development Picks Up Steam in Mission Hill



IMAGE COURTESY OF ELTON + HAMPTON ARCHITECTS AND STILL AND LEE ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

The proposal for Terrace Place, a cul-de-sac off Terrace Street at the intersection with Alleghany, would replace two existing two-family homes with 47 units and 15 underground parking spaces.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The development pipeline for Mission Hill is exploding with new proposals. On Feb. 17, South Boston's Matthew O'Hara, owner of multiple properties on Terrace Street, gave a presentation to the Community Alliance of Mission Hill. Under the name of Bellerose Terrace LLC, he proposes demolishing five occupied buildings to make way for construction of more than 125 apartments and condos. Former city councilor, attorney Michael Ross, is consulting on the proposed development.

Other projects just getting started also

involve potential demolition—a yet-unknown proposal for the former O'Connor Funeral Home at 1558 Tremont, an unusual three-story, single-family house hidden under later additions.

And after 15 years, Weston Associates has resurrected its 2005 plan for mid-rise towers to replace the former Redemptorist-owned convent and St. Alphonsus Hall on Smith Street, part of the landmarked six-building Mission Church complex. Weston has yet to file anything with the BPDA, but consultant Sean Curran expects that an Article 80 process will start this year.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD RESOURCES

- **LIFEBOAT FOOD PANTRY.** Tuesday/Thursday, 4–6pm. Free, fresh food available to residents with food insecurity; sign up at bit.ly/lifeboatbostonregistration. Boston Temple Seventh-Day Adventist Temple, 105 Jersey Street.
- **FAIR FOODS.** Wednesday, March 10 and 24, 3:30–5pm. Stop by Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral for a bag of fresh fruits and vegetables for \$2. Contact jvargas@fenwaycdc.org for more information. 165 Park Drive.

SEEING AN EQUITY ISSUE, BOK WANTS TO BRING MORE AREAS UNDER GROUNDWATER TRUST

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Partnering with Boston's Groundwater Trust, City Councilor Kenzie Bok filed an order in January to inform the public about proposed zoning amendments that will add more neighborhoods to the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) and revise the current ordinance so the language in the Trust's requirements for new development will match what the Boston Water and Sewer Commission requires.

As the Trust staff studied historic building permits and simultaneously increased the supply of observation wells, Executive Director Christian Simonelli said it became clear that neighborhoods outside of the original GCOD boundaries had blocks of buildings, almost all masonry, sitting atop wood pilings driven into filled land—essentially mud flats.

All sections of the city are subject to increased development pressures that can lower water tables. As long as the wood pilings stay submerged in water, they remain stable, but if the groundwater table drops, exposing the wood pilings to air, they can dry out and potentially rot, threatening the stability of foundations.

Simonelli said that the popularity of underground parking, even in small projects, can create potential hazards for adjoining properties because of the impacts of below-ground excavation. The Trust checks its observation wells regularly to monitor groundwater levels.

Adding streets in Audubon Circle,

Lower Roxbury, East Boston, and other parts of the city to the GCOD means that new development must follow the Article 32 zoning regulations that protect the pilings by keeping them submerged in water. Bok said this is also an equity issue, applying Article 32 regulations to communities that were overlooked when the overlay district was first established.

After Bok filed the order for a hearing, the council Committee on Planning, Development, and Transportation followed up with an afternoon session on Feb. 19. Next steps are votes from the BPDA Board, expected in March, and then by the Zoning Commission in April.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

New Officers Will Lead Fenway Garden Society

BY KRISTEN MOBILIA

The Fenway Garden Society (FGS), stewards of the historic Fenway Victory Gardens, has announced election results for its 2021 Executive Board:

- Pamela Jorgensen, president
- Bonnie Thryselius, SVP of administration (continuing from 2020)
- Kristen Mobilia, VP of communications & development
- Mikael Bristow, treasurer
- Christine Nelson, VP of the park

Typically, the election takes place during the year-end membership meeting. However, voting this year needed to occur by mail because of the pandemic. The Nominating Committee counted the votes on Thursday, Jan. 14, and alerted all candidates of the results. All members received an email with the results on Jan. 15.

Terms generally run one year, and members can only hold the same office for three consecutive years.

The FGS, an all-volunteer non-profit group, is committed to ensuring that the gardens are a place where all members—young and old, new and long-standing, of all races, genders, and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and levels of gardening knowledge and ability—feel safe, welcome, and respected.

There is one hitch: to join, you must be a Boston resident and be committed to stewardship of the historic parkland. Of course, the gardens also welcome all visitors and garden enthusiasts from around the world!

Kristen Mobilia lives in the West Fens.

NU'S PED BRIDGE AND 401 PARK BRING HOME DESIGN AWARDS

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The designers of two projects in the Fenway recently received multiple awards from their colleagues in the design professions.

In January, the Boston Society of Architects (BSA) honored Elkus Manfredi, the architectural firm for 401 Park, for the development's interior architecture and the design "repositioning" of the former Landmark Center. Last June, the Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA) also recognized the development, honoring landscape architects LeBlanc Jones for its landscaped transformation of a surface parking lot.

Northeastern's new pedestrian bridge above the Orange Line, designed by Payette, also received an award from the BSA. Five hundred feet of weathered steel opens with stairs near the Snell Library on the Huntington Avenue side of campus, then crosses the tracks and comes down on Columbus Avenue. The bridge is accessible to the public and is a more dramatic and artistic experience than the other existing footbridges. The BSA jury said the bridge "creates a passage that is elevated in all senses of the word." The BSLA also bestowed honors on the bridge and the plaza—the green space/rain garden between the bridge and the Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Complex on Columbus Avenue.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

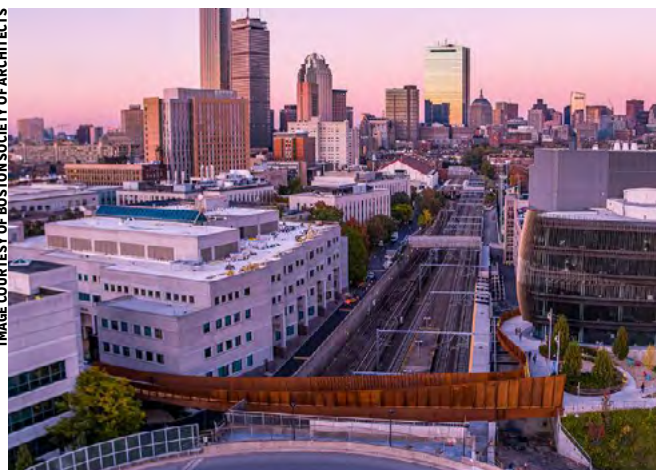


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FENSVIEWS

Little Free Libraries: Serendipity in a Box

PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS



From left: little free libraries at the Massachusetts Historical Society, on South Huntington Avenue, and on Tremont Street.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Serendipity—finding unexpected treasures amidst the dross—is the draw of thrift stores, yard sales, and even Craigslist. Imagine, though, if the treasures are free for the taking and you randomly discover them while walking on city streets. Those are the perks of the take-a-book/bring-a-book little boxes placed near sidewalks or in stores like City Feed & Supply in Jamaica Plain.

There is an official Little Free Library nonprofit, promoted as the largest book-sharing movement in the world. If you register your library for \$40, you get a charter number and your location is listed on their website, littlefreelibrary.org.

A Little Free Library is coming to the East Fens this spring, courtesy of the Fenway CDC, and the exterior promises to be extra special. As the CDC's Madeline Lee explained, last year's \$5,050 grant from the

Red Sox Community Benefits Fund will be used to pay a stipend for an artist or group of artists and cover the cost of paints and supplies as well as the installation materials.

The Fenway has only one small active free library today—on Boylston Street by the entrance of the Massachusetts Historical Society—a tiny single shelf. West Fens resident Freddie Veikley told the story of an unofficial one that an elderly neighbor stewarded at Ramler Park for two years, after beginning it by divesting her own large collection of books. But the operation didn't last, a lack of weather proofing being a significant problem.

Stewardship is a concern, depending on the location. Although ideally a democratic enterprise, the libraries require monitoring. At the Little Free Library on South Huntington Avenue near the 39 bus stop at the Riverway, an occasional Dunkin' Donuts cup, toy, or even clothes are left on the shelves.

There are apartment buildings and co-ops where residents set up

shelves for donated books, but sidewalk libraries can attract everyone passing by, and it's a wondrous thing to see what changes hands and who is interested. The book as a physical object can be treasured even without reading it.

Mission Hill has a terrific public library on Tremont Street, but like all the others in Boston's system, it's currently closed for browsing. A Little Free Library that Benjamin Todd installed atop the fence along the sidewalk was intended to fill the gap when the Parker Hill branch closed for renovation in 2018 and is possibly even more useful in these COVID-19 times.

Sometimes there are VHS tapes, odd magazines, evangelical lit drops, or even a box full of self-published novels left on the sidewalk (as at the Bardwell Street Little Library in Jamaica Plain)—but it's the unexpected finds that surprise. Jamaica Plain has more than 20 free libraries, mostly unregistered, often filled to the brim. Hillary Corbett created a Google map of all the locations in Jamaica Plain (see it at www.hillarycorbett.com/portfolio/littlefreelibraries).

Some of my free-library finds: a large coffee-table-sized biography of Grandma Moses (the pages are falling apart but the color reproductions are perfect); *The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen; and lots of classic children's books.

The media have occasional tales of used book dealers or hoarders hauling off all the goods, but like any retail operation, making room for fresh stock is a good thing—stacks of tired old textbooks or raggedy romances can demoralize the stewards and defeat the enterprise. It's an honor system that works most of the time.

Loving libraries is my inheritance: my dad was a librarian in the District of Columbia system, working in four branches from 1949 to the 1960s. Years later I, too, became a public librarian. In these pandemic times when inside browsing isn't allowed, patronize our outdoor libraries. Could the new box on Burbank Street start a movement in the Fenway?

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

The New Lexicon of 'Home'

BY ALISON BARNET

The subject is light. As in shedding light on the words we use. This new lexicon could also be called *The Emperor's New Clothes*.

Apartment and Unit: I suppose the word *apartment*, when first used, sounded cold, but nothing sounds colder than *unit*. Cold and faintly obscene, as in "How big is your unit?" Like it or not, the world at large has put all of us in units. Consider: only a few years ago, utility companies sent bills to *apt. 2*, and now, although we didn't

GUEST OPINION

ask them to, they send bills to *unit 2*. Larger bills, of course. The assumption is that we all live in condominiums—or soon will—and that's exactly what corporations and developers hope, considering the great fortunes to be made off our backs.

Long gone are the days of ads that read: *One BR apt. Top floor. Owner-occupied building. On bus line. \$300/mo. hhd.*

An ad for the very same place, condoized, reads: *Stylish two-bedroom unit boasting the finishes and convenience in demand in this exciting location. Features include a fireplaced living room, hardwood floors, private deck, and direct access parking. \$3 million+*

And the neighborhood around it will be described as "vibrant."

Affordable/Unaffordable: Some developers of condo complexes have the rudiments of a social conscience—or are forced to have one—and set aside a small percentage of affordable units; in other words, living spaces for people who can't afford the unaffordable

units that people in more fortunate circumstances can afford. In the past, no one ever used the word *affordable* in this context, because, generally speaking, all housing was affordable—if not, how could anyone afford to live here? While rents in those days did, of course, vary, no one considered a high rent normal and a low rent affordable. "A good deal" and "a better deal" sufficed. Ironically, in today's mean housing market, affordable isn't affordable even to the people it's purported to be affordable to. To qualify for an affordable apartment in many new buildings, your income must be pretty high.

We never use the words *unaffordable* or *unsubsidized* to refer to the living quarters of the well-to-do. *Market-rate* (a term even colder than *unit*) is never pejorative the way affordable and subsidized are. Even liberals feel free to describe people by saying, "Well, you know, she lives in affordable housing." Affordable is a negative and often synonymous with diverse—if there are any people of color in the complex, this is where they live.

Landlord/landlady/rent/tenant: The first of the month has lost its punch, because the concept of *landlord*, *landlady*, *rent*, and *tenant* are out, and condo owner or, more typically, luxury condo owner, is in. (Aren't all condos, no matter their condition, luxury?) Countless former homes and apartment buildings have "gone condo" and, gone with them, the concept that living in a rented apartment can be a viable option. Home ownership is now everyone's goal, and we've started thinking there's something wrong with being a tenant. "He's just a renter," condo owners say with disdain of a poor shlump without a granite countertop or a backyard parking spot.

How about worth? Condo owners are always saying their place is worth so much more than it was when they bought it. But to those of us who've been around a while, its worth is just about what it always

LEXICON on next page >

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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The Fenway News is published monthly by the Fenway News Association, Inc., a community-owned corporation dedicated to community journalism. If you would like to volunteer to write, edit, photograph, lay out, distribute, or sell advertising on commission, please contact us at

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SUBSCRIPTIONS \$30/YEAR
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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, April 2.**

► DEADLINE ◀

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

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> **ANTI-VAXXERS** from page 2

She remembers the countless death threats she has received through Facebook and email. “Here I am, just trying to talk about what happened to my kid, and this is what I get?” Edwards asks. She insists that she and all those on her side are only trying to do the best for their children, but it is difficult to withstand the relentless trolling.

“I think there’s a huge separation between the anti-vax movement and the pro-vax movement,” Edwards said. “And it’s not really an anti-vax movement – it’s an ex-vaccinating movement.”

Mary Romaniec expressed a similar disdain for the term “anti-vax.” Board member of Health Choice Massachusetts and leader of the Massachusetts chapter of The Autism Community in Action, she agrees that the term is harmful to their community.

“The ‘anti-vaxxer’ label is a pejorative used to silence us,” Romaniec said. “If you don’t adhere to the vaccine schedule, you’re considered to be an anti-vaxxer. You miss one dose and they label you.”

This label perpetuates a stereotype that Romaniec and Edwards are radical and potentially lying extremists. “It did happen to my child,” Romaniec insists, referring to her son’s autism diagnosis following his vaccinations as an infant and in-utero exposure to the flu vaccine. “I’m not making this up. I’m not crazy.”

Romaniec stands at the forefront of local anti-vaccine advocacy, and she uses her role at Health Choice Massachusetts to protect current members, not convert new ones. “We’re not really overt, and that’s by design—because we’re targeted. We all feel that the reason the organization exists is so that the individual is not targeted, and there’s many of us that feel targeted by traditional medicine... Each state has its own version of Health Choice. Every state understands that the legislative encroachment is very real and there are many people who are panicked by it.”

“Public health policy doesn’t know about my child,” she insisted.

“Our goal with anybody is just to educate. We never tell you what to do,” Romaniec said as she rejected the popular sentiment that anti-vaxxers are focused on spreading their beliefs. “We’re just doing our best to educate without pontificating, we’re really big about that. We don’t want to tell anybody to absolutely not get vaccinated, that’s just not what we do. We do the opposite: we tell you the best choices are an informed choice. Make your own decisions.”

Ultimately, that’s exactly what Kai Tsao did as he crossed over from one side of the vaccine debate to the other. Though they now represent greatly opposing viewpoints, Tsao’s rejection of the anti-vax principles is a decision that Romaniec, Edwards, and Health Choice Massachusetts would likely respect.

Tsao reflected on a moment of realization during high school about his susceptibility to diseases without vaccines. A Boy Scout, he went on a backpacking trip with his troop when he was 16. During one day on the trip, his group got lost, and they had to cross over a barbed wire fence to rejoin the trail. As he tried to get over, the rusty wire left a cut in Tsao’s thigh, and in a brief moment of panic he thought, “Oh no, I’m going to die now because I don’t have my tetanus shot.”

“I don’t really blame them for it,” Tsao admits. He understands the fear his parents felt, and he recognizes that everything they do is out of love for him and his brother.

After Tsao got his shots—the MMR, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), and a third vaccine he doesn’t quite remember—he met his father in the waiting room. Though it could be considered a monumental moment in his life, the details are a little hazy to Tsao. After he left the pediatrician’s office, he and his father drove back to their home in San Jose, and Tsao sat down to watch soccer. As he lounged on the couch, he remembers his mother walking into the room and asking, “does it hurt?” He replied, “no.”

“I was actually expecting pain,” Tsao said. “It feels like nothing.”

Asher Rappaport is a journalism student at Northeastern University.

> **LEXICON** from previous page

was, except that the asking price, assessments and taxes have escalated wildly.

Luxury is luxury because the developers say it is—and saying makes it so. Luxury is an added boost to the self-esteem of a young master of the universe who’s already brimming over with self-importance. It’s a massage for a buyer who doesn’t need another massage. He looks at the LUXURY TOWN HOMES FOR SALE sign posted on a dilapidated dump and sees a “fireplaced living room” with bamboo floors and maybe an onyx bath—they’re the latest thing. Sorry, but my own definition of luxury involves a history—not a dump one day and lavish loft the next. I also think the real luxury is space—does anyone have it anymore? By the way, whatever happened to being embarrassed by pretentiousness?

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.

BLEAK DAY AT EASTERN STANDARD

PHOTO: STEVE WOLFE

On February 7 and 8, a snowstorm brought Boston some of the heaviest snow of the year. In Kenmore Square, people trudged toward Eastern Standard, which had been in negotiations for several years with UrbanMeritage (which owns the Hotel Commonwealth’s retail properties) over the restaurant’s lease. Eastern Standard shut down in March 2020 due to the pandemic and never reopened for outdoor dining, takeout, or limited-capacity indoor dining. On February 18, a hearing notice on the City’s Licensing Board website indicated that Eastern Standard seeks to transfer its liquor license, indicating that it has closed permanently. Sister restaurants Island Creek Oyster Bar and The Hawthorne have also announce permanent closures.

UPDATE: FENWAY NEWS FUNDRAISER

First, we’ve been blown away by the response to our funding campaign, which includes many donations that have come outside of the [GoFundMe page](#).

On January 25 we announced a new matching grant from a generous supporter. That has brought in close to \$1,800 (on top of the many earlier contributions). These new contributions will be matched dollar for dollar.

Thank you for your generous support as we work to retire our debt and begin re-imagining our web presence to bring it fully into the digital age.

We still hope to return to print later this year. Meanwhile, please read us online at www.fenwaynews.org and follow (and like us) on Facebook.

THE Fenway News

MISSION HILL/FENWAY NEIGHBORHOOD TRUST

In response to the pandemic, the Trust has set a later deadline this year for proposals from organizations seeking funding for projects and programs intended to serve residents of Mission Hill and the Fenway.

Please visit www.missionhillfenwaynt.org for our on-line application.



Proposals must be submitted no later than midnight on April 30, 2021. Please email hello@missionhillfenwaynt.org with any questions.

**Virtual Public Meeting****601 Newbury Street**

Monday, March 1
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3clZyDj
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 161 018 9112

Project Proponent:
601 Newbury Street, LLC

Project Description:

***This meeting has been rescheduled from February 9, 2021**

The Proposed Project will be constructed as a four-story addition atop the existing three-story structure, for a total of seven stories. The proposal includes both residential market rate units as well as commercial executive suites, catering to tourists and business travelers alike. The Development team is proposing a mixed-use project that will include thirty-six residential units and forty-nine executive suites. The residential units will comply with Boston’s Compact Living Program. The building will include ample community space and will include: a fitness room, remote workstation space, theatre/media room, and lounge. The Developer is proposing three parking spaces to serve as a pickup and drop off area to allow for access for small deliveries as well as ride sharing vehicles. The Proposed Project’s proximity to the Kenmore MBTA station and bus lines will minimize community impact from resident/patron parking from the Proposed Project.

mail to: **Michael Sinatra**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4280
email: michael.a.sinatra@boston.gov

Close of Comment Period:
03.12.2021

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Gov. Baker visited the Fenway Park mass vaccination site on its second full day of operation. Following this year's Super Bowl, 600 B.U. students fanned out across campus to post flyers and chalk messages on pavement attacking the way the school has handled charges of sexual assault and harassment. Students at 14 other campuses, including Northeastern, took part in similar protests. In the Before Times the BSO's new assistant conductor, Anna Ratkitina, would have led the orchestra for her debut last August at Tanglewood. Didn't happen. Instead, she spent most of 2020 at home in Moscow, and her debut came in January when a concert she recorded with a physically distanced BSO went up on the BSO NOW website. The program of Prokofiev, Stravinsky, and Arvo Pärt will stay up until March 2. According to a Globe article on the impact of the pandemic on black-owned restaurants, only eight have a full liquor license out of 1,100 full licenses across the city. Of those eight, three are local: Wally's Cafe Jazz Club on Mass Ave; Daryl's Corner Bar & Kitchen, just around the corner from Wally's on Columbus Ave.; and Soleil in Nubian Square. A westbound MassDOT "crash truck" caught fire on the Mass Pike between the Mass Ave and Brookline Ave bridges. No one was hurt. BU-based AGNI magazine received a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. ICYMI had never heard of AGNI—since you asked, it's named for the fire god in the Vedic religion of the Indian subcontinent—but, then, ICYMI rarely travels in literary circles, what with all the Netflix streaming to be done. "[K]nown for publishing important new writers early in their careers," as the PEN American Center puts it, that illustrious list includes (in part) Seamus Heaney, Ha Jin, and Jhumpa Lahiri. It operates out of offices on Bay State Road. Grace Kinstler, a 20-year-old Berklee vocal student, got a strong start on the new season of "American Idol," winning lavish praise from all three judges.

T Cuts Comm. Ave. Stops to Speed B Line Ride



Construction has begun along Comm. Ave. to replace four closely spaced stations on the Green Line B Branch. A new Babcock Street stop will replace Babcock and Pleasant stations, and new Amory Street stop will replace St. Paul and BU West. The new stations will have longer, raised platforms for accessible boarding and better protection for waiting passengers. Work will take place on weekends and after 8:45pm; during those times, shuttles will run between Kenmore and Babcock.

TRASH/RECYCLING/STREET CLEANING

PICK-UP SCHEDULE

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

STREET CLEANING

Street cleaning will resume on April 1, and so will ticketing if you park your car in designated areas. See the Newsline item for more details

FENWAY HEALTH



We Believe That Everyone Deserves Access To High-Quality, Affordable Health Care.

Has your employment situation recently changed?
Are you currently uninsured?

If you live in MA, we can help you enroll in insurance. We can also talk to you about our sliding fee schedule. Call us at 617.927.6000. No one is denied care based on ability to pay.

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

FAKE PIGEONS COME HOME TO ROOST

PHOTOS: STEVE WOLF



Observant passersby last month spotted this flyer on a bus shelter on Park Drive in Audubon Circle—not far from multiple metal sculptures of birds mounted on streetlights to recall the famed naturalist and neighborhood namesake. The flyer points to a surprisingly elaborate performance-art (?) piece that lives at www.birdsarentreal.com. Visit the site to learn that the CIA killed 12 billion birds and replaced them with realistic-looking surveillance drones. After digesting that, you may find some comfort in ordering a Birds Aren't Real t-shirt, hat or mask on the website.

Neighborhood Newsline

Santiago Files Vaccine Equity Legislation

On Jan. 29, State Rep. Jon Santiago introduced legislation requiring improvements in the statewide management of COVID-19 vaccinations. His "Act to ensure the rapid, accessible and equitable administration of COVID-19 vaccine," calls for centralized scheduling, accessibility and equity in vaccinations, partnerships with community health centers, transparency rules, and more. Santiago's 9th Suffolk district includes the South End and parts of Roxbury, the Back Bay, and the Fenway. On Feb. 23, Santiago announced that he is running for mayor.

Applications for Tufts Grants Due by March 1

Tufts University will accept grant applications from nonprofits in Boston, home to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University. Groups can receive \$1,000, but applications—available at go.tufts.edu/tcg—are due March 1. The program helps eligible 501(c)(3) groups that serve any of Tufts' host communities and have worked with a Tufts faculty, staff, or student volunteer in the last three years.

Bok, Janey Co-File Order for PILOT Payments Hearing

On Feb. 10, City Councilors Kenzie Bok, Liz Breadon, and Kim Janey—likely to become the acting mayor in the next few weeks—introduced a hearing order to increase oversight, transparency, and coordination of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) program. Under the program, the City asks educational, medical, and cultural institutions with tax-exempt property worth more than \$15 million to contribute roughly 25 percent of the taxes they would otherwise pay. In fiscal 2020, the City identified 47 institutions that qualified for the program. In a Feb. 16 article, the *Boston Globe* calculated the percentage of requested contributions institutions had made by November 2020. Of educational institutions in our circulation area, Emmanuel College made 58 percent of requested contributions; Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, 100 percent; New England Conservatory, 50 percent; Northeastern University, 68 percent; Simmons University, 50 percent; and Wentworth Institute of Technology, 68 percent. Among local cultural institutions, the Gardner Museum had made 68 percent of its requested contributions; the Boston Symphony Orchestra, 100 percent; and the Museum of Fine Arts, 53 percent. New England Conservatory and Simmons University both contributed community benefits rather than money; all the other institutions listed split their payments between community benefits and cash contributions.

Fenway Schools' Girls Basketball Teams Notch Wins

Boston Public Schools played an extremely short winter sports season, which ended Feb. 27. Perennial champions Fenway High School girls basketball team played only ten games, with all players wearing masks. The Boston City League tournaments took place as we were producing this issue, and Fenway was expected to compete at a high level. COVID restrictions meant that BPS teams will not participate in state tournaments this year. In other high school sports news, Boston Latin School's varsity girls basketball team won its first league championship since 1999. BLS competes in the Dual County League with suburban teams rather than the Boston City League.

New Arts Academy Holds Topping-Off Ceremony

On Feb. 23, members of the Boston Arts Academy Foundation, along with Boston Arts Academy representatives and elected officials, put the final steel beam in place at the new, \$125 million BAA facility on Ipswich Street. Expected to be completed in spring 2022, the new structure will expand space for the school from approximately 121,000 to 153,500 square feet and accommodate a 15% increase in the student body. The new building will include a bold glass-and-brick façade, theatre marquee, rooftop green space, and a 500-seat auditorium/theatre. The building will also hold dance studios, music practice rooms, fashion technology studios and work spaces.

BTD Resumes Ticketing Put On Pause by The Pandemic

When street sweeping resumes citywide on April 1, so will ticketing and towing of vehicles that violate street-sweeping parking restrictions. The Boston Transportation Department will also resume ticketing for expired inspection stickers and vehicle registration on March 1. Mayor Walsh suspended enforcement of some violations at the start of the pandemic in an effort to minimize residents' need to go out in hopes of slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Ward 4 Democrats Roll Out High School Scholarships

The Ward 4 Democratic Committee has launched a scholarship program for 9th and 10th graders who either live or attend schools in Ward 4, including Boston Latin, McKinley South End Academy, and the Winsor School. Ward 4 covers parts of the Back Bay, the Fenway, and the South End; check bit.ly/BostonWards for specific boundaries. Students will submit short written responses to two essay questions in the language of their choice; the essays will be judged for depth and originality, and two winning students will each receive \$250 at a community event in August. Apply at bit.ly/Ward4Scholarship before March 31. Email questions to scholarship@bostonward4dems.org.

The Arts

ART IN THE 'HOOD



At right, a mural on Queensberry Street by Julia "Julz" Roth, a Boston-based artist and art therapist. Above, street art on Burbank Street. Photos by Alison Pultinas.

Help Local Eateries Make It to Spring—Eat Takeout Tonight

BY RUTH KHOWAIS & STEVE WOLF

Taking a leaf from the *Boston Globe's* "Project Takeout," a campaign to support local restaurants, here are a few of our favorite West Fens spots for takeout. The Fenway has a wealth of local restaurants, but many have closed or gone into hibernation until spring. In order to safely support those restaurants still hanging in, we encourage you to get takeout on a regular basis.

And remember two things:

- Delivery services like Uber Eats and GrubHub take 15% or more of what you pay. Instead, walk your lazy self over and pick up your order so that all your money goes to the restaurant.
- Do you have utensils at home? Of course you do, and using them will reduce your carbon footprint. Make sure to tell who-

ever takes your order that you don't want plastic utensils or paper plates.

Thornton's has been a staple in the West Fens for more than 20 years and never disappoints. I miss going there for Sunday brunch, and up until November was often on the outdoor patio. I like pretty much everything on the menu. One suggestion is to get a bunch of appetizers, such as potato skins loaded with bacon or broccoli (I get both), fried zucchini, chicken fingers with mustard sauce, or Buffalo shrimp.

A great takeout option is a burger with French fries, coleslaw or baked beans. They are some of the best burgers around and travel well. The salads are always a plus—huge portions of every fresh veggie with ahi tuna, grilled salmon, or chicken. And don't forget brunch. The last time I was there, I ordered eggs Florentine and French toast to go. [RK]

100 Peterborough St. Daily lunch and dinner, 11:00am-9pm. Order at ThorntonsFenwayGrille.com or 617-421-0104

M and J Teriyaki is a hidden gem on Jersey Street. It offers large portions of teriyaki beef, shrimp, salmon, chicken, lamb, pork, or eel—all with a healthy serving of veggies and choice of white, brown, or fried rice. My favorite is the salmon, but the chicken is also delicious. The portions are so large that I get two meals out of a serving. Prices range from \$10.75 to 17.99. They also have bubble tea, seven choices of noodle soup, and fruit drinks. [RK]
130 Jersey St. Open Tuesday-Sunday 11am-8:30pm. Pick-up only. Call 617-424-0900 or order at mjteriyakiboston.com.

Gyro City I'm a huge fan of the avgolemono soup, a satisfying take on this Greek classic—smooth, hearty, and with

a bright undertone that doesn't doesn't drown out the other flavors. Your order comes with a pita bread round, quartered and hot out of the oven. I buy a quart, which yields either two enormous or three regular servings. Reheating the soup in the microwave doesn't alter its flavor. Quarts are \$7.95; smaller portions also available. I'm a little embarrassed to say that I've never ordered anything else from the friendly family that runs this place, but online reviewers rave about the gyros. Note that Gyro City will give you utensils and napkins automatically, so be sure to let them know you don't want those when you place our order. [SW]
88 Peterborough St. Mon-Sat, 10am-11pm; Sun, 10am-9pm. Call 617-266-4976 or order at <https://gyrocity.com>

Ruth Khowais and Steve Wolf both live in the West Fens.

At Berklee, Masks Keep Music-makers Safer

BY KELSEY BRUUN

Berklee College of Music requires community members to wear masks covering the nose and mouth at all times. Gaiters, buffs, and bandanas are not recommended as adequate substitutes, (research shows they have limited effectiveness for anyone). For both vocalists and instrumentalists, Berklee offers various mask recommendations.

For vocalists, Berklee recommends either the Resonance Singer's Mask with Disposable Biofilters (photo 1), which has adjustable head straps to avoid an uncomfortable pull on the ears. It features internal construction that holds the fabric away from the mouth so vocalists don't inhale fabric when inhaling. It also suggests the Singer's Mask (photo 2), which is similar to the first but has a larger projection away from the mouth, creating more of a duckbill.

For wind and brass instrumentalists,



Berklee recommends either the Dance Sophisticates Music Mask (photo 3) or the National Educational Music Company mask (photo 4), both designed for performance. The Dance Sophisticates Music Mask features a double flap. In addition to the brass version shown, it also comes in a flute version. National Education Music Company masks feature a true embouchure opening making

it easier to align the mouthpiece to proper playing position. A unique front flap that automatically closes when the mouthpiece is removed provides superior protection during rests but doesn't impede the performer's ability to take in enough air for even the most demanding musical passages. Berklee also provides students with a guide for making their own wind and brass instrument masks.

Brass and instrument bells must also be covered with a dense fabric bell cover. Some companies organize them by the opening size while others organize by instrument type.

Berklee urges musicians to make sure not to point wind and brass instrument bells toward others.

Kelsey Bruun is the editor of the Fenway News.

EATS BEAT

As part of "Project Takeout," the Sunday *Globe Magazine* named 100 of the metro area's best takeout eateries, with lots of familiar local names on

the list: **Asta** on Mass. Ave. in the Back Bay; **Cafe Landwer** in Audubon Circle; **Darryl's Corner Bar & Kitchen**; lobster-slinging **Eventide** in the West Fens; **Haley House Bakery Cafe** in Nubian Square; **Mei Mei** in Audubon Circle [also home to the Fenway's neighborhood fridge installation featured on p3]; **Soleil**, another standout in Nubian Square; and **Sweet Cheeks Q** in the West Fens. 8% of the list in a small area? Not bad...

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF



The Esplanade Association mounted a special installation at the Hatch Shell, Jan. 22-Feb. 21. "Marking the 20th year of the friends group's partnership with the DCR, which manages the Esplanade, "Hatched" brought a blast of light and music into some of the darkest weeks of winter. From dusk until 9pm, the 20-minute show threw colorful projections onto the shell—a larger-than-life kaleidoscope synced to a musical score created and recorded by local musicians. Boston-based artist Maria Finkelmeier served as the project's artistic mastermind and composer. To see more images and hear the music, visit <http://mfdynamics.com/hatched>.

March

CALENDAR

Sun, 2/28

Kaji Aso Studio hosts **"SANCTUARY," AN UPLIFTING VIRTUAL PRESENTATION OF ART, MUSIC AND POETRY.** Use the Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88389203788?pwd=bTVhVElpWUNQbmFuL2hVOThkldjZz09> to join the event. This program is supported in part by the Cultural Organization Economic Recovery Grant

@ THE CENTER

Due to the pandemic, the Fenway Community Center continues to host virtual activities. Find links for everything at fenwaycommunitycenter.org.

- **Mondays, 6pm: ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.** Practice your speaking and listening skills in this free American English class.
- **Tuesdays, 6pm: NAVIGATORS USA.** Progressive scouting for all.
- **Wednesdays/Thursdays, 8pm: GAME NIGHT.** Play Drawful and other online games suitable for all ages.
- **Thursday, 6pm: ARTS & CRAFTS.** Have fun making a variety of easy crafts in a supportive group. Craft materials are available free while supplies last to those who register in advance.
- **Fridays, 5pm: MOVEMENT MATTERS.** Join Boston Conservatory faculty and students in an hour long dance class that incorporates gentle, but challenging movement. All you need is a stable chair. All are welcome, no matter what skill or mobility level.
- **Fridays, 6pm: VIRTUAL 5K.** Take little steps to improve your wellness with the support of a Capstone Senior from Northeastern's Health Science Program.

administered by the Mass Cultural Council in partnership with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development. 7pm.

Mon, 3/1

Join the Boston Public Library, in partnership with the Museum of African American History, for **AN ONLINE CONVERSATION WITH YABA BLAY AND IBRAM X. KENDI.** Blay is the author of *One Drop: Shifting the Lens on Race* and Kendi is an author, B.U. professor, and anti-racist activist. *One Drop* explores the extent to which historical definitions of race continue to shape contemporary racial identities and lived experiences of racial difference. 7:30pm. Registration required: https://boston-public-library.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vtAbjcuNT06wabEk3VrEjw

Tue, 3/2 ⇨ Thu, 3/4

New England Conservatory's Jazz & Entrepreneurial Musicianship programs present **GROW YOUR ART**, a week-long music-and-business residency with groundbreaking multi-Grammy-Award-winning composer and band leader Maria Schneider. The residency will include a pitch night, as well as master classes, workshops and panel discussions on the music business and entrepreneurship. The events are free and open to the public virtually. For information, visit <https://necmusic.edu/growyourart-public-events>.

Wed, 3/3

ANNIE MCKAY AND THE UNTOLD STORY OF BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL NURSES at the Boston Public Library. Join author Dorothy M. Keeney to hear the story of Annie McKay, Boston's first school nurse. Keeney's book expands the horizons of school nursing and healthcare history, and engages with related fields such as child labor, women's employment, economic history, and gender equity. 6pm. Registration required at <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5fa570cc5bd7f23a00ead498>.

[com/events/5fa570cc5bd7f23a00ead498](https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5fa570cc5bd7f23a00ead498).

Wed, 3/10

- The Museum of Fine Arts hosts its fourth annual **ASL NIGHT COMMUNITY CELEBRATION** with a free virtual event streaming on mfa.org and the MFA's Facebook or YouTube channels. The free virtual program will feature a dance performance from DEAFinitely, Inc, merging ASL, hip-hop, b-boy and breakdancing, an art-making activity led by local artist Takiyah Harris, a performance combining magic and

art, and more. Additional information is available at <http://bit.ly/MFA-ASL-Night>.

- Maria Schneider conducts the **NEC JAZZ ORCHESTRA** in a program of her compositions including *The Pretty Road*, *Data Lords*, *Walking By Flashlight*, *Gumba Blue*, *Sputnik* and *Choro Dancado*. The concert will be recorded on March 4 with a video broadcast on March 10 at 7:30pm. View concert at <https://necmusic.edu/events/grow-your-art-maria-schneider-residency-concert>.

COMMUNITY meetings

SATS, FEB 27, MARCH 13, and MARCH 27

Join the Ward 10 Democratic Committee at 4pm each day for a **VIRTUAL MEET-AND-GREET WITH CITY COUNCIL AND MAYORAL CANDIDATES.** On Feb. 27, meet council candidates Alex Gray and David Halbert. On March 13, meet mayoral candidate Annissa Essaibi George. On March 27, meet council candidates Kendra Hicks and Mary Tamer. Candidates will introduce themselves, and meeting participants will get a chance to ask questions. Committee members will email a Zoom link around 11:30am on the day of the event. Sign-up for the email list at ward10dems.org. If you have trouble signing up or miss the email, reach out to bostonward10@gmail.com. Ward 10 includes most of Mission Hill and a large lobe of Jamaica Plain.

MON, MARCH 1

The BPDA hosts a rescheduled virtual public meeting for the **601 NEWBURY STREET PROJECT.** The meeting will review the Small Project Review application filed for the project and will include a presentation by the proponent followed by Q&A and comments from the public. 6pm. Use www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_uAOSyEInR1uO84WkZPbTPg or call

(833) 568-8864 and enter meeting ID 161 018 9112 to join. Contact Michael Sinatra at (617) 918-4280 or Michael.A.Sinatra@Boston.gov for more information.

TUE, MARCH 2 Deadline for comments to the state's environment agency **OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF THE #55 BUS** under the T's reorganization plan. Email comments to Erin.Flaherty@mass.gov or to MEPA@mass.gov. Put "Project #16324" in the subject line and CC elected officials. *The Fenway News* Facebook page has details.

THU, MARCH 11 Join the Fenway CDC for its monthly **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING**, held virtually. If you're interested in attending, email Jaya Aiyer at jaiyer@fenwaycdc.org for the Zoom link.

TUE, MARCH 16 Join neighbors from the Back Bay, Fenway, and South End for the **BOSTON WARD 4 DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE MEETING.** The meeting will hear from Brendan Fogarty of the Common Start Coalition; City Councilor and mayoral candidate Annissa Essaibi George; city council candidate Kelly Bates; and state senators Will Brownsberger and Sonia Chang-Diaz. RSVP to ward4dems@gmail.com for Zoom info.



**One community, one purpose.
Let's stay strong to keep Boston healthy.**

Northeastern University

NORTHEASTERN.EDU/PROTECTTHEPACK

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

PLEASE CALL / 617.373.TIPS