

Protestors Decry Lack of Affordability in Planned Dorm



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

A rain-soaked day rally took place April 25 at Ruggles Station in opposition to a proposed 26-story dormitory Northeastern wants to build at 840 Columbus Ave. Here, doctoral student Tim LaRock of the Graduate Employees of NU-UAW tells protestors that the number-one housing priority for college students is affordability, but the administration doesn't listen to students. The Boston Socialist Alliance has gathered close to 2,000 signatures on a petition opposing the project. Beds in towers developed by American Campus Communities (LightView on Burke Street was the first to open) are high-priced; the university has linked their opening to its plan to decommission former East Fens apartments it uses as dorms to return them to the housing market. Other speakers at the rally included activist Emilia Morgan; Yvonne LaLyre, who said the land taken from the community 50 years ago for the extension of I-95 and the Innerbelt should be returned to the community; and State Rep. Erika Uyerthoeven. Founder of ActOnMass.org, Uyerthoeven spoke about transparency, equity, and increasing tax payments from institutions and corporations.

BHA Plans Sweeping Mission Main Rehab Work

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) Monitoring Committee is a federally mandated tenant-majority body charged with reviewing changes to public housing developments across the city. It met in mid-April to vote on several major projects.

An update shared with the committee is the planned conversion for Mission Main, owned and managed by Winn Development under a long-term ground lease from the BHA. BHA's director of real estate, Joseph Bamberg, explained that in order to carry out needed renovations, the authority will move 445 apartments

to HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration program. RAD uses Section 8 projected-based vouchers that set rent at 30 percent of household income.

Transformed with the HOPE VI program 20 years ago, Mission Main now includes 90 market-rate apartments, public housing units in the wood-framed townhouses, and a seven-story senior building at 69 McGreevey Way. The work will give 535 apartments new heating and cooling systems, life-safety improvements, and updated kitchen appliances and bathrooms.

The Commonwealth's Department of Housing and Community Development

has awarded the project \$1 million in Housing Stabilization funding, plus \$1.5 million in state Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LITCs). According to the BHA's Bamberg, state LIHTCs work differently from federal LIHTCs. "You get that allocation yearly for five years—so that means \$1.5 million times five years equals \$7.5 million total; but investors don't pay as much for the state LIHTCs. Currently they are projected at 75 cents on the dollar or \$5,625,000 in total equity."

He explained that renovations will be partially financed with federal tax-exempt private-activity bonds issued by Mass Housing. They will generate

4 percent in federal LITCs, but the exact number or credits will depend on the final scope of work. He said Winn expects to carry out between \$100,000 and \$120,000 of renovations per unit estimates more than \$50 million in federal tax-credit equity.

There will be no displacement, but whether tenants will have to be temporarily relocated is not yet clear. Bamberg said it might be just a question of vacating an apartment during the day while contractors are installing new bathroom and kitchen facilities. However, he said, a series of meetings with residents will take place long before construction begins later in the year.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Four Years On, Second Rail Platform Opens at Ruggles



More commuter rail trains are stopping at Ruggles Station now that the MBTA has finally opened the second platform after four years of construction. A brand new entrance (above) opened in April at the end of a private driveway between Northeastern's Columbus Garage and the ISEC building—a long block from the Orange Line station. Passengers reach the new platform on the inbound side from the lower busway, but trains stop far down the 800-foot walkway. For an eight- to ten-minute ride from Ruggles to South Station, board on track two. You'll pay a Zone 1A fare of \$2.40, or \$1.10 for seniors; the MBTA suggests using the MTicket app, available in Apple's App Store or on Google Play.



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

HOUSING RESOURCES

As vaccination totals rise, the pandemic has begun easing. Yet last year's lockdown and the pending expiration of eviction protections have left many people in housing limbo. If you're having trouble paying rent or mortgage, consider contacting these resources for help.

- The City of Boston's **RENTAL RELIEF FUND** provides up to \$15,000 to income-eligible households to help cover up to 12 months of arrears and current or future rent. Visit boston.gov/rental-relief for more information.
- **Boston ABCD**, a respected service agency, also offers rental assistance. Visit bostonabcd.org/service/rental-

assistance-2 for more information.

- **STATE PROGRAMS** like Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT) and Emergency Rent & Mortgage Assistance (ERMA) can also offer assistance. Visit bit.ly/RAFTandERMA for more information.
- **THE COMMUNITY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT CENTER** offers free mediation services to landlords and tenants in Suffolk County. If you're experiencing difficulty under a lease or other housing problem, call 617-876-5376 or visit www.communitydispute.org to get access to services, make an appointment or book a consultation.

Giving Your Food Waste a Second Thought

BY LESLIE POND

Of all food grown in the United States, 30 to 40 percent is never sold or eaten. A large portion of this waste occurs at the consumer level and goes into landfills or incinerators. On average, a family of four spends over \$1,500 a year on food that goes to waste, such as food bought in excess of what we needed, and food that goes bad or has passed its (often arbitrary) expiration date—things that we've probably all experienced in our own homes.

At the same time, many Americans live with food insecurity. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in 2019, about 13.7 million households (roughly 35 million Americans, or 1 in 10 people) did not have enough food to eat. Feeding America estimates that in Massachusetts, more than 617,000 adults and children—ten percent of all residents—struggle with hunger.

Minimizing food waste isn't just good for our wallets, it's good for our planet and our health. Food is the number one material going into our landfills. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection estimated in 2015 that food waste across the industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential sectors accounted for more than 1 million tons a year, or 25 percent, of the post-recycling waste stream, a similar percentage as in the country as a whole. Food waste produces a big chunk of our greenhouse gas emissions—nearly 10 percent. The decay of organic matter in landfills generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas with a major role in



intense storms, heat, and the spread of pests and diseases. Often the communities most impacted by or vulnerable to climate change are also the most likely to be food insecure.

In response to the need for urgent action on food waste, USDA and the Environmental Protection Agency in 2015 announced the goal of cutting food waste by 50 percent by 2030. This aim aligns with one of the targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and has been adopted by other entities around the world.

Food waste is being tackled in multiple ways at the state and local levels, but much more can be done. Vermont is the only state in the U.S. with a mandate for all food waste to be separated from other trash. Since 2014, Massachusetts has prohibited establishments with one ton or more of food waste a week from disposing of organic waste as trash that goes to landfills, in part because of

dwindling landfill capacity.

In Massachusetts, a few municipalities divert food waste from landfills by offering curbside organic waste pickup for free or for a fee. Cambridge, for example, piloted a program in 2015 that now provides free weekly pickups for more than 25,000 households citywide—that's over 50 percent of households, with seven tons of food waste per day transported to a Charlestown facility that turns it into renewable biogas and biosolids.

The City of Boston launched Zero Waste

Boston in 2018 to reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost up to 90 percent of our solid waste. It's part of the broader Carbon Free Boston initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and become carbon neutral by 2050. In July 2019, the City posted a call for recommendations for a program to decrease food and yard waste. The website doesn't have further information, and an inquiry asking for an update hasn't yet had a response.

Without curbside pickup for organic waste in Boston or a City composting site in the Fenway, our options for composting from home include taking food waste to one of the City of Boston's five Oscar compost bins (our nearest bin is at Government Center); subscribing to a residential compost service (see sidebar); or creating an indoor composting box (see resources below).

We can all take simple and effective steps to ensure that our food goes to its best use:

- To reduce waste upfront, plan your meals, check your pantry and fridge before shopping, and buy only what you need.
- Arrange your pantry and fridge according to the month and year of expiration dates and use items accordingly.
- As you put items into your fridge or freezer, keep a list on your fridge door of perishable items and expiration dates for easy reference for meal planning and shopping.
- Take unopened items that you won't use before their expiration dates to our Fenway Community Fridge and Pantry at 506 Park Drive, in front of Mei Mei.
- Compost food scraps and waste.
- Collaborate to reduce food waste in your building or area, for example, by working with neighbors to gather items to take to the community fridge/pantry or for composting.
- Write to city, state, and federal officials to advocate for ways to increase food recovery and reduce food waste—such as composting at the city level, and enacting laws at the state level to divert more food waste from landfills—and to champion other policies, such as standardizing food-expiration labels.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens.

COMPOSTING: NO SMELLS, ALL SMILES

BY STEVE WOLF

Like most people, you probably put your trash out every week, if not more often. But what if you only had to do it every eight weeks? That's me now, thanks to my composting service.

I knew kitchen scraps stank up my kitchen garbage can, forcing me to empty it long before it was filled. I knew that food waste accelerates climate change by producing methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, as it breaks down in landfills. And I knew from a previous workplace that food-waste pickup services weren't very complicated. So, I subscribed to Bootstrap Compost in 2019. (Another company, Black Earth Compost, offers a similar service; it's also the contractor the provides curbside pickup for the Town of Brookline.)

Here's how it works: Bootstrap brings you an empty, five-gallon plastic bucket with a compostable liner. On pick-up day you fill it and set it on your building doorstep by 7am. Pick-up takes place sometime between then and 9pm, and the crew leaves you a clean, empty bucket to start the cycle again. You can choose to receive a small "dividend" of compost for your garden a couple of times a year.

The company offers weekly service for \$11 per pickup or biweekly service for \$15 per pickup. I share a biweekly subscription with my across-the-hall neighbor, so we each end up paying just \$15 a month. Between pickups, I keep compostables in a plastic bag in the refrigerator, which pretty much eliminates odors.

At first, I worried that some passing blockhead would think it funny to make off with my bucket, but no one seems to want a bucket with "Bootstrap Compost" stenciled on the outside and banana peels and coffee grounds inside.

You can include a range of nonfood waste in your bucket, including napkins, past-their-prime cut flowers, soiled paper bags, and toothpick and chopsticks. While the wood items don't break down well in a passive compost pile, like the ones in the Victory Gardens, Bootstrap uses an active system that adds heat to make the composting process faster and more effective.

At first I subscribed to the service because it seemed like an easy way to shrink my environmental footprint. But I have to admit I'm loving the fact that now I can barely remember what our dumpster looks like.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

Would you like to help form or lead a group to tackle food waste in the Fenway or beyond, or to share tips or comments? Email us at fenwaynews@gmail.com. And for more great tips on reducing food waste and composting, visit these sites:

- bostonzerowaste.com/
- epa.gov/recycle/reducing-wasted-food-home
- wbur.org/news/2018/12/18/food-waste-tips
- weforum.org/agenda/2019/02/20-easy-ways-to-reduce-your-food-waste
- boston.gov/departments/public-works/composting-boston
- cambridgema.gov/services/curbsidecomposting
- www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-food-waste-composting-fact-sheet/download
- www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/05/19/burst/compost-box-indoors-coronavirus.html

climate change. Decreasing the amount of waste going to landfills and incinerators helps to protect the environment and public health of our communities.

Additional considerations include the fact that food production itself—including growing, processing, transportation, and storage—uses many resources and is a major contributor to climate change, and waste occurs at multiple points along the supply chain. On the flip side, food production is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as drought,

Indo-Chinese Cuisine at Church Park

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

The Fenway is particularly diverse, so it's not surprising to find Mumbai Spice, an Indian restaurant in Church Park (251 Mass. Ave.) in the neighborhood. The restaurant features Mumbai street food and Hakka Chinese cuisine.

Hakka Chinese are the people of southern China, and due to their early migration to India, their cuisine has become popular in certain areas of India. Chinese migrants first arrived during the British occupation of India. Chinese chefs hired in Indian restaurants began to substitute Indian spices for traditional Chinese spices. This cuisine, now quintessentially known as Indo-Chinese food, is considered comfort food in many parts of India.

Mumbai, capital of the state of Maharashtra in southwestern India, is known for its street food. Mumbai Spice does not disappoint in this area with vegetable samosa, fried pakora, and classic Mumbai leavened bread served with smashed vegetables and garnished with onions and cilantro.

You'll see familiar Indian restaurant dishes such as tikka masala, sizzling tandoori dishes, and Mumbai lamb, chicken, and shrimp dishes.

In the Indo-Chinese Section, chicken Manchurian, crispy Szechuan lamb, and Mumbai Szechuan fried rice reflect both Chinese and Indian cultures. All Mumbai Spice's dishes are made from scratch, and imported spices imbue Indian flavors.

Mumbai Spice offers delivery through Uber Eats and Grubhub as well as take-out service. The restaurant has a lovely patio where you can sample Hakka Chinese or Mumbai street-food dishes while enjoying a view of The Christian Science Plaza.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

SHERATON'S DOORS STAY CLOSED

PHOTO: ALISON PULITINAS



Still no word about Boston's largest hotel's plans for reopening. In 2018, back-of-house Sheraton workers demonstrated for 46 days straight to win union recognition. They won that battle, but are their jobs returning?

City Set to Start First Plan for Protecting, Adding Urban Trees

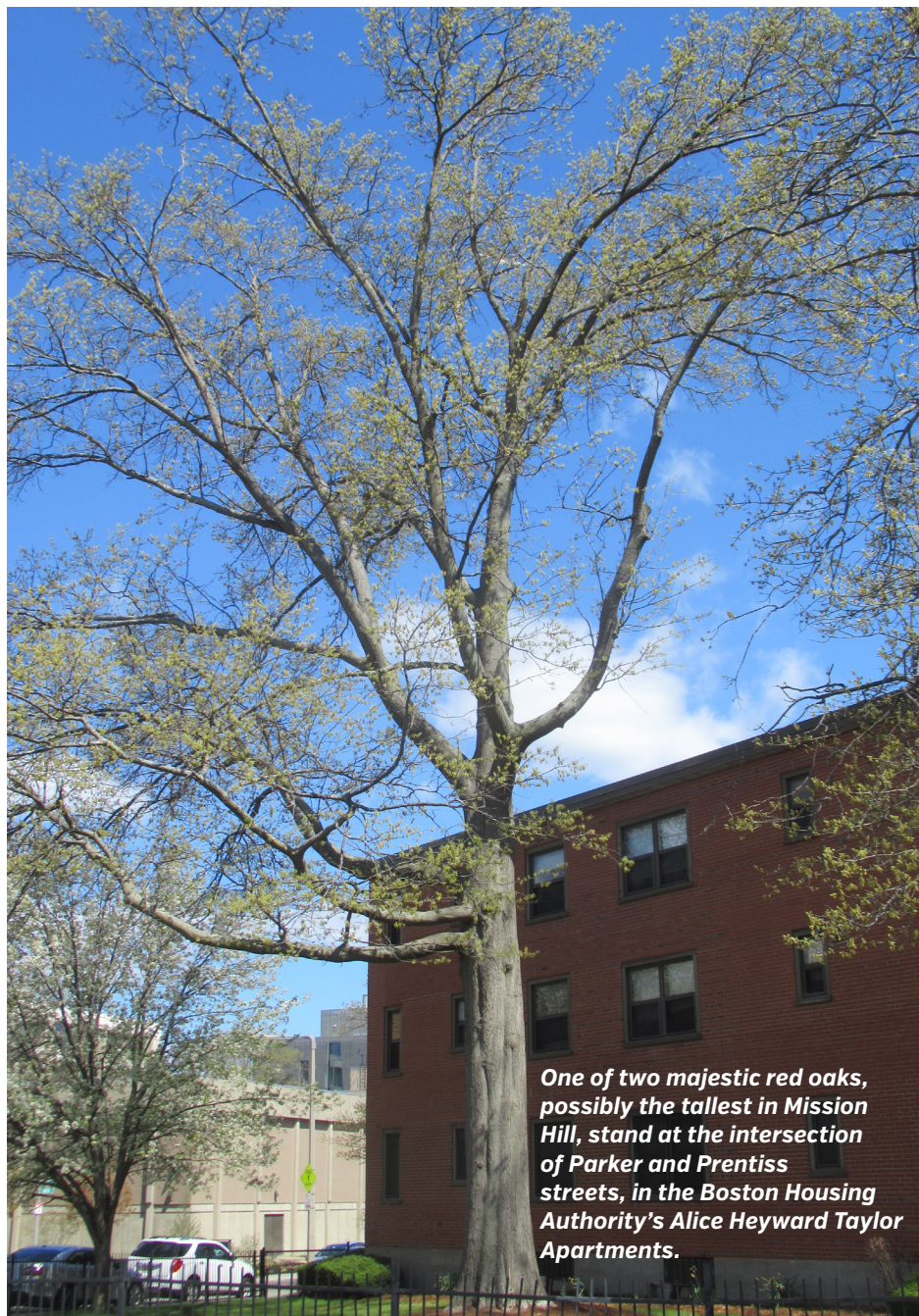


PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

One of two majestic red oaks, possibly the tallest in Mission Hill, stand at the intersection of Parker and Prentiss streets, in the Boston Housing Authority's Alice Heyward Taylor Apartments.

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Spring is here, and the flowering trees—cherries, magnolias, even the maligned Callery pears—provide a short-lived season of glory. These trees, lovable as they may be, don't provide enough substance for climate resilience. The city needs more trees planted, but perhaps more important, it needs policies to protect and preserve tall, mature canopy trees like oaks, lindens, and elms that provide shade and air cleansing in the heat of the summer.

Before they left office, former Mayor Marty Walsh and his Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space, Chris Cook, set Boston's first Urban Forest Plan in motion. Contracts for consultants Stoss Landscape Urbanism and Rachel Comte's Urban Canopy Works were finalized in March, and a community-engagement process is set to

begin later this spring.

In the March newsletter of Harvard's Graduate School of Design, Amy Whitesides of Stoss explained that the plan will seek to maximize the health of Bostonians and their environment. Whitesides and Chris Reed, founder of Stoss, are both Harvard-affiliated. Firm associate Davi Parente Schoen, currently a lecturer at the University of Southern California, will also contribute to the plan under a process expected to take at least a year.

Boston Urban Forest Friends (bostonforest.com), a new coalition that meets monthly, hosted Maggie Owens of the Parks Department and Comte of Urban Canopy Works at their April meeting. They described the roll-out of the community process as three sequential workshops this summer that will include presentations and discussions to hash out the plan's challenges.

private can be surprising—public housing developments and parcels owned by the Boston Planning and Development Agency don't technically count as public land.

One ultimate challenge entails changing the city's development-review process to create incentives for reforestation. Can inventories of existing trees on a development site be required for all new proposals?

Another challenge will involve rethinking the underfunded Parks Department's role as guardians of the city's tree canopy. The American Forests organization has been brought on to consult on workforce development related to urban forestry. Could a government urban forest program be interdepartmental across agencies?

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



PHOTO: ALEX CARBONE

Gardeners returning to their plots in Mission Hill's Oscar Parker Community Garden in this spring were surprised to see a poplar tree had been cut down. For several years controversy had raged between those who appreciated the canopy for its ecological value and others who objected to the shade and the cottonwood fluff it shed for two weeks in early summer.



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

A significant loss in Mission Hill: A stump at 1615 Tremont, since covered with bark chips, is all that remains of a large oak tree. Lubavitch of Cambridge recently purchased the row house, and property manager Josh Sydney explained that the tree's proximity to the building had raised concerns.

Building That Replaced Garden at Children's Nears Completion

The 11-story Hale Family Building at 55 Shattuck Street, previously known as Boston Children's Clinical Building, is expected to open in this fall. The building location generated a storm of controversy because it required demolition of the beloved Prouty Garden and the marble-fronted Wolbach Building. The garden had served as a place of restorative quiet in the busy Longwood area, loved by Children's Hospital patients, families, and staff. Originally built as the Thomas Rotch Memorial Hospital for Infants, the Wolbach Building served for 50 years as the home of the Harvard School of Public Health. In addition to architectural salvage from the 1910 building, Children's committed to reusing some of the statues and plants from the garden in new campus green spaces.



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

S.W. CORRIDOR PARK GROUP OFFERS SMALL GRANTS FOR YOUTH, FAMILY PROGRAMS

The Southwest Corridor Park Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) has begun soliciting proposal for mini-grants of \$500–\$600 that would support summertime programming for youth and families that relates to the park. The flexible grants can cover materials, staff time, or whatever is needed to undertake a project. PMAC is open to a variety of types of projects, including recreational, educational, youth leadership, nature study, and local history—but they all must have some kind of connection to the Southwest Corridor Park. To find more information and download the application, visit <http://swpc.org/youthactivities.asp>. Applications are due Monday, May 10.

FENSVIEWS

With New Climate Law in Force, the Real Work Begins

BY WILL BROWNSBERGER

In March, after two years of deliberation and negotiation, the legislature and the governor finalized a new climate road map. The legislation commits the state to cut carbon emissions to “net zero” by 2050.

From a Fenway/urban perspective, imagine a future with zero air pollution. When cars, buses, and building heat systems go electric, it will make a huge difference in urban air quality and health. As carbon emissions go away, so will smoke, fine particulate pollution, and toxic gases.

The real work begins now. Achieving “net zero” will require substantial transformation of our transportation systems, our building heat systems, and our electric power generation infrastructure.

The basic strategy is simple enough: convert our electric generation to clean sources like wind and solar, convert our heating to electric-powered air-source heat pumps, and convert most of our vehicle fleet to electric vehicles. The heaviest vehicles may need to run on some form of alternative fuel—biodiesel or hydrogen.

to accommodate them all in automobiles on the road. Good public transportation is critical to the regional economy and to the quality of life in cities. And many urban dwellers depend entirely on public transportation. Even with the reduction in traffic due to COVID-19, public transportation remains essential.

On any given day, choosing to use public transportation instead of driving reduces greenhouse gas emissions and protects urban air quality. But public transportation does not offer a solution to carbon emissions for the state as a whole.

Public transportation is only green when it is adequately loaded. Buses have very poor fuel mileage compared to cars, so a bus with only a few people on it causes more pollution per capita than a few cars on the road. Most of the state is too spread out to be well served by public transportation. Statewide, public transportation accounts for less than 5 percent of vehicle miles traveled.

If we are going to reduce our emissions from the transportation sector, frequent drivers will need to shift to electric vehicles. Our current plans call for almost a quarter of new car sales to be electric over the next decade. Only about 2 percent of new vehicle sales are electric today, so that will be a huge market shift.

Strong policy mandates will be necessary to support that shift. Massachusetts is following California in requiring increases in the share of electric vehicles as a percentage of new cars sold.

We also need to increase and better target incentives for sales of electric vehicles. Currently we give people \$2,500 for each new electric vehicle. But that is not enough to influence buying decisions. It also equally rewards people who don’t drive much and people who drive a lot.

We should be targeting our incentives to those who drive a lot. From an urban perspective, getting rideshare drivers to shift to electric is a priority, both to reduce carbon emissions and to improve air quality. We want to accelerate the electrification of buses for the same reasons.

In the building sector, the shift to heat pumps may be more difficult than we think. Older buildings may require substantial renovations before they are ready for electric heat pumps.

The new legislation does not solve any of these problems, but it creates a clear framework including interim goals and reporting requirements, which should help keep us all honest over the difficult years to come.

There’s more detail on these issues at my website, willbrownsberger.com. I’m eager for feedback and hope to hear from people.

Will Brownsberger is the state senator from Back Bay, Fenway, Allston, Brighton, Watertown and Belmont.

GUEST OPINION

Implementing the strategy will be harder. Hydro and nuclear are the major non-fossil

sources of steady power. We can only import so much hydro in the face of opposition to new transmission lines. There is little enthusiasm for nuclear power.

Wind and solar are variable sources of power. In a long, calm, winter cold snap, the region would need to draw on stored power or fire up fossil-fuel reserve power. Power storage is expensive and the region’s current storage capacity is very limited.

Since 1990, we’ve made some progress in reducing our carbon emissions from power generation, but that has mostly come through replacement of coal and oil with lower carbon natural gas. Renewables still make up only a small share of our portfolio.

We are likely to start using even more natural gas now that the Pilgrim nuclear plant has closed and, since nuclear power generation doesn’t emit carbon dioxide, that will mean a net increase in emissions.

Our success in putting the electric power pieces together over the next couple of decades will determine our overall success, since reductions in transportation and buildings emissions depend on electrification.

Transportation currently accounts for roughly 40 percent of carbon emissions. People have continued to drive more and more over the past few decades. Fuel-efficiency improvements in cars haven’t been sufficient to prevent an increase in fuel consumption.

In Boston, there are just too many people commuting to be able

Don’t Spend Money on a New Fare-Collection System

TO THE MBTA:

My two cents worth: please use any resources, including federal money, to make an equitable impact now.

Make entering public transit free at all bus stops and T stations in underprivileged neighborhoods.

LETTERS

Public transportation, like public schools, public libraries, public parks and public streets, should be free and welcoming to all.

Every person who takes public transit is doing a favor for all of us—generating less traffic and less pollution.

Use any and all available funds to expand the system.

JOHN BOOKSTON
EAST FENS

ANOTHER SIGN OF WANING VIRUS: OUR ANNUAL MEETING

When the time came to plan the Fenway News Association’s annual meeting last year, we didn’t know enough about Zoom to know how to present a lively meeting—so we canceled it. This year, we plan to revive the meeting, mostly likely in remote form. Look for more details in our June issue.

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,
PO Box 230277, Astor Station
Boston, MA 02123
fenwaynews@gmail.com
www.fenwaynews.org

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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, May 28.**

► DEADLINE ◀

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, May 21.**

THE FENWAY’S SPRING GARDENS (PART 1)



Even with occasional icy blasts, a warmer-than-normal March and a sunny April joined to cover the Victory Gardens with spring flowers last month.

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THE FENWAY'S SPRING GARDENS (PART 2)

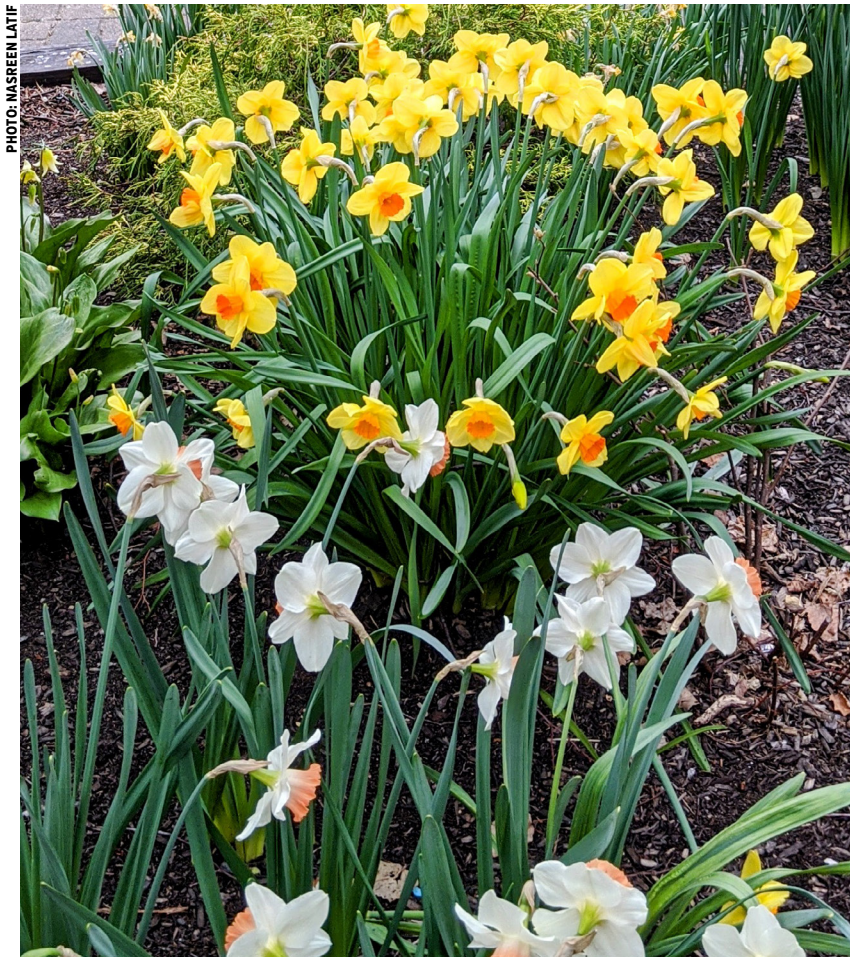


PHOTO: MASREEN LATIF

Flowers bloom at the Symphony Road Community Garden.



PHOTO: BARBARA FAY

Jane Taub, secretary for the Symphony Road Community Garden, works her plot.

With New Garden On The Way In Mission Hill, More People Will Find Community (And Dirt Under Their Nails)

BY IZZY LONIGRO

This summer, there will be more vegetables growing in Mission Hill when a new garden comes to Gore Street.

A garden provides a space for the community to gather, collaborate, and bond, and this garden will offer an equitable space for everyone to enjoy. After years in the making and the hard work and endless dedication of the project leaders and contributors, Mission Hill will have its newest garden by the end of summer.

Mission Hill Health Movement, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring quality of life of residents, received ownership of a plot of land on Gore Street in 2019. The organization was granted money from the City of Boston and raised the remaining funds from other sources. Construction was set to begin at the end of April and finish by late summer.

In the original neighborhood town-hall-style discussions, this plot was going to be used, with others, to develop more affordable housing in Mission Hill, in efforts to combat the increase in the number of students moving into the neighborhood. But eventually it was decided that the plot could be better used for outdoor space, and it was set aside from the other plots for the development of a garden.

"I think a new community garden will help generate aesthetic appreciation in Mission Hill. It will be a good place for physical and mental health and will definitely bring the community closer together," said Hillside Street resident Matt Petrocelli.

Green spaces are vital to communities, and gardens provide outdoor gathering centers, the ability to grow food, and a space to collaborate. Mission Hill is a dense neighborhood with a want for green space that is partially unmet, making this project very important.

"Green space makes people happier. It makes a big difference in mood and happiness levels. It can also increase food security and the

local food-producing capacity of a community," said Shani Fletcher, the Grassroots program director in the City's Department of Neighborhood Development.

Something that makes this garden special is that all the design plans were drawn up by undergraduate and graduate students in Boston wanting to use their knowledge to better the community. Mission Hill Health Movement worked with Laura Feddersen, who was pursuing a master's in landscape architecture at Boston Architectural College, and undergraduate electrical engineering student Dan Janowicz from Wentworth Institute of Technology.

"It has been great to get to work

combined a lot of her interests.

Janowicz was connected with it through Wentworth's Neighborhood Relations office. Janowicz is responsible for designing and building raised garden beds that are wheelchair-accessible, to ensure equal access for all community members.

"One of the most important aspects of this garden is that it can be accessible to anyone," said Janowicz. "A lot of the beds will be wheelchair-accessible, creating access to everybody."

Janowicz, a longtime Boston resident, got involved in community-engagement projects once he began to learn the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute. "For me, it's

Wright has been involved in this community-building work for her decade-long tenure at Wentworth. She is a longtime advocate for community engagement. Gardens, she says, have been a very impactful way to engage with the Mission Hill community.

This garden will become Mission Hill's fourth community garden. Because of a high demand for garden plots in the community, the design for this one strives to be more equitable and accessible than others, with community plots and three-year tenant limits to make sure everyone gets a chance to participate.

Individual plots will cost \$35 to \$50 annually, and Mission Hill Health Movement will provide subsidies for people interested in having a plot but unable to afford one. There will also be community plots for people who have some time to garden but can't commit to gardening weekly. These plots will be open to use by the public.

The garden will also include a shaded area for programming and use by local elementary schools. This structure is much more open to the public than some other community gardens in Boston, which require plot ownership to enter the space.

Construction will begin soon on Gore Street, and Feddersen and Janowicz are eager to see their designs come to life. After weather delays and legal issues, the long-awaited start is just around the corner. More information on plot purchase and community program will be available to residents in the next few months.

A new community garden will present a symbolic space as the community moves out of a difficult year. As residents get vaccinated, and neighbors can gather once more, the new garden will present a place to rekindle old friendships and to find new ones. That is the hope of everyone involved in bringing this project to fruition.

"Every time we do a community garden it is with the hope that it will be an outlet for people to come together," said Wright.

Izzy LoNigro is a journalism student at Northeastern University.



The Gore Street Community Garden site.

in this world," said Feddersen about landscape agriculture. "Gardens bring so much to people of all ages, economic backgrounds, race and culture. Anyone can connect over food."

From the early stages of this project, Feddersen worked to create a design and cost estimate for the garden. She got connected with this project through COGdesign, an organization based in Cambridge that connects communities with design assistance for outdoor spaces. She was eager to join this project, as it

always about giving back," he said.

Wentworth has a long history of community engagement in Mission Hill. The Neighborhood Relations Department recently completed a community garden behind the Tobin community center, with students engineering the project.

"We need the support of the community at Wentworth, and students get a better sense that they are a part of a community through these projects," said Neighborhood Relations director Courtney Wright.

PHOTO: ALISON PUTIMAS

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

The MBTA will run shuttle buses between Kenmore and Washington Street on the B Line as station consolidation west of the BU Bridge shifts into higher gear. Shuttles began in April and continue through May 9 [and after 8:45pm, May 10-12]. They'll resume May 17 and continue through June 13. **✦ The FBI arrested a former Northeastern track coach and charged him with using various ploys on social media to get female athletes to send him photos of themselves nude or partly clothed.** **✦ The BSO announced its Tanglewood schedule and it looks...kinda normal, if shorter than usual.**



Tickets go on sale May 17 at 10am at www.Tanglewood.org.

✦ The team behind the Fenway Center development signed a deal with MassDOT to lease air rights above the Mass Pike along Beacon Street. The Globe reports that the developers will pay \$55 million up front and start building a platform above the turnpike almost immediately. It's only the second air-rights project to break ground since Copley Place, 40 years ago. The project will eventually yield a 350-foot tower mostly filled with labs and offices. **✦ Red Sox owner John Henry consumed a fat slice of humble pie after a new European soccer league collapsed in just 48 hours. FSG owns the storied Liverpool Football Club, which joined 14 other top clubs in announcing their own "Super League" that would, among other things, let owners keep more money rather than sharing revenue across the existing UEFA system. Instantaneous, nearly universal fan fury erupted, leading to an abrupt about-face and an abashed Henry apologizing to Liverpool fans by video. Noted a *Washington Post* sportswriter, "Even before this disastrous episode, public distrust of wealthy team owners with no previous connection to the city or sport was sky high."** **✦ A Globe story about a novel affordable housing model in Cambridge included several quotes from former FCDC executive director Carl Nagy-Koechlin.**

Neighborhood Newsline

Deadline Looms for District 7 Nominations

The deadline to file nomination papers for the District 7 City Council seat, formerly held by Acting Mayor Kim Janey, is May 18 at 5pm. Candidates must have 195 certified signatures from voters registered in the district, and a voter may only sign nomination papers for one candidate. As of April 26, Marisa Coleman Luse, Lorraine Payne Wheeler — both members of the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee— as well as Angie Camacho, Joa DePina, Tania Anderson, Leon Rivera, and Santiago Rivera had announced plans to run.

BU Plans No Big Changes at Former Wheelock Campus

A remote meeting took place April 8 about the Institutional Master Plan for Boston University's Fenway Campus, established following the merger of Wheelock College into BU in 2018. The 3.5-acre campus includes eight buildings, extends from the Riverway to Pilgrim Road to Short Street, and sits entirely in the Fenway. Under the City's zoning code, colleges and universities are required to submit a comprehensive development plan to the BPDA at least every 10 years. The Wheelock College Institutional Master Plan (IMP) expired in September 2020. At that point BU assumed responsibility for the subsequent 10-year IMP. The Wheelock IMP proposed five projects. Three were completed and two discarded. The Campus Center and Student Residence on the Riverway was completed in 2009; renovation of Riverway House, which added 31 dorm beds, was also completed in 2009; and the Earl Center for Learning and Innovation, which added more classrooms and faculty offices at 180 Riverway, was completed in 2013. At the April 8 meeting, Paul Rinaldi, assistant vice president for campus planning at BU, said that the merger of the two colleges had strengthened the education programs of both. He explained that Wheelock specialized in early childhood education, an area that BU lacked. Rinaldi said that BU has neither current plans for major changes nor plans to advance specific future projects. West Fens resident and Fenway Campus Task Force member Tim Ney pointed out that the Fenway is a "K-12 desert" and perhaps BU/Wheelock could institute educational programs for local children. A Pilgrim Road resident complained that vehicles servicing BU's Fenway campus were taking neighborhood parking spots on her street. A comment period ends on May 10. Comments can be sent via email to Edward.Carmody@boston.gov.

City Will Fix Deck, Make Other Improvements on Dalton Street

Planned improvements by Boston's Public Works Department at the intersection of Dalton and Boylston streets, across from the Hynes Auditorium, will extend to adjacent Hereford, Cambria, and Scotia streets. The bridge over the Mass Pike—which was restricted to two lanes of traffic a decade ago, will get a new deck, Hereford will get bulb-outs at the corners in a "tactical pilot" for pedestrian safety. The steep Dalton sidewalk next to the Hynes will be regraded and potentially embellished with a large river-rock seating area. The Public Improvement Commission was expected to approve the project at its April 29 hearing.

BPL Abolishes Late Fees

On April 14, the Boston Public Library announced that it will permanently eliminate late fines, starting on July 1. Under this policy change, the library will also remove all pending overdue fines from patrons' accounts. Patrons will no longer face monetary penalties for returning books late, although they will still be required to return any overdue books in order to check out additional materials. While card holders will no longer incur fines for late returns, they will still be responsible for replacement costs if a book is lost or not returned.

MassArt's Newest Gallery Will Open in SoWa

The Massachusetts College of Art and Design graduate program will open a new gallery, "MassArt x SoWa" at 460 Harrison Avenue. In its pilot year, the exhibition space will feature the thesis work of the program's master of fine arts students. The exhibit will run May 5 to June 6, with hours Wednesday through Saturday from 11am to 6pm and Sundays from 11am to 4pm.

Ride Bluebikes to Your Vaccination for Free

On April 19 Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts began offering free Bluebike rides to and from COVID-19 vaccination sites. Riders can take advantage of this offer by downloading and opening the Bluebikes app on a mobile device and using the codes "BLUEVAX1" and "BLUEVAX2." Each code unlocks a free Adventure Pass, and includes unlimited two-hour free rides for a 24-hour period, giving riders the flexibility to travel to and from a vaccination site. In addition, complimentary bike valets will be available at Newbury and Hereford streets and Roxbury Crossing, given their proximity to the vaccination sites at the Hynes Convention Center and Reggie Lewis Center, respectively.

Janey Taps New Head of Environment and Open Space

On April 19, Acting Mayor Kim Janey named Reverend Mariama White-Hammond, an advocate for environmental justice with the Green Justice Coalition, the Barr Foundation, and other organizations, to become Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space at City Hall. White-Hammond will oversee the Greenovate programs, the Healthy Places initiative, the Parks Department, and the Boston Landmarks Commission. Currently minister at New Roots AME Church in Dorchester, White-Hammond is an accomplished public speaker, a gardener, and a tree activist. In a local connection, she graduated from the Winsor School on Pilgrim Road and holds a master's degree from the BU School of Theology.

220 Huntington Avenue Update

Developer Ted Tye's residential project, which would replace the Midtown Hotel on Huntington Avenue, faced criticism at the Boston Civic Design Commission meeting on April 27. The Commission required architect David Nagahiro to go back to the drawing board again. The design for the 500-foot façade along Huntington continues to be the sticking point. Tye said he had never had this much difficulty with any of his prior developments.

S O X B O X

Tue, May 4	7:10pm	Sat, May 15	4:10pm
Wed, May 5	7:10pm	Sun, May 16	1:10pm
Thu, May 6	1:10pm	Tue, May 25	7:10pm
Tue, May 11	7:10pm	Wed, May 26	7:10pm
Wed, May 12	7:10pm	Fri, May 28	7:10pm
Thu, May 13	7:10pm	Sat, May 29	4:10pm
Fri, May 14	7:10pm	Sun, May 30	1:10pm

Farmers Markets

It's peak asparagus season. Also look for scallions, spinach, and lettuce.

ROXBURY CROSSING T STATION (ORANGE LINE)	Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
COPLEY SQUARE	Tuesday & Friday	11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
SOUTH END: 500 HARRISON AVENUE (AT SOWA ARTS MARKET)	Sunday	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

STREET CLEANING & TRASH PICK-UP

TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

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

STREET CLEANING (APR.-DEC.)

Fenway streets get cleaned 12-4pm on the first and third Wednesdays of each month [odd-numbered side] and the second and fourth Wednesdays [even-numbered side]. More info at 617-635-4900 or www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sweeping.

The DCR cleans state-owned roads along the Back Bay Fens on this schedule:

- **SECOND THURSDAY**
8:00am-12:00pm: The Riverway

- **SECOND FRIDAY**
 - > 8:00am-noon: The Fenway from Ave. Louis Pasteur to Westland (includes inside lane) + Forsyth Way
 - > 12:00-3:00pm: 8 to 54 The Fenway (includes inside lane) + Boylston + Charlesgate East + Charlesgate Extension
 - **THIRD TUESDAY**
 - > 8:00am-noon : Park Drive from Boylston St. to Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral (includes inside lane) + upper Boylston Street
 - > 12:00-3:00pm: Park Drive from Holy Trinity to The Pierce, then from D Line overpass to Beacon Street
- Visit www.mass.gov/doc/fenway/download

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The Arts

Learning on the Fly, Lansdowne Pub Protected Workers, Found New Revenue Streams, and Plans a Strong Comeback

BY DEREK MOUNTAIN

It's a Saturday night—the Red Sox just won and you're meeting some friends at The Lansdowne Pub right across the street from Fenway Park on Lansdowne Street.

The music is loud, the bar is busy, and the mood is vibrant. "It's definitely one of the best night bar scenes in Boston," says executive chef Luke Beardslee.

Beardslee says The Lansdowne is known for its late-night entertainment coupled with a rich Irish tradition. Pair that with an ambitious chef with a plan to revamp the culinary direction of the pub and you could have something special.

Beardslee has gone all-in on his pursuit of being a top-tier chef. He had bounced around New England, temporarily moved to Los Angeles to help launch his career, only to find himself back in Massachusetts in 2010. He started his career at The Lansdowne at the beginning of 2020 as the executive chef and acting general manager.

"We had a plan to redo the menu," Beardslee says, looking back to the weeks before the pandemic hit Boston. "We launched the new menu in February for about three weeks before the pandemic unfolded. We wanted to sprinkle in Irish dishes that were cohesive to our Irish theme, things like hand pies, pastries, other traditional Irish street food."

Suddenly, it took a very dark turn. "It's horrible what happened in our country, but we were able to retain our workers without having to let anyone go. They kept their health insurance and 2020 really forced us to become much more business savvy."

The Lansdowne had to find ways to be innovative and creative in order to keep business afloat as best as it could. "We're known for large events—bands, comedians, DJs. The 9:30 curfew made it really difficult for us." Following social-distancing protocols, The Lansdowne launched a series of beer, whiskey, and tequila tasting dinners that proved very successful.



Luke Beardslee in front of The Lansdowne Pub.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKE BEARDSLEE

Despite the turmoil, Lansdowne bounced back as well as one could have hoped. "In the 10 years that Lansdowne has been running we have not had to lay anyone off," said Beardslee, "and we managed to keep that streak alive during the pandemic."

While The Lansdowne was fortunate enough to stay afloat, according to restaurant-review site The Infatuation, 85 restaurants in Greater Boston have closed permanently.

The Lansdowne was able to work with Lucky's Lounge in the Seaport and live-stream their musicians on social media with a professional sound board and multiple Go-Pro cameras.

Along with finding new and creative ways to generate revenue, The Lansdowne showed an ability to adapt on the fly. "We managed to accomplish a lot this year," said Beardslee.

"Over the course of the pandemic, we've tried to become accustomed to the new norms of our social lives. It's been nearly a year since the beginning of the pandemic, and it's still an ongoing adjustment.

"We have cultivated an Irish tradition at our pub that's important to this community," says Beardslee. "It's a place of comfort for Bostonians, and now that it is temporarily out of our lives, it makes us want and appreciate these lost privileges even more."

Restaurants like The Lansdowne embed a sense of culture, community, and fulfill our need for social connection. For The Lansdowne, that means carrying on and celebrating an Irish tradition in a city rooted in Irish culture. Beardslee takes great pride in the pub's Irish roots and is ready for a major bounceback in 2021.

The bar went into hibernation on November 28, but reopened the second week of March right before St. Patrick's Day and Red Sox opening day.

"We have way more confidence going into 2021 and have a much better understanding of what works and doesn't work," Beardslee states. "We don't have to learn everything on the fly."

Derek Mountain is a journalism student at Northeastern University.

New Biennial Festival Showcases Poetry in Roxbury on June 5

Registration has opened for the inaugural Roxbury Poetry Festival, to be held on Sat. June 5, 10am-9pm.

The festival will take place every other year and showcase poetry in Roxbury. The festival features award-winning writers, panelists, and curator. Poet Jericho Brown, winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for poetry, will deliver the keynote address. The festival is free and open to the public.

Due to the pandemic and the desire to protect public health, the majority of this year's festival will take place online. If public health guidance permits, some events will take place outdoors.

For details and registration, visit the festival website, roxburypoetryfestival.com.

MFA ADDS TWO EXHIBITS, EXTENDS BASQUIAT

On May 1, the MFA unveils a new addition to its long-running *Women Take the Floor* exhibition. "Personal and Political: Women Photographers, 1965-1985," presents more than 30 works made during a pivotal period when women began pursuing photography professionally in larger numbers than ever before. The photographs present a range of subject matter, demonstrating how women photographers represented themselves and each other, captured both the natural world and the domestic sphere, and took to the streets to document current events.

- *Monet and Boston: Legacy Illuminated* runs through October. A blockbuster show of Monet's work, assembled to celebrate the museum's 150th anniversary, closed in its early weeks due to the pandemic. This follow-up—something of a consolation prize for museum goers—highlights 25 masterpieces by the artist from the museum's holdings and local private collections.
- The museum has extended *Writing the Future: Basquiat and the Hip-Hop Generation* through July 25. The exhibition brings together more than 120 works by Jean-Michel Basquiat and 11 of his peers.

EATS BEAT

- The Squealing Pig, Diarmuid O'Neill's Mission Hill tavern, reopened in April. Newly dubbed

WoodFiredLove, the pizzeria features a wood-fired oven, an array of craft beers, a cocktail menu, milkshakes and more. There is outdoor seating on the quiet block of Smith Street between Worthington and Wigglesworth streets near Brigham Circle.

- The Starbucks on Mass. Ave. at Haviland Street closed in March. No

word yet on what might take over the space.

- Time Out Market announced it will reopen in May, but hasn't yet named a date. Trillium's 401 Park beer garden, located nextdoor, has already reopened (below).
- The *Globe's* "Tables" column ran a long list of Fenway restaurants coming back from hibernation or opening patio dining, including Trillium; Audubon restaurant; Loretta's Last Call, Lansdowne Pub, and Game On; Citizen, Sweet Cheeks, and Nathalie Wine Bar.

Art Meets Ice Cream at JP Licks

The JP Links in Brigham Circle is showcasing the work of artist Nygel Jones. Born and raised in Boston, Jones explains on his artistic practice on his website as "painting and woodworking, I construct shapes in ways that extend beyond our known existing geometric shapes. I find working through my process, a constant experimentation and constant discovery from the various materials and tools I use."



PHOTO: ALISON PULITINAS



May

CALENDAR

Fri, 4/30, 5/7, & 5/14

Join Simmons University for **COLLECTING & CONNECTING**, a series introducing participants to the artists behind the university's art collection's most recent

@ THE CENTER

Due to the pandemic, the Fenway Community Center now hosts both virtual and in-person activities. Find links and more information 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.
- **Wednesday, 8pm: GAME NIGHT.** Play Drawful and other online games suitable for all ages.
- **Thursday, 8pm: GAME NIGHT.**
- **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.
- **Friday, May 21, 7pm: PAINT NIGHT.** No matter your artistic ability, you'll enjoy creating your own work of art.
- **Monday, May 31, 6pm: ARTS AND CRAFTS.** Try a variety of activities with Tribora and Laura Jean. All ages welcome! Materials will be provided.

acquisitions. On April 30, Simmons hosts Destiny Palmer, an artist and educator who explores the intersections of painting, history, and color. On May 7 Rocky Cotard, a visual artist born in Mirebalais, Haiti, and raised in Boston joins the presentation. He works in painting, printmaking, and drawing. On May 14, Simmons welcomes Rixy Fernandez, who explores themes of feminine divinity in her rich and often sensuous art. Register at <http://bit.ly/trustman-talks> for these virtual events. 5pm. **FREE.**

Sat, 5/1

ART & STORIES WITH EKUA HOLMES. MassArt hosts award-winning illustrator and artist Ekua Holmes, MassArt class of 1977, who will read her latest book *Black is a Rainbow Color*, written by Angela Joy. Afterwards, MAAM Educator Julia Einstein will guide participants through a short artmaking activity designed especially for three- to five-year-olds. Visit https://massart.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrdOmsqz0sG9Co9b_xluQajb3h7MCx94V8 to register. 10am. **FREE.**

Mon, 5/3

FENWAY CDC HEALTHY HABITS PROGRAM. Health and Wellness Webinar on "Crash Diets & Why They Don't Work." 6:15-7pm. Contact Anar Kansara at AKansara@Fenwaycdc.org to register. **FREE.**

Tue, 5/4

FENWAY CDC HEALTHY HABITS PROGRAM. Virtual Yoga with Chavi Bansal. 6:15-7pm. Contact Anar Kansara at AKansara@Fenwaycdc.org to register. **FREE.**

Wed, 5/5 & 5/19

- **FENWAY FAIR FOODS.** Get a bag of fresh fruits & vegetables for FREE! Walk-ins are welcome. Holy Trinity Orthodox

Cathedral, 165 Park Drive. 3-5pm. Contact Jasmine Vargas at jvargas@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 213-2295 with any questions. **FREE.**

- **ONE FAMILY'S ANNUAL EVENT.** This event celebrates the accomplishment of One Family Scholars while learning how this program impacts family homelessness in Boston and across the Commonwealth. One Family helps single parents graduate from college with a degree, land a stable job, and live in permanent housing. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/one-familys-annual-celebration-tickets-140305669033 for tickets to this virtual event. 6pm. **FREE.**

Thu, 5/6

EMERALD NECKLACE CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MEETING. Join the Emerald Necklace to learn about its tree care program and why a healthy urban tree canopy is essential to our city. The Conservancy will be joined by Dr. Jim Clark, managing consulting arborist for HortScience, and other experts to discuss the importance of a healthy tree canopy and the nearby environment, direct human interaction in an urban environment and the broader public health impacts a tree canopy (or lack thereof) can have on the surrounding community. Register at www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/2021-annual-meeting for this virtual meeting. 5:30pm. **FREE.**

Thu, 5/13

The Boston Public Library welcomes epidemiologist, journalist, and filmmaker **DR. CELINE GOUNDER** for an online conversation moderated by BPL President David Leonard. In this talk, Gounder will examine the far-reaching impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has gotten a lot of questions from both

American citizens and healthcare professionals on where we go from here. Visit <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5feb593725c2fc430bf1765a> for more information and to register. 6pm. **FREE.**

Mon, 5/24

The Boston Public Library hosts an online discussion with **JO NAPOLITANO, AUTHOR OF "THE SCHOOL I DESERVE: SIX YOUNG REFUGEES AND THEIR FIGHT FOR EQUALITY IN AMERICA,"** and **MEGAN WOOLHOUSE, K-12 EDUCATION REPORTER FOR GBH NEWS.** This program is part of the BPL's "Repairing America" series. Visit <https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/6079e27b9c2964240011b2ff> for more information and to register. 6pm. **FREE.**

SENIOR EVENTS

Due to the pandemic, the Peterborough Senior Center continues to host virtual activities. To receive Zoom links and call-in numbers, please email Mallory Rohrig at mallory@operationpeaceboston.org.

- **May 11 at 1:00pm: OLDER ADULTS TECHNOLOGY (OATS)** with Breana Clark, Associate Director of Program Operations
- **May 13 at 11:30am: COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH NANDINI S. CHOUDHURY,** Women's Health Coordinator at Fenway Health
- **May 18 at 1pm: REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND MBTA ACCESSIBILITY**
- **May 27 at 11:30am: COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH SGT. PAUL DELEO—Scams and Safety**

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