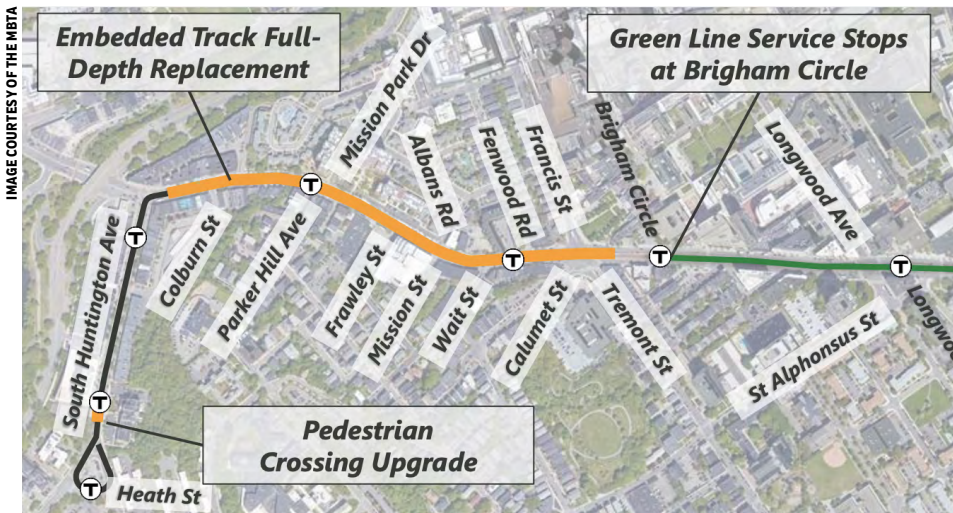


August Track Work Closes Key E Line Segment in Mission Hill



BY ALISON PULTINAS

For Mission Hill residents, announcement from the MBTA of another August closure for the E line felt like déjà vu because of last year's work on the line's South Huntington segment. Huntington Avenue is getting dug up from Brigham Circle west past Mission Park Drive to repair the pavement and tracks for the street-running section of the Green Line.

The Green Line Transformation (GLT) team gave an informational presentation on the project July 14, but their virtual platform didn't allow participants to see or interact with each other within the chat function. "We can't even see our neighbors' comments in the Q&A," said attendee Toni Komst.

In the meeting, GLT chief Angel Peña frequently used the words *safety* and *accessibility* without seeming to be aware of any contradiction. This replacement project does not fix the problem of current stops—Fenwood, Mission Park and Back of the Hill—where riders must get on and off trolleys in traffic. Speakers said the repair project could further delay solutions to those serious safety concerns. In other words, any plans to move the tracks are even more pie in the sky, given the federal funding paying for their replacement now.

Dr. Srdjan Nedeljkovic of the Arborway Coalition said in an email that the MBTA should consider a more appropriate, ADA-accessible design for Huntington now, rather than spending time and money rebuilding the track in its current noncompliant form. "I am concerned that the reconstruction will delay the eventual proper treatment of this section of roadway. Who would want to tear up the new work? Instead, it may fossilize the current unsafe design for at least the next decade."

Peña said accessibility changes for those stops are five to ten years away. Franklyn Salimbene of Jamaica Plain questioned the framing of this current project as safety: "No one looking at this plan would say this is safe, not for bikers and not for transit riders."

Construction will take place 24/7 to carry out the improvements quickly. August was chosen for the work because it typically has lower ridership volumes. Participants asked about the impact of the reduced road width and the elimination of parking combined with the early return of college students and their moving vans.

Passengers can board the 39 bus for free from the closed stops during
E LINE CLOSURE on page 3 >



Left to Right: Karla Rideout, Rosaria Salerno, Bob Case, three of the founders of First Fenway Cooperative.

New State Co-op Bill Follows 40-Year-Old Fenway Model

BY MAT THALL

Sometime in 1979, Sandra Brant, a former classmate of mine in MIT's City Planning program, was looking out of a living room window in her third-floor apartment on Mass. Ave. and saw her landlord crossing the street with a group of "suits." Savvy to the real estate shenanigans flying around the Fenway Urban Renewal area, Sandra correctly surmised that the landlord was looking to sell the property.

Sandra raised the alarm among her friends, an uncommon group of neighborhood activists. The tenants got together, approached the owner and proposed that he sell the buildings to them, with the idea that they would own it jointly as a housing cooperative. The landlord was very open to the proposal, and the group raised financing, purchased 143 and 149 Mass. Ave., and formed the First Fenway Cooperative in March 1980.

Unbeknownst to the First Fenway Cooperators, some 450 miles away the District of Columbia city council that very same month was enacting a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA), which would give residents of apartment buildings the right to match an offer to purchase their homes when their landlord put the building up for sale. In the first year after enactment, tenants purchased some 2,000 units of rental housing in Washington, D.C. Since then, thousands more have been converted to cooperatives or purchased by nonprofit developers to preserve as affordable rental housing.

The formation of the First Fenway Cooperative was somewhat unique in Boston. Several other affordable apartment complexes were sold to tenants who formed housing co-ops in the Fenway and Mission Hill: The Bata-via Cooperative on Symphony Road, Charles-bank Homes Co-op on Huntington Avenue, and the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard, also on Huntington. In most cases, the owner was a nonprofit organization; sales by "friendly land-lords" to tenants have been rare in Boston.

In fact, more and more rental housing is being sold to speculators and flippers throughout the city and the state. Developers and investors laden with cash are buying all manner of housing to convert to condominiums, upgrade to luxury rental, or tear down and build mega-developments. Tenants are being driven out of neighborhoods. Several nonprofit developers, who have received funding to buy "naturally occurring

affordable housing" find that sellers refuse to talk to them, although they can often match the offers of the speculators.

In 2016, the Massachusetts Association of Housing Cooperatives proposed that Boston officials sponsor a TOPA law for Boston. Shortly after these conversations began, a TOPA bill was filed in the state legislature. More than 100 people, including the mayor of Somerville, then-City Councilor Ayanna Presley, and the City's chief of housing turned out at a State House hearing to speak in favor of TOPA. However, the TOPA bill did not pass during that session.

Reintroduced in 2019, it received similar broad support and passed on the very last day of the legislative session in early January of this year. Unfortunately, Gov. Charlie Baker vetoed the bill. Supporters legislators felt that they had the votes to override the veto, had the legislature been able to remain in session.

The TOPA Coalition quickly worked on redrafting the bill and recruiting new legislative sponsors and filed a new version in late January. The main points of the bill remain unchanged since the 2019 filing:

- The bill is an enabling act, meaning it gives cities and town the right to adopt a TOPA ordinance that meets the act's requirements. Municipalities that don't feel that it is needed will not adopt an ordinance.
- Ordinances passed under the act will require landlords to notify tenants and the municipality when they put a building up for sale.
- If 51 percent of a tenant association desires to purchase the building, the tenants would have 30 days to make a first offer (which the landlord is not bound to accept), and if the landlord receives an offer from a third party, the tenant association has 30 days to match that offer and five months to secure financing and purchase the building.
- Tenants can also assign their rights to a nonprofit with housing development experience. They may also partner with any qualified developer to keep the housing affordable for the long term.
- Small property owners are exempted from the provisions of the act.

The Fenway's elected officials have been tremendously supportive of TOPA. The current version of the bill was introduced by State Rep. Jay Livingstone. The bill has been co-sponsored by State Reps. Jon Santiago

TOPA on page 3 >

CONCERT ALERT

FENWAY PARK | ALL CONCERTS END AT 10:30PM

AUG 3
5:30PM / **GUNS N' ROSES**

AUG 4
6:00PM / **BILLY JOEL**

AUG 5
5:00PM / **GREEN DAY + FALL OUT BOY + WEEZER**

AUG 6
6:30PM / **NKOTB + BELL BIV DEVOE**

AUG 8
6:30PM / **ZAC BROWN BAND**

REPORTING NOISE OR FAN MISBEHAVIOR:
To report excessive concert noise levels or fan misbehavior, call these numbers. It's most effective to call all three.
SOX COMPLAINT LINE @ 617-226-6424 / CITY PROBLEM LINE @ 311
CITY LICENSING BOARD @ 617-635-4170

Demands for Full Restoration of the 55 Bus Continue at Rallies



PHOTO: STEVE CHASE

Proponents of full restoration of the 55 bus have held regular Sunday rallies this summer at the corner of Queensberry and Jersey streets. The photos show rallies on July 25. Rally participants want to see the full route to Park Street restored and a return of all-day service; currently, buses only travel between Queensberry and Copley Square and only run 10am to 3:50pm. The campaign has drawn the support of residents, local organizations, businesses and institutions. On Thursday, Aug. 5, the MBTA will hold a virtual public meeting at 6pm to preview its fall schedule. Visit www.mbta.com/events/2021-08-05/public-meeting-fall-2021-service-changes-virtual-to-register.

Safe Bet: Next Mayor Will Make Boston History

BY KELSEY BRUUN
There are five major candidates running for mayor of Boston, and regardless of the outcome, the next mayor will make city history. Four of the major candidates are women, so the chances are favorable that the winner in November will be the first woman elected to the post. All four women, as well as the fifth major candidate, a man, are candidates of color. Every mayor in the city’s history has been a white man.
Voters head to the polls on Sept. 14 to narrow the field to two candidates. The general election will take place on Nov. 2.

Michelle Wu, a city councilor at-large, and **Andrea Campbell**, city councilor from District 4, which includes parts of Dorchester, Mattapan, Jamaica Plain, and Roslindale, announced their candidacies prior to then-Mayor Marty Walsh’s resignation in March. Both began their campaigns in September of last year. Wu’s website states that her campaign focuses on “the pursuit of racial, economic, and climate justice.” Similarly, Campbell’s website says she is “focused on working to break cycles of poverty, trauma, and generational inequity.”
After President Joe Biden nominated

Walsh as U.S. Secretary of Labor early this year, four other major candidates announced their candidacies. However, **Jon Santiago**, state representative for the 9th Suffolk district, which covers a large part of the Fenway, dropped out of the race in mid-July. The three other candidates still in the race are **Annissa Essaibi George**, a city councilor at-large, **John Barros**, former chief of economic development for the City, and Acting Mayor **Kim Janey**, who served previously as city councilor for District 7 (see map below for more information on this district). Janey was serving as City Council president when Walsh resigned, and under

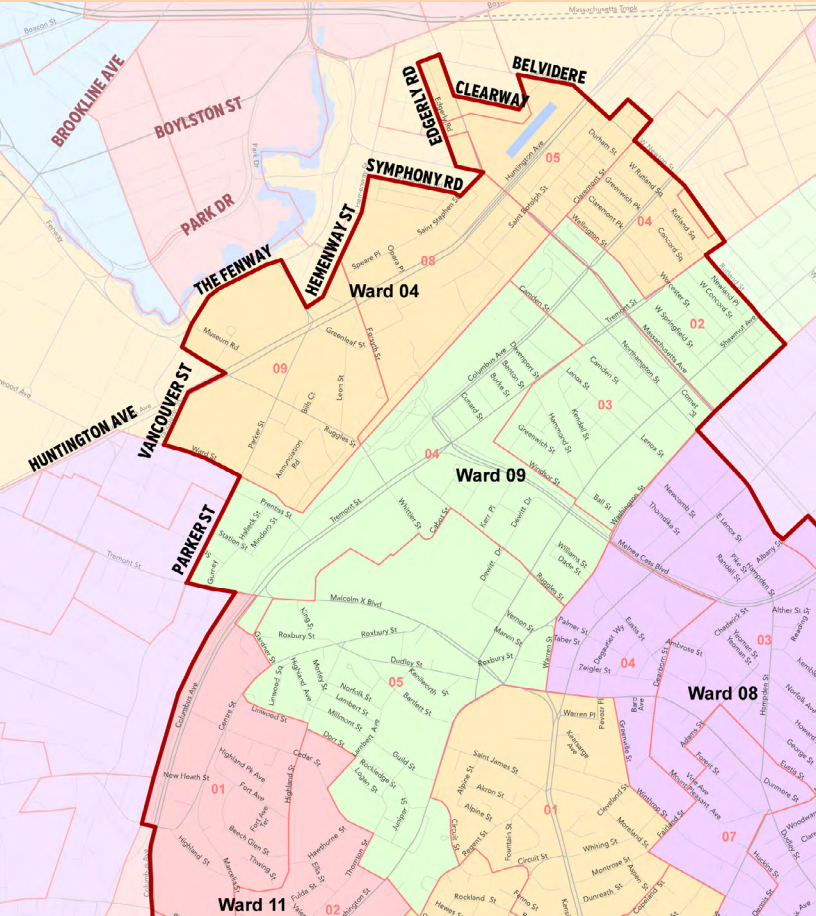
the city charter, the council president fills a vacancy in the mayor’s office.
Essaibi George’s website states “real change, real progress happens when we come together. When we seek to better understand each other. Nothing is off the table, when we ensure everyone is at the table.” Barros’s website says he’d like to see Boston become a “stronger and more equitable city than we were before.” Janey’s website says that the acting mayor “remains focused on equity, economic justice, and civil rights.”
All of the candidates’ websites feature detailed policy proposals related to everything from housing to equity to education to climate change.

A handful of labor unions and political leaders have endorsed Janey, while a variety of political leaders and the Democratic committees for Wards 4 and 5 (see pages 4 and 5) have endorsed Wu. Unions representing firefighters, EMTs, nurses, as well as municipal and electrical have endorsed Essaibi George, while Campbell has also snagged select political endorsements.
Polls from late June show Wu and Janey leading the pack, followed by Essaibi George, Campbell, then Barros. Robert Capucci and Richard Spagnuolo are also running for mayor.
With Wu and Essaibi George giving up at-large seats on the council, the at-large race is crowded with newcomers—13 candidates are competing for the four seats, including incumbents Michael Flaherty and Julia Mejia, who are running for reelection.
Kelsey Bruun is the editor of the Fenway News.

EIGHT ROXBURY RESIDENTS VIE FOR D7 COUNCIL SEAT

BY ALISON PULTINAS
All eight candidates running in the City Council District 7 race live in Roxbury, the dominant neighborhood in the district. However, residents from the Fenway, Mission Hill, and parts of the South End and Back Bay also live within the district’s boundaries. Multiple ward committees, representing all the district’s neighborhoods, co-sponsored a virtual candidate’s night held on July 15. The event drew more than 100 viewers.
District 7 has only existed since 1982, created after a 1981 referendum added district councilors to the council. Previously, all councilors ran citywide, a situation that favored neighborhoods with more voters and often marginalized voters of color.
Historically, all streets in District 7 were part of the City of Roxbury, which Boston annexed in 1868. In addition to the dominant neighborhood, District 7 voters hail from the new high-rise One Dalton, Church Park apartments and other blocks in the East Fens, the St. Botolph area, Mission Hill’s Alice Taylor Apartments, and the new housing on Roxbury Crossing’s Gurney Street.
Acting Mayor Kim Janey has represented the district since 2018. In the open preliminary race in 2017, she

beat 12 other candidates and received 1,534 votes. In the general election, she ran against Rufus Faulk. The 2019 race was less competitive, Janey faced only two opponents in the preliminary and won in November with 3,852 votes against Roy Owens Sr.



A portion of District 7.

Two of the candidates running this year, Angelina Camacho and Joao DePina, both ran in 2017. Five others—Brandy Brooks, Santiago Leon Rivera, Taina Fernandes Anderson, Lorraine Payne Wheeler, and Marisa Luse—are newcomers. The eighth candidate, perennial candidate Roy Owens, Sr., also submitted nomination signatures for an at-large seat. He did not participate in the July 15 forum, which former District 7 Councilor Tito Jackson moderated. Jackson served three terms, from 2011 to 2017.
Joint forum hosts included the Ward 4, 8, 9, and 12 Democratic Committees and a dozen other community sponsors. You can view it on

YouTube at <https://youtu.be/HzihQqUo2rA>
Ward 4 Committee co-chair Jonathan Cohn reported that his committee members did not reach an endorsement for District 7 but might consider endorsing after the Sept. 14 preliminary elections. There are no endorsements yet from the other committees.
Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

WHEN DO WE VOTE?

- Boston holds nonpartisan elections. Instead of party primaries, a preliminary election narrows the field to two candidates for each office. In the final election, you vote for six people—mayor, four at-large councilors, and a district councilor.
- The PRELIMINARY ELECTION will take place Tues., SEPT. 14.
 - The FINAL ELECTION will take place Tues., NOV 2.

CORRECTION

MassArt senior Mellina Illinger’s work on four boxes on Tremont Street was not funded through the Paint Box program, as reported in the May 2021 issue of the Fenway News. Instead, Mission Hill Main Streets was the patron.

COVID-19 UPDATE

COMPILED BY MARY ANN BROGAN

As of July 23, there were 71,689 confirmed coronavirus cases in Boston. There have been 1,396 deaths.

As of July 13, 59.7 percent of Boston residents are fully vaccinated. There are currently no mobile vaccine sites in the Fenway or Mission Hill. However, there are ample vaccine supplies available at sites throughout the city. The closest City walk-in site is at the Renaissance School at 250 Stuart St. in Park Square. All Boston residents can walk in on August 4 between 9am and 5pm and receive a vaccine.

Residents can also walk into Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, or schedule an appointment at Fenway Health by calling (617) 927-6060. Vaccine appointments are available at both 1340 Boylston Street in the Fenway and 142 Berkeley Street on the South End/Back Bay line. CVS also has vaccine appointments available, schedule at CVS or text your ZIP code [e.g., 02215] to “438829” and they'll text sites near you with information on signing up.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

AREA	TOTAL NUMBER TESTED	PERCENTAGE OF POSITIVE TESTS (CUMULATIVE)	% OF POSITIVE TESTS FOR CURRENT WEEK	TESTING RATES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS
Back Bay/ Beacon Hil/ West End/ Downtown/ North End	56,326	6.4%	2.8%	101,082.1
Fenway	90,793	3.8%	2.3%	165,901.7
Mission Hill /Roxbury	49,056	11.3%	1.7%	113,747.8

CASES: RACE/ETHNICITY ANALYSIS	KNOWN CASES	% OF CASES
Asian/Pacific Islander	4,023	6%
Black/African American	16,182	24%
Latinx/Hispanic	19,691	30%
White	22,177	34%
Other	3,978	6%
Total Boston Cases with Race/Ethnicity Identified	66,051	

Of 71,689 cases in Boston, 92.1% include data for race/ethnicity

DEATHS: RACE/ETHNICITY ANALYSIS	KNOWN DEATHS	% OF KNOWN DEATHS
Asian/Pacific Islander	108	8%
Black/African American	453	32%
Latinx/Hispanic	189	14%
White	599	43%
Other	46	3%
Total Race/Ethnicity Identified Deaths in Boston	1,395	

Of 1,396 deaths in Boston, 99.9% include data for race/ethnicity

Longwood’s Summer Games



On a sunny Friday, at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center’s Shapiro Plaza on Brookline Avenue, players enjoy a brisk game of ping pong. MASCO, the service group for Longwood-area hospitals and schools, has brought back public outdoor events after a hiatus last summer. A schedule of lunchtime concerts and food truck locations appears at longwoodoutside.org. If you’re interested in playing ping pong after 6pm or on weekends, bring your own paddles and ball. The activities box is only available Monday–Friday during work hours.

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

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

No one is wearing a mask at all, either indoors or outdoors, said my friend from Brighton. However, I’ve noticed that in the Fenway, many people are wearing masks. Cases in point.

Eight people were waiting in line at El Pelon. All, including myself, wore masks. What was interesting was that none of the staff—two cooks and a counter person—were wearing masks.

At Chair Yoga at Symphony Park, about a dozen people attended. It was an outdoor area with separations of six feet, certainly meeting CDC guidelines for abandoning one’s mask. Yet, half of the participants were wearing masks.

At the CVS in the West Fens, there was no sign on the door asking customers to wear masks. Inside there were about 15 customers —eight were wearing masks, as were all the cashiers. After I got home,

MASKING, REVISITED

I received a survey from CVS. One of the questions: *Were our staff wearing masks?*

At the Star Market in the West Fens on a Thursday evening about half of the 30 or so customers were wearing masks.

At the intersection of Mass. Ave. and Boylston Street in the East Fens, nearly two-thirds of pedestrians were masked, even though they were outdoors.

And at the Astor Station Post Office a few blocks away on Mass. Ave., three large signs stated that mask wearing was required. In line were 12 people (though only 10 are allowed according to the sign). Nine of the 12 wore masks; Number 12 entered without a mask but put one on when they saw that most were wearing masks.

Are we just being more careful in the Fenway? It would seem so.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens. Mary Ann Brogan contributed data to this story. She lives in the East Fens.

> **TOPA** from page 1

and Chynah Tyler. City councilor Kenzie Bok introduced a resolution in the Boston City Council endorsing TOPA, which received near unanimous support. In July, the Ward 4 Democratic Committee endorsed TOPA. Approximately 45 local, regional, statewide, and national organizations have endorsed

TOPA, and 43 members of the legislature have co-sponsored the current version of the bill.

Mat Thall lives in the East Fens; he is a member of the board of Fenway CDC, Mass. Association of Housing Cooperatives and the TOPA Coalition Steering Committee. For more information, visit the TOPA Coalition website at topa4ma.org.

> **E LINE CLOSURE** from page 1

construction, and the T promises additional buses on call if needed. The firm VHB did some quick ridership counts in July to estimate the number of riders that will be affected.

The major impact will be at the intersection of Francis and Tremont streets in Brigham Circle. Restaurants with outdoor tables set up in the parking zone—Penguin Pizza, Mission Bar and Grill, and Laughing Monk—will lose that seating for at least a week. Penguin owner Dermot Doyne was irate and said 70 percent of his business now depends on outdoor seating.

The T staff previously had met with business owners and defended their plan as having the least impact; an earlier work plan would have required 18 days in that work zone. That phase will occur toward the end of the month.

Also affected by the work at Brigham Circle will be the route 66 bus, which is expected to detour to St. Alphonsus Street, according to Ben Frison of the T.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

BY ALISON PULTINAS

CITY APPROVALS

- The Fenway Community Development Corporation’s residential project for **72 Burbank St.** was scheduled for a vote at the July Boston Planning & Development Agency board hearing but was removed from the agenda on the day of the hearing. There was no explanation of the change from the proponents or the agency.
- The proposal for 71 compact apartments at **601 Newbury St.**, just outside Kenmore Square, received BPDA board approval. The project would add four floors above the existing three-story building, now vacant. The project still must undergo BPDA design review and receive Zoning Board approval. BPDA board chair Priscilla Rojas questioned the developer’s attorney, Jeff Drago, about the minimal number of affordable units — the project has no units for households with incomes below 70 percent of the area median, a relatively high threshold.

PUBLIC REVIEWS

The relentless pace of Fenway public meetings continued in July, with multiple remote sessions and comment period deadlines for some of the 17 developments (including four life science labs) under way or proposed.

BPDA project managers Eddie Carmody and Aisling Kerr run both the Brookline Avenue Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings and the public gatherings—all are held virtually. A promised site tour for the CAC is scheduled for 12pm on August 3, a time that member Dolores Boogdanian said was not convenient for several members and would not provide a look at any Fenway Park impacts or even with normal peak traffic. The 15 members are a mix of business and institutional representatives and residents. Tom Yardley, chief planner from MASCO, replaced Sandeep Karnik, who resigned in July.

Consultants for the 109 Brookline Ave. project, WS Fenway Park redevelopment

proposal, and Landmark Center Phase 3 have all submitted transportation studies. However, members of the CAC and the public have criticized the studies for relying on traffic counts from days without baseball games or concerts. Those events bring traffic and cause detours and congestion for MBTA buses while adding huge numbers of pedestrians to narrow sidewalks. All three proposed projects come with new parking structures.

- The largest proposal—submitted by **WS Development** with Fenway Sports Group and the D’Angelo family—would redevelop parcels on Jersey, Van Ness, and Lansdowne streets, and Brookline Avenue. Public comments were due July 23, but Yanni Tsipis of WS said late feedback would still be welcome. Tsipis said his team expects to submit future filings to the BPDA and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act office. The tallest building in the project, at 22 stories, would fill the parking lot between Brookline Ave. and Lansdowne Station. The proposal calls for demolition of multiple existing older buildings and permanent closure of Jersey Street alongside Fenway Park to all vehicular traffic. The Boston Civic Design Commission will review the plan at its monthly meeting on Aug. 3.
- The BPDA board plans to vote Aug. 19 on a proposed change in the already-approved planned development area for **401 Park Drive/Landmark Center Phase 3**. The revised project would add 515,000 square feet of office and research space; a building devoted to life sciences, research, and development would include a 50,000-square-foot grocery store on the ground floor, currently designated as the new home for the nearby Star Market, as we reported in our June issue. The new building would occupy the site of the Bed, Bath and Beyond store (closing sale going on now) and part of the existing above-ground garage.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

FENS VIEWS

Ward 4 Dems Back Candidates Ready to Meet City’s Challenges

BY JONATHAN COHN

When Boston voters go to the polls Sept. 14, many issues will be on their minds. How can we ensure that our recovery from the recession and the pandemic leaves us with a more equitable and sustainable city than we had before? How can we ensure that our students, who have had a chaotic year and a half in and outside of the classroom, have the support they need to succeed? How do we rethink public safety in a way that reduces violence while investing in and empowering communities that have been over-policed? How do we prepare our coastal city for the threat of climate change within a rapidly closing window for action? How can we prevent people from being priced out of the city they love and make Boston a place where people can afford to live—and to thrive—at any stage of life? The questions abound.

Fortunately, some Boston candidates are ready to meet these challenges head on, which is why the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee is proud to endorse Michelle Wu for mayor; Julia Mejia, David Halbert, and Ruthzee Louijeune for city councilor-at-large; and Ed Flynn and Kenzie Bok for re-election as city councilors for Districts 2 and 8, respectively.

Since being elected in 2013—when she was a Ward 4 resident, I might add—**Councilor Michelle Wu** has helped to redefine the role of the City Council, making

it a body that actively leads on policy. She spearheaded successful ordinances to guarantee paid leave for city workers—a model for the Commonwealth; increase renewable energy purchasing in the city and protect our wetlands; ban the racist practice of facial surveillance in the Boston Police Department; more strongly regulate short-term rentals so neighborhood housing isn’t turned into mini-corporate hotels; and use city dollars to provide locally sourced, sustainable, and nutritious food for the Boston Public Schools. The list goes on. Wu has also helped us re-imagine the possible, whether setting the agenda on fare-free public transit, on envisioning a municipal Green New Deal, or on abolishing the BPDA in favor of a planning process that prioritizes community, equity, and sustainability. She is uniquely ready to lead our city through both the challenges and opportunities we face.

Although we have a strong-mayor system, Councilor Wu has shown herself to have a collaborative style of leadership. And a Council ready to collaborate and innovate will be key.

Every election, we hear that every vote matters, and two years ago, **Councilor Julia Mejia** proved it by winning her seat by one vote. She deserves to be re-elected by more. With a background as a community organizer, Mejia has been a powerful voice for language access and youth empowerment. Her advocacy secured a youth seat on Boston’s new Civilian Review board, and the budget town halls

she organized with Councilor Kenzie Bok—as well as impromptu ones in barber shops—brought more people into a process often viewed as arcane. Creative and responsive to the community, she spearheaded the ordinance to allow for residential kitchens, make it legal for people to prepare foods in their homes for retail profit—a move especially potent for women of color in the city.

With four councilors running for mayor and one more retiring, the Council will experience significant turnover. **Dave Halbert**, fortunately, brings 15 years of experience in public service, including as a legislative aide in the Council. He understands how city government can advance equity-focused solutions that make Boston a better place for all of its residents. Currently working for an initiative at MIT that uses higher education and technology to empower incarcerated individuals, he sees that how we need to expand who has access to the opportunities Boston can offer. As a Boston Public Schools parent who would be the first Black man elected citywide since the 1980s if elected this fall, he would bring an important lens to policymaking.

Few first-time candidates are as impressive as **Ruthzee Louijeune**. A Harvard-trained attorney and the daughter of Haitian immigrants, Louijeune has represented tenants and homeowners facing displacement, running a weekly eviction clinic to ensure that Boston residents know their rights, and has advocated to address the systemic barriers to affordable housing and home ownership with the Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance—experiences that are vital amidst a burgeoning affordable housing crisis. As an attorney, she has also worked on racial gerrymandering and voting-rights cases before the Supreme Court to protect and expand the right to vote. She has a persistence reminiscent of Senator Elizabeth Warren, for whom she served as senior counsel (and who has endorsed her campaign, as well as that of Wu).

Councilors Ed Flynn and Kenzie Bok are running uncontested, but they have more than earned our endorsement for their re-election. Flynn is a reliable attendee and participant in community meetings in the South End, has a strong constituent-services program, and—in recognition of the diversity of the district—has taken the lead on issues of language access and immigrants’ rights. A deep and creative thinker, Bok has been a leading voice for affordable housing on the Council, proposing ideas for how to use public land and reform the zoning process to make a more equitable and sustainable city. She has also been a key proponent of PILOT reform, working to ensure that the universities and other major institutions largely concentrated in her district pay their fair share.

Set for Sept. 14, the preliminary election is just around the corner—and the summer will go by fast. But it’s worth paying attention early, especially with impressive candidates like these.

Jonathan Cohn is co-chair of the Ward 4 Democratic Committee. See page 5 for the Ward 5 Democratic Committee’s endorsements.

Weasel Words About the Fenway’s Rabbit Infestation

BY KEN HUDSON

In regard to the ongoing rabbits-versus-gardeners standoff in the Fenway: has anyone considered introducing a few weasels to the affected areas? The Victory Gardens alone must be sustaining enough lagomorphs to feed several resident mustelids.

Weasels are native to Massachusetts. Probably they inhabited what is now Boston for millenia prior to the arrival of European colonists. They don’t attack humans. Nor, to the best of my knowledge, are they known to carry rabies. They tend to be mostly nocturnal. They stick close to bodies of open water, so the prospect of them spreading out into adjacent residential areas seems slight. Their small size, silence, and wary nature most likely would allow them to keep a low profile. In winter, their fur would match the color of the snow. In summer, the fur would change to blend in with the soil and mulch in the gardens. The chief sign of their presence would be an obvious decrease

in the numbers of local rabbits. There might also be a decrease in the number of rats and mice. Without the rabbits, there would be less damage to the flowers and veggies in the garden plots. Maybe eventually the weasels and the rabbits would strike a balance, with both species sustaining themselves at low population levels.

What does the Garden Society say about this? The Parks Department? Could there be unintended adverse consequences? Would weasels be able to survive and breed in the middle of a heavily urbanized area? Would nesting ducks and songbirds suffer predation? What about chipmunks?

Weasels are known to take over chipmunk burrows for use as dens. Not being a gardener, I don’t have a dog (or weasel) in this fight. I merely suggest the possibility of using a small inconspicuous native predator (not reputed to cause any problems to humans — with the sole apparent exception of poultry farmers) to control a somewhat larger and somewhat more conspicuous herbivore. One that seems to have gotten a bit out of control in recent decades.

As Beau of the Fifth Column likes to say, “It’s just a thought.” *Ken Hudson lives in the Back Bay.*

The Riverway Flooded Last Month , So What Was The Point of All That Dredging?

TO THE EDITOR

I was very alarmed when I went on a walk through the Riverway at about 6pm on Friday, July 9, after the storm and saw that

LETTERS

the Muddy River had completely overflowed its banks! How could this happen with all the dredging that has taken place recently?

I thought this type of flooding was a thing of the past after all the work done over the last four to five years by the Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Boston, the Town of Brookline, etc.

I haven’t seen anything like it since the 1996 floods.

Was someone asleep at the switch? It was truly frightening.

I saw the two locks near the Sears Rotary and next to the Parks department building. One gate was open and going gangbusters, but the other gate wasn’t even open. I wondered why not?

Everything south and west of the lock along the Riverway, by the former campus of Wheelock College, Winsor School and the Longwood T stop, up to the Brookline Department of Public Works office and Parkway Road was severely flooded on both sides.

The gauge near the Brookline Department of Public Works office measured 11.80.

I have reached out to various organizations for any explanation for this flooding and to see if there are any plans to alleviate the situation.

KATHERINE GREENOUGH
AUDUBON CIRCLE

...And An Update

I received replies to my concerns about the serious flooding on July 9 from State Sen. Will Brownsberger, City Councilor Kenzie Bok, Karen Mauney-Brodek of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and Jennifer Flanagan of the Army Corps of Engineers.

In summary, and to my dismay, I learned that the system functioned the way it was designed to. When the project is complete, the entire system will only be equipped to handle a once-in-20 years, 24-hour rain event.

With climate change, this level of protection is obviously woefully inadequate. Spending decades of time and effort—not to mention tens of millions of taxpayer dollars—to build a flood-control system that will not protect our homes, businesses, institutions, and parks from flooding even after the project is completed is absurd and an outrageous breach of trust.

–K.G.

THE Fenway News

Serving the Fenway, Kenmore Square, Audubon Circle, upper Back Bay, lower Roxbury, Prudential, Mission Hill, and Longwood since 1974

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“Comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable.”

The founders of The Fenway News adopted this motto to express their mission of exposing and opposing the dangers the neighborhood faced in the early 1970s—rampant arson, predatory landlords, and a destructive urban renewal plan. If the original motto no longer fits today’s Fenway, we remain committed to its spirit of identifying problems and making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live.

► FREQUENCY ◀

The Fenway News remains online-only for the duration of the pandemic. Our next issue will appear on **Friday, September 3.**

► DEADLINE ◀

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, August 27.**

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Boston Children’s Hospital proposed spending a cool \$435 million on new facilities in wealthy suburbs where more patients carry insurance that pays full freight for medical care. Children’s wants to build a new outpatient surgery center in Needham; expand an existing site in Waltham; and move affiliated physicians in Weymouth into a new building. According to *Commonwealth* magazine, the proposal’s price tag tops even the Mass General Brigham plan, announced earlier this year, to spend \$400 million building four new suburban centers. ➡ **The Kennedy Center in Washington announced its five lifetime achievement honorees in the arts, and the list included a New England Conservatory alum, opera singer Justino Díaz, 81. NEC launched a career that put Díaz in leading roles on the stages of La Scala, the Salzburg Festival, the Paris Opera, the Met, and Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. Díaz will share the stage at the awards ceremony (typically attended by the president) with pop/jazz/folk icon Joni Mitchell; Motown Records founder Berry Gordy; *Saturday Night Live* producer and talent-miner Lorne Michaels; and (the Divine) actor/singer/comedian Bette Midler.** ➡ BU announced that it will join Harvard and BC in requiring faculty and staff to get vaccinated against the coronavirus for the fall semester. The *Globe* reported that just over 70% of both groups have been immunized. ➡ **Braving threatening skies, the Roxbury Unity Parade marched from Madison Park High to Malcolm X Park on Sunday, July 18, attracting several mayoral and city council candidates.** ➡ The Detroit Tigers, LA Angels, and San Francisco Giants each drafted a Northeastern student in the final rounds of the MLB player draft. ➡

NICER VIEW ON IPSWICH STREET



On July 21, Fenway Studios unveiled an original, mesh mural covering a chain link fence that faces their building from across Ipswich Street. They received a grant from the Fenway Community Benefits Fund in 2020. See the newslines below for information on the 2021 recipients.

Neighborhood Newslines

Ward 5 Dems Endorse Wu, Louijeune, Spillane, Bok and Flynn

On July 20, members of the Ward 5 Democratic Committee, which spans the Fenway, Back Bay, Beacon Hill and Bay Village, held their endorsement meeting in advance of the Sept. 14 preliminary election. The committee voted overwhelmingly to endorse Michelle Wu in the mayoral race. Endorsements for city councilor at-large went to Ruthzee Louijeune of Hyde Park and Jonathan Spillane of Beacon Hill. The Ward 5 Democrats also endorsed incumbents Kenzie Bok for District 8 city councilor and Ed Flynn for District 2 city councilor. The Ward 5 Democratic Committee meets the third Tuesday of every month on Zoom and can be reached at ward5boston@gmail.com.

Paint Box Program Expands to New Sites

Kristina McGeehan from the City’s Arts and Culture Department confirmed the latest locations for new artwork for utility boxes in the Fenway: 90 Hemenway St. and 1101 Boylston St. The artists will be assigned shortly and are expected to complete their paintings by the fall. Kenneth Baughman’s piece at St. Botolph St and Mass. Ave. is finished, but two other locations designated in 2020 have yet to be completed—Huntington Avenue at Evans Way and Boylston Street at Mass. Ave.

Nine Groups Share \$100,000 in Beautification Funding

On July 16, the Boston Planning & Development Agency announced the recipients of the 2021 round of funding from the Fenway Community Benefits Fund. This seventh round of disbursements brought to \$800,000 the total awarded to date. Funds come from the Fenway Park Demonstration Project, an agreement the City reached with the Boston Red Sox in 2013 for the use of easements above Landsdowne Street for the Green Monster seats. As part of the agreement, the Red Sox will contribute \$100,000 a year for ten years to support beautification efforts in the Fenway. Funding awarded for 2021:

- Boston Arts Academy Foundation—\$5,000 for students to create a mural on Ipswich Street.
- Community Work Services—\$10,000 to provide job training to underserved Fenway residents while also helping to beautify the neighborhood.
- Emerald Necklace Conservancy—\$7,500 to help fund improvements to the Shattuck Visitor Center.
- Esplanade Association—\$6,500 to paint murals to help combat graffiti on the Esplanade.
- Fenway Community Development Corporation—\$5,000 to beautify a fence and make pavement improvements on Burbank Street.
- Fenway Civic Association (Emerald Necklace Conservancy as fiscal agent)—\$35,000 for repair, cleaning, and conservation of the John Boyle O’Reilly monument in the Fens.
- Kenmore Association (Friends of the Public Garden. as fiscal agent)—\$9,000 for the design and installation of three new benches.
- Muddy Water Initiative (N.E. Grassroots Environment Fund as fiscal agent)— \$12,000 to fund the operation of the “Water Goat,” which helps remove debris from the river.
- Operation Peace Northeast—\$10,000 for a public art walk.

The Big Quit Hits the BPDA

Sonal Gandhi, a staffer at the Boston Planning & Development Agency for more than 20 years, left in July to take the position of vice president for real estate at Brigham and Women’s Hospital. At the BPDA, Gandhi’s most recent title was deputy chief of staff; for many years she managed most Longwood Area institutional expansion projects. Another BPDA staffer, Gerald Autler, has also left the agency. He oversaw projects in and around the Fenway and Mission Hill as an institutional planner and project manager. He has joined the Department of Conservation & Recreation, where he will serve as director of trails and gateways. Finally, the BPDA’s director of development review Jonathan Greeley will leave the agency to take an unspecified position with Amazon.

ICYMI

EATS BEAT

The *Globe* Food section on July 21 had a strong Fenway/Mission Hill... flavor. First, a front-page

story profiled **Boston Microgreens**, launched by Northeastern alum Michael Homburg and a friend four years ago in their apartment. The company, which farms and delivers tiny sprouts from a variety of plants, now serves 70 restaurants and launched a home-delivery service during the pandemic. One page over, the “Insider” column spotlighted **Pricklee**, canned cactus water from prickly pear fruit. The founders? Five post-docs from Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

- The restaurant gods giveth, the restaurant gods taketh away: **Time Out Market** has returned to seven-days-a-week operation (expect a battle for the outdoor tables). New hours are Mon–Fri, 4pm to 10pm, and Sat–Sun, 9am to 10pm. But **Flour Bakery** at 30 Dalton St. has reduced hours. It’s now open Mon–Fri, 7am–3pm, and Sat–Sun, 8am–4pm. [Eats Beat *highly* recommends their roast chicken sandwich and lemon-ginger scones.]
- **sweetgreen** will open in the heart of the Longwood area, taking over the space at Longwood and Brookline avenues that formerly housed sorely missed Pret-A-Manger.

Farmers’ Markets

Look for blueberries, raspberries, peaches, strawberries, and watermelon. Green beans, celery, and cucumbers should also be available.

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.

SENIOR EVENTS

The Senior Center hasn’t yet set date for reopening its physical space. Visit www.operationpeaceboston.org for more information. Some events listed below are virtual. To receive Zoom links and call-in numbers, please email Mallory Rohrig at mallory@operationpeaceboston.org.

- Thursdays at 11am: **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION IN RAMLER PARK**, 130 Peterborough St.
- August 10 at 12pm: **BINGO AT THE FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER**. 15 people maximum, RSVP required. RSVP with Tracey or Sara.
- August 17 at 11am: A walk around the **KELLEHER ROSE GARDEN**. Take photos with your friends and neighbors. Meet at the Rose Garden.
- August 24 at 1pm: Good Old Summertime, a **VIRTUAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE** with John O’Neil.
- August 31 at 11am: Walk with your friend and /neighbors around the **TRACK AT ROBERTO CLEMENTE FIELD**. Meet at the track.

@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center is moving back to in-person events. Visit www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org, for more information. Note that a mask is required at all in-person events, regardless of vaccination status.

- Fridays, 12pm: **IN-PERSON BINGO**.
- Friday, August 6, 6pm: **ICE CREAM SOCIAL**. Join your friends and neighbors for ice cream with all the fixings.
- Wednesday, August 18, 6pm: **FENWAY SCOOP (Virtual)**. Join a conversation featuring updates from BPD Sergeant Paul A. DeLeo, Jr. [Community Service Supervisor, Area D–District 4], celebrations of community members and organizations, elected officials, and Fenway-based organizations, groups, and businesses.
- Friday, August 20, 7pm: **VIRTUAL PAINT NIGHT**.

S O X B O X

Tue, Aug 10	7:10pm	Fri, Aug 20	7:10pm
Wed, Aug 11	7:10pm	Sat, Aug 21	7:10pm
Thu, Aug 12	4:10pm	Sun, Aug 22	1:10pm
Fri, Aug 13	7:10pm	Tue, Aug 24	7:10pm
Sar, Aug 14	4:10pm	Wed, Aug 25	7:10pm
Sun, Aug 15	1:10pm	Thu, Aug 26	7:10pm

You Can Help ‘Shave The Peak’

BY LESLIE POND

Whether we’re seeking a cool respite from the sweltering dog days of summer or cozy warmth during the coldest days of winter, increased use of cooling or heating systems can result in “peak days,” when energy demand is way above normal. Our most recent peak days occurred during the two heat waves in June, when more of us were simultaneously using our air conditioners.

In order to meet spikes in energy demand, grid operators—for us, ISO-New England—stoke up “peaker plants,” which run on oil and gas (and sell power at much higher rates). As climate change makes heat waves more frequent and intense, this creates a vicious cycle in which more energy use generates more greenhouse gas emissions that in turn contribute to the climate crisis and more hot days. New England typically has just a few peak events each year. But each heat wave can result in tens of millions of pounds of additional carbon emissions.

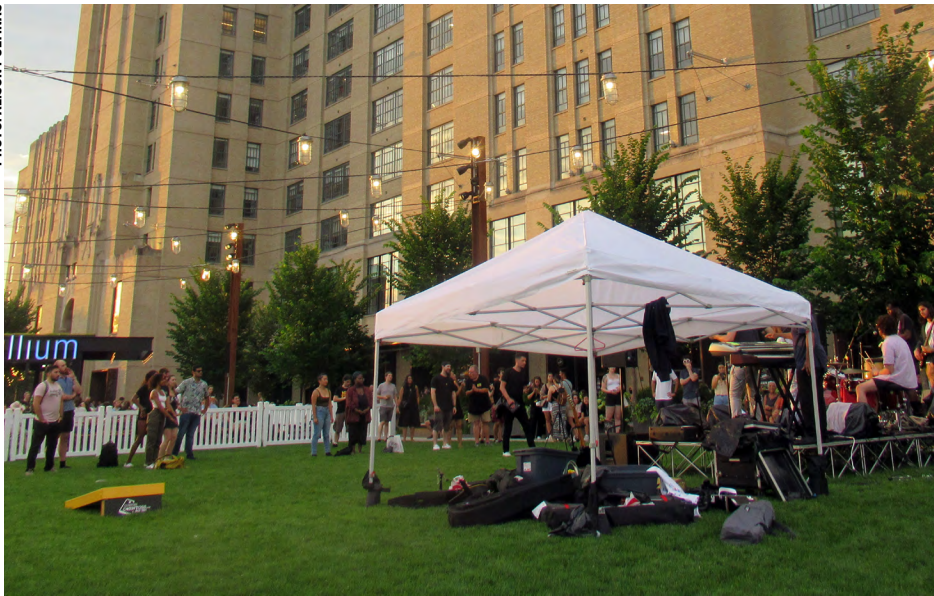
- How can we stay healthy and cool during heat waves and keep our energy demand and use of fossil fuels in check? A few tips:
- Peak demand can usually be predicted a few days ahead, so we can plan to reduce electricity use during these times. You can sign up to receive electricity peak alerts at www.greenenergyconsumers.org/shavepeak/signup.
 - Use a slightly higher temperature setting on your air conditioner.
 - Avoid using large appliances like washing machines, dryers, ovens, and dishwashers during peak hours in the afternoons and evenings.
 - Charge electronic devices during off-peak hours.
 - Advocate for policy changes that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.
 - Opt in for 100 percent renewable energy with Boston’s Consumer Community Choice Electricity program, visit www.boston.gov/departments/environment/community-choice-electricity.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens. She writes this occasional series, which focuses on climate change and practical steps we can all take to reduce our climate impacts.



On July 14, the Fenway Civic Association hosted its annual Rose Garden Picnic. Neighbors gathers for bluegrass music, a boxed picnic meal, and ice cream from Boston Police's Hood Ice Cream truck.

MUSIC MAKES WELCOME RETURN TO 401 PARK



On July 16, the band Gatch played for the crowd at Time Out Market's outdoor performance space.

ANNUAL MEETING BRINGS GOOD NEWS FOR THE FENWAY NEWS

Board members had good news to report when the Fenway News Association held its annual meeting on July 8. It promised near-term financial stability for the paper.

- First, the paper reported significant success with its GoFundMe campaign, organized to pay off a \$15,000 debt to the paper’s printer. Thanks to a lead gift of \$5,000 from an anonymous donor, the debt has been eliminated.
- The paper received a grant from the

Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust to support a yearlong marketing campaign promoting locally owned restaurants in the Fenway and Mission Hill. The campaign will begin when the paper returns to print later this year.

- Finally, Northeastern’s Office of Community and Government Engagement has connected the paper with a graduate class in program management that will help map out a plan for reinvesting the paper’s website.



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PETERBOROUGH HOUSING

Waitlist for one- and two-bedroom apartments opens September 7, 2021

Our waiting list for one- and two-bedroom apartments will open on September 7, 2021. Peterborough Housing is a project-based Section 8 property located near Fenway Park. Rent is 30% of annual gross income, less with qualifying medical expenses. Rent includes heat and hot water.

Applications are available at the management office at Wingate Management Company, 78 Peterborough Street, Suite #11, Boston, MA 02215; by email at peterborough@wingatecompanies.com; or by calling 617-236-1978.

COVID-19 GUIDANCE: If you wish to pick up an application in person, please call the office to schedule a pick-up time, Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. We ask applicants to wear facial covering upon entering the building.



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Wingate Management Company, LLC does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities. The person listed below has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Dept. of Housing & Urban Development's regulations implementing Sec. 504 (24 CFR Part 8 dated June 2, 1988). Contact: Site Manager



Virtual Public Meeting

Simmons Residential Campus Redevelopment

Thursday, August 12
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3eOmIID
Toll Free: (833) 568 - 8864
Meeting ID: 160 902 1480

Project Description:

The purpose of this meeting is to explain the proposed Zoning Amendment for the Simmons University Residential Campus and invite public feedback. The Zoning Amendment seeks to change the underlying zoning on these parcels from an “Apartments” subdistrict to a “Local Business” subdistrict, in order to enable the filing of a PDA Master Plan, a regulatory tool used to review and plan for development that covers several acres of land.

Please note: this is not an Article 80 project review meeting.

mail to: **Edward Carmody**
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02201
phone: 617.918.4422
email: edward.carmody@boston.gov

The Arts

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF



PHOTO: STEVE CHASE



Artist Ekua Holmes's sunflower garden on the front lawn of the MFA stands as a metaphor for a long line of Black women—civil rights activists, community leaders, and artists—who didn't just survive oppression but also cultivated culture and community. The installation, "Radiant Community," forms part of the Roxbury Sunflower Project, which gives away 10,000 sunflower seeds for planting in Roxbury each year.

Sweet Cheeks: Meaty Delight



PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAIS

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

Now that so many Fenway restaurants have reopened, it's time to give Sweet Cheeks Q a try. Specializing in barbecue, this eatery on Boylston Street offers great food and service. The inside is noisy and crowded, but the sidewalk patio is delightful.

The restaurant advertises itself as the "American South north of the Mason-Dixon line" and serves authentic Texas barbecue and Southern side dishes.

Chef and owner Tiffani Faison, a finalist on the first season of *Top Chef*, also owns Tiger Mama, Orfano, and Fool's Errand, all located on Boylston Street in the West Fens. She has gradually reopened those restaurants, although Orfano remains closed. Sweet Cheeks, her first restaurant, opened in 2011.

The menu is somewhat limited, but well prepared and delicious. A fan favorite is the bucket of biscuits. The biscuits are fluffy and huge, and the honey butter is amazing. If you've never thought of biscuits as an appetizer, think again.

Meats are served on trays (one tray is enough for two people) and come with sides of your choice. You can also get the meat in a sandwich. Meat options include pork belly, pulled pork, pork ribs, beef brisket, pulled chicken,

and fried chicken. For sides, you can try hot scoops, such as baked beans, mac and cheese, or broccoli-cheese casserole or cold scoops like potato salad, coleslaw, or farm salad.

Meats are also available by the pound. A special feature is "Onesies," which lets a not-so-hungry customer purchase just one rib or sausage link.

In two visits, I had the pulled pork sandwich and the chopped prime beef brisket. Both were tender and flavorful. As sides, the baked beans, mac and cheese, and salad were excellent. Also worth trying are the meaty ribs. The fried chicken sandwich is crunchy and flavorful.

Not a restaurant for vegetarians, the only options would be some of the sides, such as salad or beans, but these may contain dairy or other animal byproducts.

One of the best features of Sweet Cheeks, mentioned in several reviews and confirmed by my own experience, is the service. Waitstaff are friendly, efficient, and helpful.

Open Tuesday-Friday from 4pm to 9pm and Saturday-Sunday from 11:30am to 10pm. Prices range from \$12 for the bucket of biscuits to \$24 for a Big Cheeks tray. Sweet Cheeks also has a full bar.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.



Food, Music Get The Bebop into Its 'Before Times' Groove

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

The Bebop, whose 1116 Boylston St. location sits just steps from the storied Berklee College of Music, features music seven days week in an Irish pub setting. It was popular prior to the pandemic—even welcoming Bruce Springsteen one evening. The restaurant is currently working its way back from almost shuttered doors to lively, musical haven for residents, tourists, and musicians alike.

The Bebop has good food and a friendly staff. Saturday and Sunday brunches feature gypsy jazz and bluegrass, respectively, 12–3pm. Saturday nights feature a different artist each week, while Sunday nights sport a jam session of old-timey music, 7–10pm. Weekdays offer a fixed schedule of jazz, blues, trivia, comedy, and open mic (visit www.thebebopboston.com for details).

While the music may take you to places far from Boston, Bebop's food features a delightful array of American and Irish bar food. Brunch and lunch features anything from an Irish breakfast to avocado toast to

"Banana Berry Bebop French Toast." Bloody Marys and classic mimosas are familiar selections among the brunch cocktails.

Any time of the day or night, appetizers such as a buffalo chicken quesadilla or flatbread pizzas are delicious alternatives to a full meal and large enough to share. The soup of the day is a taste of homemade goodness, and the Bebop also offers vegan and vegetarian choices. The selection of salads, sandwiches, and entrees includes something for everyone. The Bebop Burger is made from prime ground beef while the Vegan Burger mixes beans, oats, and carrots topped with a spicy mango salsa. Entrees include Guinness beef stew, beer-battered fish and chips, and traditional or vegetarian shepherd's pie. More refined choices of lobster ravioli, filet mignon, and pan-seared salmon grace the evening menu.

You won't go thirsty at the Bebop, with a wide array of draft beers including, of course, Guinness and a variety of wines. Cocktails are made to order and served with a smile. I think you'll find the Bebop a memorable place to listen and enjoy the ambience of true music pub.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.



ART WALK OPENS IN THE WEST FENS

Samuels & Associates has launched an art walk in the West Fens. The six-stop walk features major pieces from artists Alexandre da Cunha and Nicole Eisenman; a mural by Japanese contemporary artist Dragon76 on the passthrough connecting Van Ness Street and Brookline Avenue; a large-scale window installation at 100 Van Ness; an original installation by MFA artist-in-residence Rob Stull at 86-88 Van Ness; and a rotating gallery of works by artists from Fenway Studios at 96 Van Ness.

Artists Letting The Light In



This year's Studio Without Walls installation on the Riverway (near the D Line's Longwood) presents 17 distinctive works through September 6. The shows artists took the theme "Let The Light In" as inspiration for materials (mirrors, mesh, theater gels) and themes (Druids tracking the sun through stone monoliths). Artists include, clockwise from left, Maria Ritz, Gail Jerald Bos, Julia Lupien Nussbaum, and Marnie Sinclair. Pick up a guide on site or use QR codes for details on each work. Find more information at www.studiowithoutwalls.org.



August

CALENDAR

> CALENDAR from page 8

Fri, 8/27 → Sun 9/26

Another theater troupe restarts its post-vax season as Huntington Theatre (now going by "The Huntington") presents **HURRICANE DIANE** at the Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont in the South End. The comedy imagines what might happen if the Greek god Dionysus showed up in the New Jersey suburbs "in the guise of a butch gardener named Diane" intent on reversing climate change...and seducing some real housewives along the way. Tickets \$25-99, depending on date. Save \$10 by using code "Diane10" at checkout before August 31. Performances

Tue-Thu, 7:30pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sat-Sun, 2pm; Wed matinees at 2pm on Sep. 8 and 15. Details at www.huntingtontheatre.org.

Sat, 8/29

THE ROOTS move from Jimmy Fallon's *Tonight Show* to the House of Blues for a concert. The performance caps a big summer for bandleader, Amir Thompson (better known as Questlove), whose documentary about an extraordinary Harlen concert series in 1969, *Summer of Soul*, has won widespread critical praise. Tickets \$65-85; doors open at 6:30pm. Details at www.houseofblues.com/boston.

August

CALENDAR

Fri, 7/30–Sun, 8/8

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company returns to Boston Common with **THE TEMPEST**. Tue–Sun at 8pm, except Sun, Aug 1, at 6pm. Entry is free, but CSC encourages you to reserve ahead to help maintain coronavirus safety measures. Snag a lawn chair with your reservation for \$10 extra. Find full details at commshakes.org.

Tue, 8/3 & 8/10

SUMMER IN THE CITY. Symphony Park welcomes the Amaury Cabral Quintet (8/3) and Grace Pehrman and Jake Baynes (8/10) as part of Sunset Concerts at Symphony Park, sponsored by Berklee College of Music, Fenway Civic Association, Friends

of Symphony Park, and the City of Boston. Corner of Edgerly Road and Norway Street (across from 48 Edgerly Road). 6pm.

Wed, 8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25, & 9/1

- **CHAIR YOGA WITH KARMA.** This gentle form of yoga can be done seated or standing while using a chair for support. The focus is on opening all the joints and loosening tight muscles. No pre-registration needed. 10–11am. Symphony Park, 39 Edgerly Road.
- **LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA** returns to the Hatch Shell with **FIVE FREE CONCERTS**. Programming ranges from pillars of European classicism (Bach, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff) to American masters (Gershwin, Copland) to newly elevated

composers from overlooked groups (William Grant Still, Priscilla Alden Beach, Nekeiru Okoye, Florence Price). Concerts start at 7; low chairs and picnics are welcome. Visit www.landmarksorchestra.org for more details on each program.

Tue, 8/10

EVENING GARDEN STROLL WITH THE EMERALD NECKLACE. Summer blooms, scented gardens, and a leisurely stroll combine to make this one-hour guided walk the perfect antidote to the workday! 6–7pm. Meet at 125 The Fenway. Register at emeraldnecklace.org/event/evening-garden-stroll-08-10/.

Wed, 8/11 & 8/25

FENWAY FAIR FOODS. Fair Foods welcomes community residents to get a free bag of fresh fruits and vegetables. Mask required. Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral, 165 Park Drive, Boston MA 02215. 3pm to 5pm. Contact Kris Anderson at Kanderson@fenwaycdc.org or Anar Kansara at akansara@fenwaycdc.org for additional information.

Thu, 8/19

TWILIGHT MUSIC SERIES. Take in the sights and sounds of a warm summer evening accompanied by live music in Charlesgate Park. Corner of Beacon St. and Charlesgate East. 6pm. Information about additional concerts at www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/twilight-music-series-08-19/.

Sat, 8/21

- **SAVOR THE SQUARE 2021** brings food, fun, and entertainment to Nubian Square thanks to a partnership among The American City Coalition, Roxbury Main Streets, and the City of Boston. Held on a City-owned lot in Nubian Square, the event brings together brick-and-mortar businesses and entrepreneurial vendors in one marketplace in the heart of the business districts' core. 12–3pm. 4-9 Palmer Street, Roxbury. Details at <http://tamcc.org/savor-the-square> FREE
- **MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL.** Enjoy musical performances at 5:30pm at The Yard, 1481 Tremont St. Pre-register at www.facebook.com/MHArtsFest.

Tue, 8/24

Join the Boston Public Library for an online talk with **ADAM STERN, MD**, author of *Committed: Dispatches from a Psychiatrist in Training*. Stern recounts his four-year psychiatry residency at Harvard Medical School in a heartfelt memoir. Register at bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/60f05ea517df9637003d9d41. 6pm.

CALENDAR on page 7 >

COMMUNITY meetings

TUESDAYS Mission Hill Main Streets **SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE CALL.** Join this weekly call featuring reopening guidance, support services, and resources, and your questions. Register in advance at bitly.com/smallbizbos. 3pm.

FRIDAYS Harvard Law School's Legal Services Center hosts weekly **VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS** in partnership with the Boston Public Library. Advice and referral information on civil legal issues. 10am–12pm. For Zoom info, visit bit.ly/LSCBPL.

TUE, AUG 3 Coalition for Truly Affordable Boston member teach-in. Discuss the **INCLUSIONARY DEVELOPMENT POLICY (IDP)** and learn how to join the Fenway CDC in fighting for a truly affordable Boston. Register at bit.ly/CTABTeachIn. 6pm.

SUN, AUG 8– RALLY TO SAVE THE 55 BUS. Join the Fenway CDC to demand restoration of the full 55 bus schedule and route. Jersey and Queensberry Streets. 5:30pm. Contact Cassie White at cwhite@fenwaycdc.org or 857-217-4370 for more information.

THU, AUG 12 Virtual public meeting on the proposed **ZONING AMENDMENT FOR THE SIMMONS UNIVERSITY RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS** and invite public feedback. Register at bit.ly/3eOmIID. 6pm. Contact Edward Carmody at 617-918-4422 or edward.carmody@boston.gov for more information.

MON, AUG 16 Virtual public meeting for **1–4 TERRACE PLACE.** This proposed six-story development would cover approximately 47,866 sq.ft., with 47 condo units and 15 underground parking spaces. Register at www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_FlegnuLIHqdLMnweVaFiQ. 6pm. Contact Ebony DaRosa at Ebony.DaRosa@Boston.gov or 617-918-4419 for more information.


THU, AUG 19 Join the Fenway CDC's **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING**, 6–7:30pm. Contact Cassie White at cwhite@fenwaycdc.org or 857-217-4370 for the Zoom link.


THU, AUG 19 State Rep. Chynah Tyler hosts **VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS.** Ask questions

about legislation at the State House, get assistance securing government services, and discuss neighborhood issues. Register at bit.ly/3u5ICwR.

FRI, AUGUST 20 Mayor Kim Janey and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department host a **NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE HOUR.** Speak directly with the mayor and staff from City departments about open space and other features in the neighborhood. Join us in the Kelleher Rose Garden, across from 73 Park Drive. 10:30am.

TUE, AUGUST 24 Virtual public meeting for **154 TERRACE STREET.** Pickle-Ditson Phase II LP, will submit a project-change notice for new construction on a vacant parcel at 154 Terrace St. The proposed seven-story building would include roughly 75,000 sq.ft., with 66 ownership units (3 affordable). Register at www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_D11jFOFCTsuYTeITD5puVA. 6pm. Contact Stephen Harvey at Stephen.J.Harvey@Boston.gov or 617-918-4418 for more information.





Interested in learning more about your community or taking a data-informed approach to tackling local issues in Boston?

Register today!

BOSTON DATA PORTAL TRAINING

with the Boston Area Research Initiative (BARI) and City and Community Engagement at Northeastern

TUESDAY, AUG 10, 2021
12:00PM - 2:00PM EST



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