

Fenway News

COVERING THE FENWAY, AUDUBON CIRCLE, KENMORE SQUARE, UPPER BACK BAY, PRUDENTIAL, LONGWOOD, AND MISSION HILL SINCE 1974 • VOLUME 47, NUMBER 7 • JULY 2 - JULY 30, 2021

200 Viewers + 5 Candidates = First Fenway Mayoral Forum

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

On June 17, the Fenway Community Center and the Fenway Quality of Life Alliance—along with eight co-sponsors, such as *The Fenway News*, FENSfund, and the Fenway CDC—held the Fenway Mayoral Forum on Zoom. More than 200 people attended.

The forum was very well organized. Fenway-specific questions were submitted in advance, and there was no live question-and-answer session. All candidates except Acting Mayor Kim Janey attended. John Barros, the City’s Economic Development Chief under Mayor Marty Walsh, had to leave early for another meeting.

Other candidates included At-Large City Councilors Annisssa Essaibi George and Michelle Wu, District 4 City Councilor Andrea Campbell, and State Representative for the 9th Suffolk District Jon Santiago.

Candidates were given a few minutes to introduce themselves, then two sets of questions were asked of each candidate. The long-form questions allowed for 90 second responses, and “speed round” questions required short answers or possibly a number.

Among the long-form questions, candidates were asked about plans for housing; whether they would break up the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA); and how they would fill the vacant Boston Police Commissioner role. In addition, they were informed of the Chicago Cubs’ compact with the neighborhood around Wrigley Field and asked if they would play a role in bringing a similar agreement to Boston.

About housing, Campbell said “we need more resources for affordable housing.” She said that in her home district, which includes Dorchester, Mattapan, and parts of Roslindale and Jamaica Plain, vacant lots represent spaces where housing could be built. Campbell said yes to breaking up the BPDA. She expressed frustration about projects’ winning approval by the BPDA even when residents oppose them. Campbell would undertake a national search to find a police commissioner.

Essaibi George said, “families can’t find or afford housing. We need to be sure we are building housing, including senior-specific. This is a problem that has to be addressed in every neighborhood.” Essaibi George said yes to breaking up the BPDA. She wants to better ensure that “residents are engaged and informed.” Essaibi George thought the search for a commissioner should wait until after the mayoral election. She said that accountability

and transparency are key.

Santiago, whose district includes the South End and parts of Roxbury, the Back Bay, and the Fenway, said, “the city does not have enough affordable housing. The city should publicly finance projects and increase investment in home ownership.” Santiago supports reform of the BPDA. He said, “we need a planning system that closes the gaps.” Regarding the police vacancy, Santiago wants a national search and wants community members involved.

Wu called housing a “pressing issue across the city.” She said, “The city has the power to do more and should put more money into affordable housing and ease barriers to home ownership.” Wu supports the breakup of the BPDA and would like to see planning and development functions split between two agencies. Wu said the commissioner plays “an important leadership role. We need to guarantee that residents have trust in the BPD.” She also wants to “demilitarize” the police department.

Barros said that we need “a fund for land trusts to prevent evictions” and tax and exempt extensions for seniors. He vowed to reorganize the BPDA.

All the candidates who attended supported a neighborhood agreement with the Red Sox. Campbell said all the institutions in the neighborhood should be involved. Essaibi George noted the impact of cultural institutions on our neighborhoods. She said, “as mayor, we need to facilitate those conversations.” Santiago would look at ways to better facilitate the relationship between the institutions and the neighborhood, pointing to parking and noise issues. Wu said we need productive, day-to-day action regarding the institutions. She noted the conflicts over how many concerts are held at Fenway Park.

For the speed round questions, candidates agreed that there is a cautionary tale in terms of gentrification. All supported de-escalating policing measures and all supported full restoration of the 55 bus route. When asked what percentage of housing universities should provide for their students, Essaibi George and Wu said 100 percent; Campbell and Santiago said they would engage residents to set a percentage. All candidates agreed that the Fenway should have a public elementary school.

The preliminary election for mayor will take place Tuesday, Sept. 14 and narrow the field to two candidates. The general election will take place Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

21 Fenwood Road

RTH’S HOUSING ARM GIVES MIXED-INCOME HOUSING PROJECT ANOTHER LOOK

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Last reported on in the November 2019 issue of *The Fenway News*, two projects of the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard-Mission Hill’s (RTH) affordable housing corporation have publicly restarted.

Karen Gately, RTH’s director, and Peter Munkenbeck, the group’s longtime real estate consultant, said RTH will file plans later this year for vacant land on Huntington Avenue next to the former Farragut School. The resident board, however, must first vote on the scale of the

proposed project. The corporation’s bylaws require resident approval for projects above a certain size or cost.

In October 2019, a 92-90 vote in favor of developing new mixed-income multifamily housing on the site clearly revealed divergent opinions. RTH residents are tenants of the high-rises and townhouses at Mission Park, as well as households on Francis Street, Fenwood Road, St. Albans Road, Huntington Ave., and Kempton Street, as well as condo owners and renters at the Mosaic, the newer building at the corner of the Riverway and Fenwood Road.

Stantec, the architectural firm working on the multifamily design, gave a virtual presentation on June 10 to the first RTH community-wide meeting since the pandemic began.

RTH PROJECTS on page 4 >

CIVIC AGENDA

- **THU, JULY 8:** Historian and former State Rep. Byron Rushing addresses the **FENWAY NEWS ANNUAL MEETING**, held remotely. 6:30-8pm. Join at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81737869495?pwd=MjgvTjR0NWQwTURPcHN0UE8wbWJ2UT09>
- **TUE, JULY 13:** BPDA **PUBLIC MEETING ON THE FENWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**. 6pm. Join at bit.ly/FenwayJuly13
- **WED, JULY 14:** Fenway **ROSE GARDEN PICNIC**. Outside the Kelleher Rose Garden (across from 135 Park Drive). 6-8pm. Details at www.fenwaycivic.org.
- **SAT, JULY 17:** **FENWAY GARDEN SOCIETY PRESENTS OPEN GARDENS**. Step inside

those plots you admire when walking through the Victory Gardens. 12-4pm. Maps at the flagpole. Rain date: next day, same hours. Details at www.fenwayvictorygardens.org.

- **MON, JULY 19:** **PUBLIC MEETING ON THE FENWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**. Same topic, different night. 6pm. Join at bit.ly/FenwayJuly19

E LINE WORK IN AUGUST

The MBTA plans another shutdown of the E Line starting Aug. 2 to replace more track and improve some crossings between Francis Street and S. Huntington. We’ll have more info in our next issue.

Neighborhood Trust Awards \$115,000 in Community Grants

BY STEVE CHASE

The Mission Hill / Fenway Neighborhood Trust has awarded \$115,000 in grants to community-based nonprofits and civic groups in its titular neighborhoods. The Trust funds projects that promote and enhance quality of life for residents of both neighborhoods.

The board, chaired by Lauren Dewey Platt, includes three Mission Hill residents—Paula Lawrence, Alison Pultinas and Monjuree Yousuf—and three from The Fenway—Steve Chase, Platt, and Bonnie Thryselius. The Trust issues an annual request for proposals every spring.

Grants fund projects in areas such as arts, education, youth sports and recreation, green-space improvement, and other categories that board members deem appropriate. Initial funding for the Trust came from the 1993 sale of the former MassArt building on Brookline Avenue to Beth Israel Hospital; the hospital’s Shapiro Ambulatory Care Center rises behind the historic gothic façade of

the former college building.

In a statement, the Trust said that “The board of the Mission Hill / Fenway Neighborhood Trust congratulates and thanks the 2021 applicants for taking the time to do this work for their organizations and their communities.” A total of 18 organizations received grants this year.

Mission Hill recipients include:

- **Alice Taylor Advisory Council**—\$1,500 for starting a walking group
- **Arts Talk, Inc**—\$6,000 for a series of six cultural events this summer, including music, dance, poetry, visual arts and dialogue with artists, at the Tobin Community Center’s Backyard gathering space
- **Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston**—\$10,000 for building materials for two new residences
- **Mission Hill Health Movement**—\$4,450 for the Gore St. community garden
- **MissionSAFE A New Beginning**—\$9,000 for a program mentoring Mission Hill youth

- **Mission Hill Main Street**—\$2,050 for maintenance of watering cart and to help pay individuals to water planters in the Mission Hill commercial district
- **Phillips Brooks House Assn.**—\$4,500 for a summer camp program for youth
- **Sociedad Latina**—\$5,000 for youth internships
- **Tobin Community Center**—\$6,000 for a new outdoor mural and three family events
- **Yard Time Entertainment**—\$5,000 to support a mentorship program for formerly incarcerated individuals and their families

Fenway recipients include:

- **Fenway Civic Association**—\$800 for a summer picnic and holiday tree lighting
- **Fenway Community Center**—\$13,000 to support the Navigators USA program
- **Fenway Community Development Corp.**—\$8,000 to support workforce counseling
- **Fenway Education & Neighborhood Support Fund (FENSfund)**—\$8,000 for

concerts and readings

- **Fenway News Association**—\$13,950 for a year-long marketing campaign to support local restaurants’ post-pandemic recovery (see page 7). *Note: Fenway News board members Steve Chase and Alison Pultinas did not participate in the Trust’s consideration of this grant.*
 - **Friends of Ramler Park**—\$6,590 for new trash receptacles
 - **Kaji Aso Studio**—\$3,500 for operations support
 - **Peterborough Senior Center**—\$8,290 to support the Healthy Food program
- COVID-19 restrictions in place earlier this year put severe restrictions on large indoor meetings. Unable to predict when those restrictions would end, the board chose not to hold an in-person awards ceremony and sent checks directly to the award recipients.

Steve Chase lives in the West Fens. Learn more about the Trust at <https://missionhillfenwaynt.org>

Proliferation of Poison Ivy Poses Problems in Parks

BY ALISON PULTINAS

’T is the season for ivy—poison ivy, that is. The native perennial plant, which is actually good for wildlife and birds, is currently proliferating in natural areas in local parks. But touching urushiol—a nearly invisible yellow oil secreted by the leaves, stems, and even roots—almost always triggers a painful rash that can linger, blister, and spread over your body. The burning and itching can become a serious medical emergency.

Lots of 311 calls go to City Hall, but there’s no category for toxic plants or specifically for poison ivy. A search on the 311 requests (<https://mayors24.cityofboston.gov/reports/>) turns up poison ivy reports under various headings, like *Other* or *Overflowing Trash Can*. That’s how 311



A home-made sign warns park users to steer clear of a poison ivy patch.

for service requests; use a form titled *Request a City-Owned Park Be Maintained*, which also goes to 311.

Mission Hill’s large, wooded McLaughlin Park has entire slopes of poison ivy, but these are mostly places off the beaten

classified a report filed for the Back Bay Fens on June 4. If you choose *Tree Pruning Needed* you might get a reply like this one: *Case noted. The BPRD Urban Forestry Division does not remove Poison Ivy from sidewalks, we maintain city owned trees planted within sidewalks and BPRD parks.* More productive is the Boston Parks Department’s own web page

track, not where children would climb or go after a lost ball. Poison ivy has also grown abundantly on the slope leading down to the Muddy River alongside the Fens Bridge (opposite the end of Ave. Louis Pasteur) in the Back Bay Fens.

Identification is key for everyone: students at recess, ballplayers, dogwalkers, hikers, day trippers. The leaves typically appear in groups of three (remember, *Leaves of three, leave it be*). They can be shiny or matte and are usually toothed or notched on their edges. The middle leaf has a longer stem than the other two. Poison ivy foliage changes from red (spring) to green with reddish tint (summer) to orange (late summer and fall) to brown (late fall and winter).

Spraying an herbicide like glyphosate—apparently the treatment the Boston Parks maintenance staff has used, although its External Affairs department didn’t respond to inquiries—must be managed carefully; workers need training to use it properly and the right protective gear. Its toxicity can turn treated areas into dead zones where nothing grows.

In Hyde Park, Paul Sutton, the Boston Parks Manager for Urban Wilds has used the rent a goat company Goatscaping for the West Street Urban Wild. Goats also worked in Dorchester Park for several months in 2018. Although this is an appealing solution for

poison ivy eradication, there are requirements for the goats’ care that not every site can meet, such as costly electric fencing. Goats will eat invasive plants like buckthorn and multiflora rose, but also the good plants. Therefore, this solution is ideal for complete re-landscaping projects. And there can be some drawbacks like tree damage. Also, goats are jumpers so containing them on hilly sites can be challenging.

While figuring out a solution for eradication, the Parks Department should at least take responsibility for educating the public. If the department is hanging *Beware of Coyotes* signs, why not *Watch Out for Poison Ivy* with an identifying picture?

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS

VACCINATION SITES

- There are more options for getting a COVID-19 vaccine than ever before. Local vaccination clinics include:
- **Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center:** Walk-in vaccinations are available at four ambulatory clinics open to ANYONE 18 and older for first or second dose (Moderna). No appointment is needed, and you don’t have to be a BIDMC patient.
 - **Fenway Health:** Schedule an appointment to get the vaccine by calling (617) 927-6060 or register online. Two locations: 1340 Boylston Street in the Fenway and 142 Berkeley Street on the South End/Back Bay line.
 - **CVS:** 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.

In Unglamorous Alley, Rallying to Save A Tree



PHOTO: NATALIE MERLINE / SPEAK FOR THE TREES

Parker James, cofounder of the Charlesgate Alliance—and passionate tree hugger—worries about this ailanthus tree in Alley 906 between Marlborough and Beacon streets just west of Mass. Ave. One of the last remaining large alley trees identified in a 2008 backbaytrees.org inventory, excavation planned for renovation and garage parking for two future luxury condominiums at 433 Marlborough’s threatens the tree. In the 2008 survey, the tree measured 39 inches in diameter and 75 feet tall. Margaret Pokorny of the Garden Club of the Back Bay stated that no tree removal is approved or denied without the involvement of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay’s Architecture Committee and the Garden Club’s Tree Committee. Alley trees are considered rear gardens, with the exception of a six-foot easement. The Back Bay is the city’s only historic district that has authority to block the removal of trees.

BPL MOVES FROM PARTIAL SERVICE TO FULL REOPENING ON JULY 12

BY KELSEY BRUUN

City services will reopen fully for residents on July 12. Prior to this date, the Boston Public Library system is making strides to ensure that the system is welcoming and equitable.

The Central Library in Copley Square reopened on June 1 for limited in-person services. On June 14, the library expanded those services to all branches not currently under construction.

CENTRAL LIBRARY patrons can now browse select books inside the building. Library users can pick up holds and check out books and DVDs; spend time in the Central Branch courtyard; renew library cards; and use public computers, print, and make photocopies. All public floors of the Central Branch are now open.

Library patrons can also make appointments to use the research collections, use Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center resources, and request one-on-one computer assistance.

BRANCH LIBRARY patrons can now pick up holds and check out books; spend time browsing; use the library’s computers for limited time slots; and print and make photocopies. Additionally, branch exterior spaces, such as courtyards or reading gardens, are accessible to the public.

The Library has also launched the Student ID Project, which allows students to use their current BPS ID cards to obtain a pre-registered BPL library card, granting them access to the full range of library services. BPL is also working with the Boston Compact and METCO to offer participation in this program to all other schools that serve Boston students, including public charter, parochial and METCO.

During the pandemic, more than 600,000 patrons registered for new BPL e-cards, demonstrating that ease of access is a major factor in creating new library users.

Kelsey Bruun is the editor of the Fenway News.

Conservancy Brings Back In-Person Programming in Parks

Chalk up one more sign of a post-vaccination return to something like normal. This summer, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy offers a roster of in-person events. For those not yet comfortable in larger groups, online events are still an option.

- Every Wednesday, beginning July 14, join the Conservancy for a **YOGA CLASS** at 5:30pm. Some classes will follow a hybrid model, with both in-person and online versions available. Others will take place strictly online. Due to the complicated nature of the schedule, visit www.emeraldnecklace.org/calendar/2021-07/ to confirm whether your chosen date offers a hybrid class or a strictly virtual session.
- On Thursday, July 15 and 22, the Conservancy will host a **TWILIGHT MUSIC SERIES**. The free concerts will take place from 6:00 to 7:30pm. On July 15, the series visits Charlesgate Park, Olmsted Park, and Jamaica Pond. On July 22, it returns to Olmsted Park and Jamaica Pond.
- On Saturday, July 17 and 24, the Conservancy teams up with the Boston Public Library to host **SATURDAY STORYTIME**. Aimed at five- to ten-year-olds, events will include a story reading by a Boston Public Library librarian and a nature-based activity to connect with the parks. After the story time, the BPL will give away books to attendees. Storytime begins at 11am, with the book giveaways starting at 11:30am. Both July Storytime events will take place at Jamaica Pond.

For more details on events, as well as weather-related updates, visit the Conservancy’s website, www.emeraldnecklace.org/. In the calendar section, you can sort by date as well as various types of activities.



“Thinking Global/Acting Local” is a regular series of articles focusing on aspects of climate change.

BY LESLIE POND

For kids today, nearly every year of their lives has ranked among our planet’s hottest years since widespread record-keeping began in 1880. The Earth’s atmosphere has warmed 1° C (1.8° F) above preindustrial levels, and the rate of warming has accelerated in recent decades. Given the amount of greenhouse gases we’ve already put into the air, the average global temperature will likely continue to rise, bringing more frequent and intense heat events and other severe impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise and flooding. However, we can avoid the worst impacts by achieving a significant reduction in our emissions of greenhouse gases and keeping the increase in global temperature less than 1.5° C (2.7° F). This small increase in temperature would have outsized consequences for our planet. The northeast U.S. has warmed by 2° C (3.6° F)—even faster than the rest of the country and the planet. This increase can be seen for Boston in the Blue Hill Observatory & Science Center’s temperature record, which stretches back to 1831 (<https://blue-hill.org/climate/anntemp.gif>). The spring season in our region starts earlier than it has in decades past. Professor Richard Primack and colleagues have conducted research in Concord, and they found that flowering times on average are 10 days earlier and tree leaves emerge two weeks earlier, than they did in the 1850s. A warmer climate has tremendous consequences for biodiversity—as ecological connections among trees, flowers, insects, and birds are disrupted—and for our health—as pollen and tick- and insect-borne disease seasons lengthen. Between 1971 and 2000, Boston

Staying Cool in the Face of Global Warming

averaged 11 days a year when temperatures reached 90° F or higher. According to the Climate Ready Boston report, by 2030, we could reach 20 to 40 days per year at 90° F or higher and experience more days above 100° F. That’s roughly one-fourth to one-half of the summer season. We may well be on our way there: from 2001 to 2020, we experienced an average of 14 days a year with maximum temperatures at or above 90° F. Already this year, we’ve had ten days at or above 90° F, and we’re just two weeks into the summer. By 2070, Boston could experience up to 90 such days a year.

But the official temperatures from the National Weather Service are only part of the overall picture. By deploying heat sensors on extreme-heat days in 2019, the citizen-science project “Wicked Hot Boston” showed the variability in ambient air temperatures across neighborhoods at a given time. Around 3pm on a July day, the highest temperature recorded was 102.6° F at Ashmont Station in Dorchester, while the temperature at Logan Airport was 92° F, and the lowest temperature recorded was 87° F at Chestnut Hill Reservoir.

These results, among others, demonstrate the urban heat island effect seen in many cities: an abundance of buildings, streets, and other hard surfaces absorb heat during the day and retain heat at night, resulting in higher temperatures than in areas with plenty of tree canopy. Boston’s neighborhoods with predominantly low-income residents of color tend to have less tree canopy and are disproportionately affected by heat, as can be seen by comparing the heat maps with demographic maps. This disparity has a direct link to redlining practices that began in the 1930s, when bank lending, government policies, and real estate practices limited where people of color could

own or rent homes. Since heat islands have major health implications, we must plan to mitigate the effects of heat in ways that are equitable and just. The City of Boston has begun planning for extreme heat as one of three interconnected pillars in its Healthy Places initiative to improve climate resilience—the others are the Urban Forest Plan and the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Boston has launched

a heat wave, typically defined as a period of three or more consecutive days with temperatures above 90° F. The symptoms of heat-related illness can appear quickly, and they can affect otherwise healthy people. Among those most at risk are children, older people, pregnant women, people who are poor, unhoused, or socially isolated, have pre-existing medical conditions, or work or exercise outdoors.

Being aware of the signs of heat-related illness will help keep you and your family and neighbors safe. The Centers for Disease Control webpage (www.cdc.gov/diseases/extremeheat/warning.html) lists warning signs and symptoms and what to do for the five categories of heat-related illnesses—heat rash, sunburn, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Emergency health professionals have seen firsthand how hot weather can have serious health effects. “A few years ago, I treated an older patient for heat exhaustion who had had a new air conditioner delivered, but she lived alone, and it was too heavy for her to install. During a heat wave, her son noticed she’d stopped answering phone calls, and saved her life by calling 911 to have a team check on her,” says Caleb Dresser, M.D., Climate & Human Health Fellow in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. People who are healthy and active may not realize how significantly heat can affect them. “I’ve also treated people who passed out while grilling in the sun or working in a parking lot on a hot day. Reducing heat stress is extremely valuable,” he adds.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens.



Residents stay cool in the Christian Science Plaza splash fountain on June 6.

a Heat Resilience Study, focused on five historically underserved neighborhoods that experience higher temperatures than the city’s average, to hear from residents and create solutions to reduce heat risk. Heat causes more deaths than any other weather-related impact, and climate change is responsible for over one-third of heat-related deaths globally. In addition to temperature, it’s also important to consider the heat index, a measure of how hot it feels when we factor in both air temperature and the amount of moisture in the air. Not only does humidity make us feel hotter, but it makes it harder for our bodies to regulate temperature. In addition, nights are warming faster than days, which means less opportunity for our bodies to cool down. This poses a health risk, especially during


SOME TIPS FOR DEALING WITH HEAT

Heat-related illnesses and deaths are preventable. The City of Boston’s Keeping Cool webpage (www.boston.gov/departments/emergency-management/keeping-cool-heat) has tips for staying healthy in the heat. Many of us instinctively respond to hot and humid days by finding a cooler place, wearing lighter clothing, avoiding strenuous activity, and drinking more liquids to stay hydrated. A few additional tips that you may hear less often:

- **Check in on family members and neighbors.** And if you’re at risk for heat-related illnesses, have a plan for someone to check in on you, or stay with a friend on hot days, suggests Dr. Dresser. “Such seemingly small actions can have big consequences.” Even a single hot day can be a health threat, and air conditioners sometimes fail; multiple hot days in a row are particularly dangerous.
- **Seek medical care early if you have symptoms of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.** “At a population level, researchers see health problems such as strokes and heart attacks occurring more often with heat stress,” Dr. Dresser warns. “Don’t discount symptoms just because it’s hot—if you have a symptom that you would be concerned about under normal conditions, don’t wait to seek care.”
- **Never leave children, people at risk for heat-related illnesses, or pets in a car, even with the windows open.**
- **If you have a chronic illness, ask**

your doctor about how your illness and/or the medications you take can affect your body’s response to heat, and how best to store medications in the summer. Some medications lose effectiveness at high temperatures.

- **Have a back-up plan in case a power outage** affects your access to cooling equipment or medical devices. Also, a fan may not prevent heat-related illness, especially if you’re at higher risk or when the temperature reaches the upper 90s.
- **Be willing to adapt your plans to accommodate hot weather,** advises Dr. Dresser. For example, take frequent cooling breaks if you’re spending time outdoors. And if you’re an employer, ensure that outdoor workers have sufficient shade and water breaks.
- **For face masks, choose a cloth mask made of a breathable fabric** such as cotton, instead of polyester.
- **Advocate to elected officials for better access to cooler environments in the community,** e.g., by increasing tree canopy, establishing a cooling center, or ensuring regular bus routes nearby, with air-conditioned buses that run on clean energy.
- **Explore ways to connect your background and interests to becoming involved in tackling the climate crisis, with a focus on equity and justice,** e.g., start by signing up for newsletters on climate change and/or attending meetings of local environmental and climate groups.


Virtual Public Meeting

Fenway Development Project Virtual Public Meetings

Project Description:
The BPDA will be hosting a series of Virtual Public Meetings in connection with the proposed Fenway Development Project, for which a Project Notification Form was received by the BPDA on June 3rd, 2021.

- **June 22nd at 6:00 PM**
Zoom Link: bit.ly/FenwayJune22
Meeting ID: 161 335 6182
- **July 13th at 6:00PM**
Zoom Link: bit.ly/FenwayJuly13
- **July 19th at 6:00 PM**
Zoom Link: bit.ly/FenwayJuly19

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HIGH SCHOOL UPDATES



Members of the Snowden boys baseball team celebrate their third City League championship in a row on June 13, after beating Latin Academy 5-4 in 8 innings.

Small Yet Mighty Fenway-Snowden Claims City Crown, Falls in Regionals

BY ALISON PULTINAS

For many, sports are the highlight memories of high school. However, in the Boston Public Schools, athletics often seem to be an afterthought. Little information is available online, and the larger community is not as involved as they tend to be in small towns and suburban neighborhoods. And, of course, during this past school year all schedules were uncertain.

Not surprisingly, this spring has been challenging. Michael O'Neill, the School Committee's vice chair, described the difficult and painful last few weeks of the semester as one crisis followed by another. In addition to post-pandemic plans, there was the termination of a controversial

unlicensed counseling program for Student Advisory Council members, the sudden resignations of the two Latinx School Committee members, and the agonizingly complex debates on equity and exam school admissions policies.

However, it was all joy on June 13, a beautiful Sunday afternoon, during the city baseball tournament. The tournament took place at UMass Boston between an undefeated Boston Latin Academy and the Fenway-Snowden teams. Fenway-Snowden won 8-7 in extra innings, the third year in a row they've won this championship. Families, school staff and alumni filled the bleachers to cheer on both teams.

Fenway High School in Mission Hill and the Muriel S. Snowden International School on Newbury Street are smaller schools with fewer than 500 students and jointly share several sports programs.

Fenway-Snowden had a second come-from-behind victory on June 22 in the regional tournament. They won 12-11 against a team from Winthrop after being down 0-7 in the first three innings and playing with just ten on the roster versus Winthrop's 30-plus athletes.

Up next was a defeat in the semifinals against Brighton's St. Joseph Prep. As Fenway teacher Byron Winder said, Fenway-Snowden is a team with heart—they played with a small roster and were handicapped by an every-other-day

tournament schedule that restricts the number of innings for pitchers. With these limitations, they still pulled off some spectacular fielding and double plays.

In other baseball news, Boston Latin School also played in the state tournament losing in the quarter finals to Danvers's St. John's Prep on June 25. Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association brackets divide schools by size. Boston Latin, with 2,483 enrolled, plays in North Division 1, and Fenway-Snowden plays in North Division 4. Therefore, it's unlikely they ever will compete against each other—especially since Latin isn't part of the Boston City League.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Arts Academy, Latin School Send Class of '21 Into The World



The Boston Arts Academy held its graduation ceremony on June 18, at Fenway Park. 88 graduates received diplomas and listened to addresses by valedictorian Anya Edwards (center) and co-salutatorians Keishona Weekes (left) and Cady Malkemes (right).



Three days previously, June 15, Boston Latin School also held its graduation ceremony at Fenway Park. Diplomas were presented to 406 graduates, among them (from left) co-valedictorian Julianna Zhao, salutatorians Aileen Luo, Rick Li, and Alice Wu, and co-valedictorian Ruth Shiferaw.

> **RTH PROJECTS** from page 1

RTH will establish a “working group” to oversee the process. At the June meeting, speakers requested that more residents be added to the committee before a final decision is made on the size of the development—shown in renderings as potentially 7, 12, or 16 stories.

A significant change since 2019 is the plan to purchase the abutting property at 26-28 St. Albans Rd., currently the only non-RTH property in the Francis-Fenwood neighborhood. The story goes that the property's owner Katherine Costello refused to sell to Harvard's representatives in the 1960s and also refused to be subsumed into RTH's portfolio.

After her death, the two-family house passed through the hands of several well-known Mission Hill developers—Sean Clark and James Newton of Newarch, followed by partners Jason Savage and Mitch Wilson. The latter nearly doubled the size of the original building.

Consultant Munkenbeck estimated that the building's current owner, Rein Joseph of Weston (the richest town in the state according to moneyinc.com) makes at least \$200,000 annually from the market-

rate rental income for four apartments. With board approval, RTH would purchase the property for \$4.5 million. Potentially, the building could be replaced by another community center, or the parcel would be included in the new residential development.

Another RTH project discussed and voted on in 2019 also appears likely to move forward, although at a different scale and pace. A proposal to undertake \$24 million worth of renovations at the properties known as RTH Community Apartments, RTH Community Housing, and 777-779 Huntington Ave., was opposed 94-92 at that same critical October 2019 meeting. Tenants at the meeting questioned the proposed upgrades and improvements as well as the vague description of how the plan would reduce apartment sizes, and how current residents would be relocated during the renovations.

In March 2020, consultant John Gorman filed an application with the City's Inspectional Services Department for permission to change the occupancy of 21 Fenwood Road from a two-family to a five-family dwelling. Instead of a permit, the City issued a zoning refusal letter, citing four violations.

21 Fenwood Road, at the corner of St. Albans

Road, is distinguished by a two-story bay with scalloped-edge shingles on the front façade. It is home to two RTH activist households: Carmen Torres and Marta Franklyn have lived there for many decades and at one time expected to become owners when the Fenwood houses were part of a cooperative.

Relevant or not, the original 1903 deed from developer Jeremiah Spillane to the Whalen family, which owned the house until 1968, stated only a dwelling house for the use of not more than two families could be placed on the lot. Other neighbors also anticipate relocation and subdivisions of their generously sized historic apartments.

No zoning hearing is scheduled for 21 Fenwood Road. It is unclear whether an abutters meeting is planned. According to the City, an abutter is defined as any residential dwelling within 300 feet and covers owners and/or renters. The only property that meets that definition but not owned by RTH is 26-28 St. Albans Road. Typically, a Zoning Board of Appeal variance request would also be heard by local community groups.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

FENS VIEWS

IN MEMORIAM

Gil Loo

Gilbert Bo Sam “Gil” Loo died peacefully in Newton on Dec. 22, 2020 at the age of 100.

He was the sixth of seven children and preceded in death by his beloved wife, Barbara Richardson Loo.

Gil was born on July 1, 1920 in Hilo, Hawaii, and attended the University of Hawaii, graduating with a degree in business administration in 1941. He enlisted in the United States Army and served proudly from 1941 to 1945, receiving several honors, including the Bronze Star. Upon discharge, Gil used his return fare home to travel instead to New England, where he fell in love with the beauty of the fall season.

While working as a Fuller Brush salesman and a gardener, Gil furthered his education at Wesleyan University and Trinity College. He was employed by the Navy Department from 1953 to 1962. He joined the Internal Revenue Service in 1962 as a position classification specialist and remained there until retirement in 1987.

Gil married the love of his life, Barbara Richardson on June 21, 1959. Their mutual passion for the outdoors first brought them together and was a cornerstone throughout their 50-plus years of marriage. Together, they explored many trails around the world and hiked the entire 2,100 miles of the Appalachian Trail in many segments over many years. They were longtime and active members of the Appalachian Mountain Club. The



couple summited all 48 of the 4,000-foot mountains in New England in all four seasons, joining an elite group who can claim this feat.

Gil and Barbara loved their home on Park Drive. It was rare for Gil to go more than a few blocks on the sidewalk without being greeted by name. He and Barbara loved the museums in the area and regularly attended performances of the Boston Symphony.

After Barbara died in 2012, Gil moved to Lasell Village in Newton the next year. Living on the campus of Lasell University, Gil delighted in taking fine art and literature courses alongside college students. He saw everyone as a friend, whether family, neighbor, classmate, or nurse. Everyone was important to him.

Gil leaves behind a lifetime of happy memories, kindness, and generosity. We shall miss his handwritten Christmas

letters filled with stories of friends and family. We shall miss his smile during gatherings of friends and good food. We shall miss his amazingly sharp memory for people, places, and dates.

He was a wonderful person to spend time with and to learn from. We will remember his humility, his wry sense of humor, and most of all, his love and respect for everyone.

Gil is survived by several nieces, nephews, and their families. A virtual celebration of life will be held July 10. Please contact rhualaniloo@gmail.com for more information.

IN MEMORIAM

Theresa Parks

Theresa Parks, a Mission Hill icon from the Francis-Fenwood neighborhood, died on June 9. Theresa was one of the influential founders of the Roxbury Tenants of Harvard housing development. She remained a community activist for the rest of her life while raising a family and holding multiple jobs. The pews were filled at Mission Church, the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, on June 17 on what would have been Theresa's 85th birthday.

As Rev. Philip Dabney said in his eulogy, she was a straight shooter with a combination of goodness and grittiness. Not a social worker in the formal sense, Theresa nevertheless did a lot of informal crisis counseling and troubleshooting for Mission Hill residents. According to Fenway resident Helen Cox, who worked at the Roxbury Crossing



all more human and loving.”

state welfare office in the 1970s, those in need of assistance would often turn to Theresa and her late husband Robert Parks with their problems.

Theresa's granddaughter, Tess Parks, who spoke at the celebration of life service, said nothing would hold her grandmother back from fighting for her neighborhood. Her kindness was legendary—but so was her sharpness; she personified the expression “speaking truth to power.”

Theresa's obituary in the *Boston Globe* suggested that anyone who wanted to honor her memory do so by lending a hand to someone who needs it. Fr. Dabney, who knew her well, spoke of Theresa's courage, confidence, and laughter. “Because of her,” he said, “we're

IN MEMORIAM

Marilyn Casey

Marilyn Casey of Mission Hill died on June 4. She was 65. A service was held June 12 at the Davis Funeral Home in Roxbury.

Marilyn was a 2008 graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art and Design and lived nearby at Mission Park on Huntington Avenue.

For an exhibit at Parker Hill Library in 2013, Marilyn submitted an artist statement that said “I love to tell stories about my community and African American culture and history through art.”

Interviewed in 2013 for the *Bay State Banner*, Marilyn said she did not really immerse herself in the arts until she was injured in a shooting at age 35. She taught art classes for Roxbury Tenants of Harvard seniors. Neighbors remember Marilyn's sharing her wheelchair with her dog, Casey, at



Marilyn Casey's 2019 painting *The Casey Family at Church*

tributes to Marilyn. MassArt Professor Sharon Dunn wrote that “her smile brought light into this world. Her heart touched our hearts.”

Marilyn never gave up making all kinds of art and was an inspiration for her family and friends.

Brigham Circle and Mission Park events.

As Lydia Pena wrote for Marilyn's 2017 show at the Massachusetts State House, *Modern Spiritual Expressions*, Marilyn used vivid colors to offset tense moments in her black-history paintings. Other exhibits included colorful batik scarfs and T shirts in the Sparring Partners window gallery at Longwood and Huntington.

Pena and Luanne Witkowski, both fellow artists from the Mission Hill Artists Collective, shared

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, July 30.**

► DEADLINE ◀

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, July 23.**

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

A faculty member at BU's School of Medicine stepped down as editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* after another editor questioned the role of structural racism in medicine while on the

journal's podcast. According to a *New York Times* report, the controversy erupted right as the AMA released a plan to address structural racism in its ranks and in US medicine generally. A tweet promoting the podcast said “No physician is racist, so how can there be structural racism in health care?” 🗨️ **Novelist McKenzie Scott**

announced \$2.75 billion (yes, b) in donations to nearly 300 small US nonprofits. One happy recipient: The Theater Offensive, the pioneering group that has worked with gay and trans youth for years. TTO will make its home in the Scape project's black box theater on Boylston Street. In case you wonder how a novelist you've never heard of wound up with \$2.75 billion, Scott came out of her divorce from Jeff Bezos with a few shares of Amazon stock. 🗨️ An elementary-school teacher who led a second life as a hate-spewing white nationalist online was also pursuing a doctorate at B.U. A HuffPost reporter unmasked him. 🗨️ **Finally! ICYMI finds someone who did *not* embarrass B.U. last month: Ibram X. Kendi, head of the new Center for Antiracist Research. His just-launched podcast, “Be Antiracist,” focuses on fighting racism.** 🗨️ The Handel + Haydn Society announced a return to in-person performances for the 2021-22 season. Concertmaster Aisslinn Nosky will lead the first concerts, featuring Vivaldi's “The Four Seasons,” at Symphony Hall on October 8 and 10. Artistic Director Harry Christophers bids the ensemble farewell this season. He originally planned to wrap things up last year, but...pandemic. 🗨️ **Workers at Pavement—more ubiquitous in the Fenway than Dunk's—announced a plan to form a union affiliated with UNITE HERE. Unexpectedly, owner Larry Marulies announced that he'd support the union drive. Assuming he follows through, the workers get to skip holding an NLRB-supervised election.** 🗨️ *Globe* columnist Jeneé Osterheldt profiled Matthew Zaremba, an artist whose Instagram account gained traction during the pandemic for its thoughtful reflections on mental health. Zaremba works in multiple media, including murals, but more critical for ICYMI's parochial purposes, he directs marketing for Bodega, the speakeasy-like East Fens shoe boutique. 🗨️

Neighborhood Newsline

Life Sciences Fever Spreads to Huntington Avenue

Even though they haven't filed with the Boston Planning & Development Agency, developers have begun introducing neighbors to plans for a bio-lab and life science building on Huntington Avenue. The development would occupy both the vacant parcel at the corner of Mission Street (formerly the location of Ed Burke's Tavern—no women allowed) and 812 Huntington, built for the American Red Cross in 1967. The properties, which cover more than an acre, include a large parking lot facing Hillside Street.

Cannabis Board Okays Marijuana Shop in Mission Hill

On June 15, the Boston Cannabis Board unanimously supported Raices on the Hill, a marijuana business co-owned by former State Representative Jeffrey Sánchez, former District 8 City Councilor Mike Ross, and Sociedad Latina director Alexandra Oliver-Dávila's. The cannabis shop will share 123 Terrace Street with Diablo Glass, a glassblowing school. The ownership group signed a five-page good-neighbor agreement with Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services on June 7.

Two Developments, Three Public-Comment Deadlines in July

- The public-comment period has opened for the environmental review of The Fenway Project, 2.1 million square feet spread across multiple sites proposed by a venture between WS Development and Twins Realty Venture. The buildings cover roughly 3.3 acres on Van Ness, Jersey, and Lansdowne streets, and Brookline Avenue. Email Lauren DeVoe for a link to the environmental notification form, at LDeVoe@vhb.com. The proponents say a hard copy of the form will also be available at the Central Library in Copley Square. Comments are due July 13 to MEPA@mass.gov and July 23 to the BPDA.
- Comments are due to the BPDA's nupoor.monani@boston.gov by August 1 on the draft project impact report for National Development's proposal for 220 Huntington—site of the Midtown Hotel. The recently revised proposal would contain 325 apartments and 17,300 square feet of retail space. The report is available at www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/220-huntington-avenue.

City Awards Contract for Mission Hill Playground

Rockland-based R.A.D. Corporation's low bid of \$2,794,025 won it the contract for Tremont Street's Mission Hill Playground project. Work will begin this fall, although demolition could start as early as August. R.A.D. is currently finishing the Madison Park fields reconstruction at Ruggles and Cabot streets. The other bidders were Haven Contracting and Fleming Brothers.

DCR Approves Alliance's Plan to Remove Walls at Charlesgate

The Charlesgate Alliance will move forward with removal of stone barrier walls at Charlesgate Park. In early June, the state Department of Conservation & Recreation awarded an engineering and design contract for the wall removals to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, a multidisciplinary civil engineering consulting and design firm headquartered in Watertown.

PHOTO: J. STARBIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

SUNSET OVER MISSION HILL

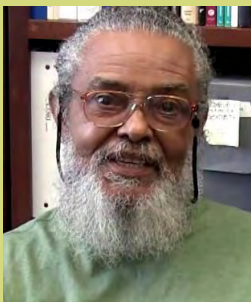
Mission Hill resident Jen Starbird provided this shot of the skyline at sunset. Watch for more of her striking work in future issues of *The Fenway News*.



S	O	X	B	O	X
Fri, July 9	7:10pm				
Sat, July 10	4:10pm				
Sun, July 11	1:10pm				
Thu, July 22	7:10pm				
Fri, July 23	7:10pm				
Sat, July 24	4:05pm				
Sun, July 25	TBD				
Mon, July 26	7:10pm				
Tue, July 27	7:10pm				
Wed, July 28	7:10pm				
Thu, July 29	7:10pm				

Byron Rushing Addresses Fenway News Annual Meeting on July 8

The Fenway News Association will hold its 2021 annual meeting on Thursday, July 8, over Zoom. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm, and we're delighted that historian and former State Rep.



Byron Rushing will give our keynote, “Justice And Its Enemies: Abolition And Emancipation in Boston Again.”

Given planning uncertainties, this year we opted to stay remote, but next year we expect to return to a fully in-person meeting...with food.

Membership in the Fenway News Association is open to anyone in the Fenway, Mission Hill, Audubon Circle and other communities we serve. The deadline to qualify as a voting member has passed; the list of current members appears at right.

We look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS (AS OF JUNE 30, 2021):

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Marie Kondo Meets Recycling

Did you know that about seven percent of solid waste is textiles? The City of Boston has set up drop-off bins around the city for recycling clothing and textiles, including one in Audubon Circle at the McKinley Middle School, located at 50 St. Mary's St. The bin sits on the south side of the building, where Euston and St. Mary's streets intersect. Visit www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/recycling-clothing-and-textiles for a list of recyclable items, FAQs, multilingual flyers, and a map of all locations.



PHOTO: LESLIE POND

WHY'S A PHYSICAL THERAPIST AT THE Y?

BY ALISON BARNET

Someone recently asked me why a company like Bay State Physical Therapy would rent basement space at the Huntington YMCA. Physical therapist Matt Donovan, DPT (doctor of physical therapy), explained that there are lots of reasons. Having a location in a Y gives patients access to exercise equipment and, at some Ys like Huntington, access to a pool for aquatic therapy. Location is important. This Bay State location benefits from its proximity to Northeastern, its students, and its student athletes. Many clients are already Y members, while others join afterwards.

Matt has been at the Huntington branch for three years, treating people with a variety of issues: sciatica, neck pain, knee pain, and, in my case, hand pain. He's from Holliston, graduated from Quinnipiac College in Hamden, Conn., and worked briefly at another Bay State office. He's personable, recently sharing with clients the fact that he'd gotten engaged over the weekend. On the walls are numerous photos of Matt with happy clients.

Managing partner Ken Nwosu, DPT, who has worked for Bay State for more than 10 years, sometimes fills in at the Y. A graduate of Sacred Heart University, he's also very friendly.

The parent company began in Randolph in 1995 and then expanded across New England. Locally, it has sites in South Boston and Roxbury—originally at Reggie Lewis and now at Whittier Street Health Center. Huntington Bay State has been in operation since May 2018 after, as Ken explains, Bay State contacted the Huntington Y about a partnership—a natural, given that Bay State already had several locations in Ys around Boston. While the Y isn't the most visible location, signs outside 316 Huntington Ave. read "Conveniently located in the Y." They advertise "Free injury screenings!" and ask "Is your pain preventing you from being active?" The slogan is "Physical Therapy at its Best."

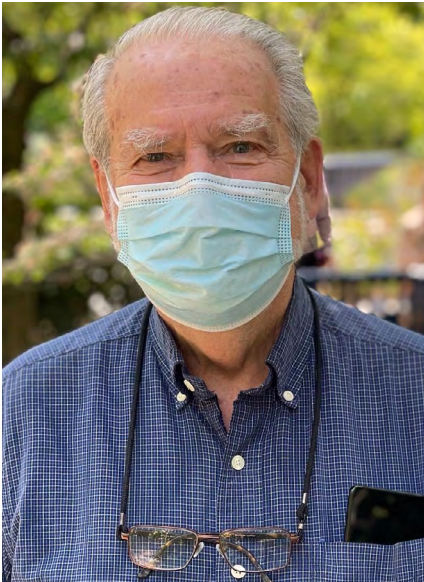
The facility has only four or five tables/beds, and usually about three people receiving treatment at a time. Matt navigates the tables, dividing his time evenly among clients, often with the help of an intern. It interests me that my fellow clients are so diverse. Many are young—you wouldn't think they'd need physical therapy! There's an elderly woman who speaks only Mandarin but comprehends all of Matt's instructions thanks to a translation device provided by Bay State. There's a police officer with a bad knee with whom Matt has animated conversations about playing golf. There are always people doing leg raises, pulling straps toward them from the wall, or balancing on a blue pad. Some clients warm up before their therapy session by using exercise equipment upstairs.

As to why there are so many sports signs on the walls, including a picture of Fenway Park, Matt answers, "Boston is a sports town." And he's in the process of training for the Boston Marathon.

Alison Barnet lives in the South End.

SENIORS CHEER RETURN OF F2F EVENTS

PHOTOS: MALLORY ROHRIG



With a successful local vaccination effort, Operation PEACE's Peterborough Senior Center can host in-person events after more than a year of mostly virtual offerings. On May 20, it held Coffee & Conversation in Ramler Park. Pictured clockwise from the left: Barbara Fay; Carmen Diaz, Matti Kniva Spencer, and Maria Rodriguez; Oleg Volya. See some July Senior Center highlights at right.

SENIOR EVENTS

The Senior Center doesn't yet have a set date for reopening its physical space. Visit www.operationpeaceboston.org to learn more about programs and check out the calendar for in-person outside events. Some of the events listed below are virtual. To receive Zoom links and call-in numbers, please email Mallory Rohrig at mallory@operationpeaceboston.org.

- July 8 to Sept. 2 at 11am: **COFFEE & CONVERSATION** takes place in Ramler Park, 130 Peterborough Street
- July 13 at 12pm: **COMMUNITY UPDATES WITH SENATOR WILLIAM BROWNSBERGER** in Ramler Park, 130 Peterborough
- July 20 at 12pm: **VIRTUAL BINGO**. Contact the Senior Center if you need a Bingo card.
- July 27 at 1:00pm: **VIRTUAL MUSICAL ROULETTE WITH JOHN O'NEIL**

@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center is currently moving back to in-person events. Visit its www.fenwaycommunitycenter.org, for more information on a timeline for in-person events and for Zoom links for events that are still virtual.

- Monday, 6pm: **ARTS & CRAFTS**.
- Wednesday, 8pm: **GAME NIGHT**. Play Drawful and other online games suitable for all ages.
- Thursday, 8pm (6pm beginning July 15): **GAME NIGHT**.
- Wednesday, 6pm: **GUIDED MEDITATION**.
- Tuesday, July 6 to Thursday, July 8: **SUMMER WORKSHOP WITH NAVIGATORS USA**. Become a hiking expert and use field guides to identify trees, birds, and animal signs on our journeys through the Fens and beyond. Recommended for ages 5-8. \$60.
- Friday, July 16, 7pm: **PAINT NIGHT**. No matter your artistic ability, you'll enjoy creating your own work of art.

TRUST'S GRANT HELPS BOOST RESTAURANTS

If you read the front page of this issue you saw that *The Fenway News* received a grant from the Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust. We're delighted, of course, and grateful, but we want to clear one thing up. Two people who sit on our board—Alison Pultinas and Steve Chase—also sit on the Trust's board. At no time did they have any hand in our grant proposal. Equally important, at

not time did they discuss or vote on our proposal at the Trust. The grant will help us create a year-long marketing campaign to support local restaurants in the Fenway and Mission Hill as they recover from the devastating pandemic lockdown that began in 2020. These businesses play a huge role in setting the tone and flavor of our communities. We're excited to begin working with them this summer.

Farmers Markets

Look for blueberries and raspberries, as well as early-season peaches. Eggplant, corn, and broccoli will also make an appearance.

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.

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TheArts

CASTING HER EYE ON THE FENWAY TO PAINT BOOK EXCHANGE

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

On the corner of Burbank Street and Edgerly Road stands a new addition to the Little Free Library network, one of the largest book-sharing programs in the world. The library was created by artist Sara Theophall from Midway Studios in the Fort Point artist community.

Born and raised in New York, Theophall attended the notable Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts. She arrived in Massachusetts via Smith College, where she majored in psychology.

Theophall says she has been painting and creating art as long as she can remember. She’s also an active participant in the Fenway community, as she contributes to the Peterborough Senior Center and Fenway Community Center.

Theophall’s art has been shown in New York and Boston. Her preferred media is painting, with a focus on portraiture and figurative painting. Over the last few years, she has taken a hiatus from painting and begun exploring and creating collage pieces. She says that collage, along with painting, can be rewarding for an



Artist Sara Theophall opens the Little Free Library she painted in the East Fens.



artist expressing the many colorful and cathartic experiences of life.

As she took on the project, organized by the Fenway CDC, Theophall wanted to

express the diversity and rainbow of the community, depicted on the library structure’s left side panel (shown in the inset). Each panel depicts a particular aspect of life in The Fenway. The front panel and the interior depict wildlife in the Back Bay Fens, with rabbits, geese, and spring flowers. The right side panel represents the Victory Garden, as gardeners stand shaded by a Japanese tree emboldened as roots of the community. The back of the structure presents the James P. Kelleher Rose Garden. It is illustrated with an open pathway inviting the visitor into the world of the Fenway and the wonder of books and sharing.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

Finland, Argentina, MSNBC Call to Berklee Grads

- Devina Boughton and Andrew Skinner have received Fulbright U.S. Student Program Open Study/Research Awards from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Boughton studied composition and performance, graduating this year, and Skinner completed Berklee Valencia’s Master of Music in Music Production, Technology, and Innovation program. Boughton will use her grant to study global music at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. Skinner will use his to record the life stories of the surviving first generation of Nuevo Cancionero folk musicians in Mendoza, Argentina.
- Berklee alumna Maria Lineva, ’18, composed the score for a new MSNBC documentary, *Sky Blossom: Diaries of the Next Greatest Generation*. Lineva studied contemporary writing and production at Berklee; the Berklee Contemporary Symphony Orchestra performed the score for the soundtrack. Directed by award-winning MSNBC journalist Richard Lui, *Sky Blossom* focuses on five millennials who live double lives, working jobs while caring for their loved ones as young caregivers.

EATS BEAT

Audubon Circle’s Japnaise Bakery shut its doors on May 23 to undertake a potentially extensive renovation. A GoFundMe page that went up in early June had raised \$16,595 toward a \$50,000 goal by the end of the month. The website suggests that the extent of renovations may depend on the success of the fundraiser, but the wish list includes all-new kitchen equipment, new flooring, and a full redesign of the retail area. The owners estimate the closure will last at least two months. The bakery opened in 1985.

Moonbox Picks NU Student’s Play for First Boston New Works Festival

BY KELSEY BRUUN

A play by Northeastern student Catherine Giorgetti was one of nine original works selected for Moonbox Productions’ first Boston New Works Festival, slated to take place in June 2022.

For the next year, the selected playwrights will take part in an extended workshop process that culminates in staged productions.

Giorgetti’s play, *Rocky Relationships*, delves into the ever-shifting perspectives on new and old relationships.

The Framingham native lives in the Fenway and has pursued a double major

in theatre and history while minoring

in playwriting.

Giorgetti’s theatrical

interests range

from playwriting

to dramaturgy,

directing, and acting.

She says she loves

using theatre as

an explorative and

storytelling tool. She

is an Ambassador

for New Repertory

Theater and a

College Ambassador

for HowlRound

Theatre Commons.

She loves her family and friends, reading, watching movies, and experimenting with special-effects makeup.

Based in Cambridge, Moonbox supports local arts.

Kelsey Bruun is the editor of *The Fenway News*.



Catherine Giorgetti

MFA, Gardner Both Have Major Shows On Tap for the Summer



The MFA’s New Light exhibition includes “Joseph Lewis as Eze Nri” (at left, 2018), by Stephen Hamilton. © Stephen Hamilton.

Capacity limits have been lifted and it is easier than ever to secure tickets to local museums. The Museum of Fine Arts still requires timed and ticketed entries, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum encourages visitors to buy tickets in advance. Both museums open new exhibits this summer—just in time for them to be seen by as many visitors as possible.

- Beginning July 3, **New Light: Encounters and Connections** at the MFA brings more than 60 works of art from across the collection—including 23 newly acquired contemporary pieces—into thought-provoking dialogue. Organized into 21 “conversations,” the exhibition juxtaposes each contemporary work with one or two rarely seen objects acquired earlier in the museum’s history. The latest additions to the collection include works by emerging and local or Boston-born artists; the earlier objects range from an ancient Egyptian carving of a princess to 20th-century textiles from southwestern Nigeria and Gee’s Bend, Alabama. Together, these objects invite visitors to explore an array of subjects—from religious devotion and ancestral heritage to queer communities and Indigenous resistance—with the aim of sparking unexpected connections and new narratives.
- On August 12, the Gardner Museum will open **Titian: Women, Myth & Power**, the final stop and only US venue for this groundbreaking exhibition, which has already hung in London and Madrid. The exhibit brings together—for the first time in more than 400 years—six mythological paintings that Titian created for King Philip II of Spain. It includes the first paintings that England’s Wallace Collection ever agreed to lend to a U.S. exhibition. The Gardner has invited contemporary artists to create works that address the questions of gender, power, and sexual violence represented in the exhibition: *The Rape of Europa*, a short film by Mary Reid Kelley and Patrick Kelley, and *Body Language* by Barbara Kruger. The exhibit will run through January 2, 2022.

July

CALENDAR

Wed, 7/7

MUSEUM OF SCIENCE VIRTUAL FORUMS ON CLIMATE HAZARD RESILIENCE. Tonight: a discussion on extreme heat. 5:30–7:30pm. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-forum-on-climate-hazard-resilience-extreme-heat-tickets-152149016805?aff=ebdsoporgprofile.

Wed, 7/7, 7/14, 7/21, & 7/28

CHAIR YOGA WITH KARMA. This gentle form of yoga can be done seated or standing on the ground while using a chair for support. The focus is on opening all the joints and loosening up tight muscles. No pre-registration needed. 10am to 11am. Symphony Park, 39 Edgerly Road.

Thu, 7/8

JAZZ IN JULY @ RAMLER PARK. The Rusty Scott Quartet, feat. Tim Mayer performs jazz from the 1930s to the 1990s. 6:30-8pm,

Ramler Park, 135 Peterborough Street. Details at www.friendsoframlerpark.org.

Thu, 7/10

- **MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL.** Enjoy musical performances at 5:30pm at The Yard, 1481 Tremont St. Pre-register at www.facebook.com/MHArtsFest.
- **EVENING GARDEN STROLL WITH THE EMERALD NECKLACE.** Scented gardens, and a leisurely stroll. 5–6pm. 125 The Fenway. Register at www.emeraldnecklace.org/event/evening-garden-stroll-07-10/.

Wed, 7/14 & 7/28

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. 3–5pm. Contact Anar Kansara at akansara@fenwaycdc.org for additional information.

Wed, 7/14

- **FENWAY ROSE GARDEN PICNIC.** Join the Fenway Civic Association for bluegrass music and a boxed picnic meal. Meet outside the Kelleher Rose Garden, across from 85 Park Drive. 6–8pm. Rain date is the following day.
- **MUSEUM OF SCIENCE VIRTUAL FORUM ON CLIMATE HAZARD RESILIENCE.** Tonight: extreme precipitation. 5:30–7:30pm. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-forum-on-climate-hazard-resilience-extreme-precipitation-tickets-152149401957?aff=ebdsoporgprofile.

Thu, 7/15

BORDERLAND: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BLANCHE AMES AMES. Mass. Historical Society screens a 55-minute documentary about Ames—artist, activist, builder, birth control advocate, suffragist. 5:30pm. Audi-

ence discussion with historian Barbara Berenson follows the film. **FREE**, but registration required. <https://18308a.blackbaud-hosting.com/18308a/Borderland-The-Life-and-Times-of-Blanche-Ames-Ames>

Sat, 7/17

The Fenway Garden Society hosts an **OPEN GARDENS**. Rain date/heat date (higher than 85 degrees) is the following day. 1–4pm. 1200 Boylston Street. Pick up your map at the flagpole.

Tue, 7/20

Boston Public Library presents an online author talk with **JUDITH HEUMANN, AUTHOR OF ROLLING WARRIOR: THE INCREDIBLE, SOMETIMES AWKWARD, TRUE STORY OF A REBEL GIRL ON WHEELS WHO HELPED SPARK A REVOLUTION.** Register at https://boston-public-library.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3k4Qn9c_T66yCambFxbN-A. 6pm to 7pm.

Thu, 7/22

JAZZ IN JULY @ RAMLER PARK. International Jazz Quartet, feat. Tim Mayer featuring Berklee faculty from Peru, Brazil, Mexico, and the US. 6:30-8pm, Ramler Park, 135 Peterborough Street. Details at www.friendsoframlerpark.org. **FREE**

Sat, 7/24

MISSION HILL ARTS FESTIVAL. Enjoy musical performances at 5:30pm at The Yard, 1481 Tremont St. Pre-register at www.facebook.com/MHArtsFest.

Thu, 7/29

A Conversation with Jocelyn Forbush, acting president and CEO of **THE TRUSTEES**. In a Nature Connects webinar, Forbush talks about the trails, gardens and beaches the Trustees protect. Register at www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/volunteer-and-attend-events/find-local-events-and-opportunities/nature-connects-webinar-series/. 12–1pm.

COMMUNITY meetings

TUESDAYS Mission Hill Main Streets **SMALL BUSINESS CONFERENCE CALL.** Small businesses citywide can join Mission Hill Main Streets for a weekly conference call featuring reopening guidance, support services, resources, and a Q&A session. Register in advance at <https://bitly.com/smallbizbos>. 3pm.

FRIDAYS The Legal Services Center at Harvard Law School hosts weekly **VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS** in partnership with the Boston Public Library. 10am–12pm. The LSC provides advice and referrals about civil legal issues, including housing law and tenants’ rights, disability rights, Social Security and public benefits, veterans benefits and military-record corrections, divorce, custody and child support, LGBTQ+ concerns, tax issues, consumer loan and small claims court problems, and criminal records. For Zoom information,

visit <http://bit.ly/LSCBPL>.

TUE, JULY 6 Tweets for **TOPA**. Help tenants preserve their homes and prevent displacement! Join us to learn about the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act and ask our legislators to co-sponsor it. 6–7pm. Zoom link at tinyurl.com/TOPAtuesdays. Contact Pam at pamelab@macdc.org with questions.

THU, JULY 8 Fenway CDC **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE** meets 6–7:30pm on Zoom. Contact Cassie White at cwhite@fenwaycdc.org for the link.

TUE, JULY 13 Remote public meeting on the **FENWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**. 6–8pm. Virtual meeting about the Fenway Development Project proposal; project notification form filed at the BPDA on June 3. You must register at www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_Ec8CxGp-TiONGkr7RLjNtg

to attend. Contact Aisling Kerr at Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov with questions.

THU, JULY 15 7th Suffolk District State Rep. Chyna Tyler hosts **OFFICE HOURS**. Ask questions about the legislation at the State House, get assistance with government services, and discuss neighborhood issues. Register at bit.ly/3u5ICwR.

MON, JULY 19 Remote public meeting on the **FENWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**. 6–8pm. Virtual meeting about the Fenway Development Project proposal. You must register at www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_mb6Vv7pwQiqNP8RIGTjXIw to attend. Contact Aisling Kerr at Aisling.Kerr@Boston.gov with any questions.

TUE, JULY 20 Join the Red Sox for their first **IN-PERSON NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING** since October 2019. Doors open 6pm; program begins at 6:30pm. Fenway Park.



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