

Bus-Route Redesign Leaves Uncertainty About Routes 55, 39

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Throughout the summer, the MBTA will take feedback on its Bus Network Redesign project, holding both virtual and in-person presentations and offering a survey at www.mbtta.com/projects/bus-network-redesign.

Advocates call it a work in progress. The MBTA put changes initially proposed in 2018 as part of the Better Bus Project plan, on hold.

The agency then hired more consultants, and the MBTA team, led by Caroline Vanasse, expanded the concept of key bus routes to include another 15 routes.

Former Mayor Marty Walsh's 2017 *Go Boston 2030* set a goal of having every Boston household within a 10-minute walk of a subway station or a stop on a key bus route.

The timeline for these new plans depends in many cases on factors outside of MBTA control, such as developers' promise of adding an elevator at Hynes Station or whether Boston chooses to convert a travel lane on Mass. Ave. to a bus-only lane as Cambridge did.

Fenway and Mission Hill riders need to wait for a more detailed study on changes related to routes serving the Longwood Area to give nuanced feedback—although, reactions to alterations in route destinations and origins began immediately with the release of the draft maps on May 16.

Riders have continued to ask for route 55 access to Copley Square, which the proposed route map doesn't provide. Instead, the 55 would run from the LMA to Mass. Ave., then head across the river to terminate in Kendall Square. The Bus Network Redesign team has agreed to meet virtually with the 55 Bus Coalition on June 15 at 6pm to discuss the plans. For the meeting link, contact Ishraq Boutaleb at iboutaleb@Fenwaycdc.org.

The goal of increasing service on more heavily used routes comes with tradeoffs. At a May 16 press conference, State Sen. Will Brownsberger admitted these tradeoffs will prove controversial.

MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak and others have asserted that the proposals are revolutionary and will alter routes that haven't changed since the early days of trolleys and street cars. However, transit historian Jonathan Belcher's online and continually updated *Transit Service in the MBTA District 1964-2022* clearly documents past route changes. For example, 55



PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS

MBTA General Manager Steve Poftak addresses a May 16 press event at the State Transportation Building for the Bus Network Redesign project. Behind him, State Sen. Will Brownsberger, Livable Street Director Stacy Thompson, and Metropolitan Area Planning Council Director Marc Draisen wait to speak.

buses only began service to Park Street in the 1980s, and for a short time they even traveled on Burbank and Hemenway streets.

The proposed route for the 39 is ambitiously long—Forest Hills to Porter Square—and eliminates service on Huntington from Brigham Circle to the Prudential Center and Back Bay Station. Instead, riders would use the Green Line's E branch although whether this assumes expected three-car Green Line service and wider station platforms to accommodate more riders has not been shared.

Other changes will send buses from Nubian Square to connect with the Orange

Line at Roxbury Crossing rather than the busway at Ruggles Station, the current route, even though crossing Tremont Street can be perilous for pedestrians.

On his website (<https://willbrownsberger.com/bus-network-redesign/>) Senator Brownsberger state that "there's nothing good about an underloaded bus. Since buses are large, high-emissions vehicles, buses with only a few riders can be less efficient from an emissions perspective than single-occupancy vehicles." However, a quick and quiet ride to Copley versus an overcrowded Green Line train remains a Fenway aspiration.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

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On May 18 Mayor Michelle Wu spoke at a neighborhood coffee hour at Ramler Park in the West Fens. The event attracted more than 100 people, including elected officials, residents, and community groups. Dunkin' Donuts served coffee and donut holes, and each visitor received a plant. Loud protesters outside the park disturbed the event but didn't stop Wu and other officials from speaking and taking selfies with attendees. More photos on page 3.

WEST FENS GET NEW BIKE LANES AND SIDEWALKS

Transportation infrastructure got some City attention in the West Fens in May. Protected bike lanes (near right) went in on both sides of Boylston from the Victory Gardens to the Pierce Building, bumping parking out from the curb and eliminating it entirely in some spots, including in front of Star Market and the Verb Hotel. A block south, new sidewalks went in on both sides of Peterborough Street (far right) under the Walkable Streets Program for high-volume areas. That work, which wraps up in July, added new ADA ramps, removed some trip hazards, and extended some wells for street trees.



At Symphony Garden, Meet and Greet Precedes Go and Grow

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

The Symphony Road Community Garden held its second Meet and Greet for new gardeners on May 12. The event gives new gardeners a chance to meet and socialize with each other and local civic leaders. Guests were able to tour the gardens and see what each gardener specialized in growing.

After refreshments, the new gardeners were introduced and explained what intrigued them about gardening.

The event was organized by East Fens resident Barbara Fay. Guests included State Sen. Will Brownsberger; Marie Fukuda of the Fenway Civic Association; and Kennedy Avery from City Councilor Kenzie Bok's office.

Created in the 1980s on the site of one of the arson fires that plagued the neighborhood in the 1970s, the Symphony Road Community Garden provides space

for universal gardening, with both ground-level plots and accessible raised beds. It operates with support from the Trustees

of Reservations, the nation's oldest preservation-and-conservation nonprofit.

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens.



PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAIS

New gardeners at the Symphony Road garden include (left to right) Qiang Liu, Karin Rose, Christie Watters, Kurt Dudek, Sheneal Parker, and Bella Mediate.

On Northeastern Campus, Tantalizing Hints of Missing Ballpark



IMAGE: DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH-BPL; MICHAEL T. MCGREEVY COLLECTION

BY ED BALLO

While Fenway Park is known all over the world, few know that the Fenway once harbored another older ball field, known as the Huntington Avenue Grounds. This was site of the first World Series held in 1903 between the Pittsburgh Pirates and The Boston Americans (Red Sox after 1908).

It was a best-of-nine-games series with Boston taking the series five games to three.

Boston would overcome a three-to-one deficit winning the final four games in a row to take the series, with the winning game played at the Huntington Avenue Grounds. Of note, overcoming such a game deficient has only happened about a dozen times in baseball history!

The Huntington Avenue Grounds had a very short shelf life, standing for a mere 11 years until the Sox removed to Fenway Park in 1912. The grounds, coincidentally, stood less than a half mile and across the railroad tracks (present day Orange Line/Amtrak) from the South End Grounds, which was home to the Boston Braves. The Braves would also move in 1915 to the present Nickerson Field and are now the Atlanta Braves.

Getting back to Huntington Avenue, the Urban Detective has found some tantalizing place markers on the Northeastern University campus. Let's proceed to the campus and try

This view shows the Huntington Avenue Grounds during a 1911 game between the Red Sox and the Detroit Tigers (the Tigers lead, 3-0). The photo, taken from above Huntington Avenue—today's Green Line trolley tracks cross the lower left corner—looks toward Roxbury and the South End. Billboards next to the outfield bleachers advertise Narragansett beer ("On tap at Jake Wirth's"), Haffenreffer Lager, and the Boston Herald. A sign urges fans to "Learn a trade at Wentworth Institute." Immediately to the right and above the round building near the middle of the photo, a diagonal structure marks the edge of the outfield stands at the South End Grounds, where the Boston Braves played. The Sox moved to Fenway Park in 1912.

PHOTOS: ED BALLO



From left, World Series Way on Forsyth; the home plate replica; and the statue of Cy Young.

1898. Called the Evening Institute for Younger Men, offered courses in algebra, bookkeeping, French, German, Latin, electricity, penmanship, and physiology. In addition, there were a number of clubs and activities such as

a banjo club and weekly debates—in short, a solid education for “any young man of moral character.”

Classes were first held within the YMCA on Boylston Street downtown. The Institute moved with the YMCA to the present building on Huntington Avenue in 1913. In 1916, it become known as Northeastern College and finally separated itself completely from the YMCA in 1948, spreading out adjacent to its former host in a collection of midcentury “modernist” buildings.

Ed Ballo lives in the West Fens. His periodic “Urban Detective” column presents small bites of local history to help decipher the city around you and enhance your appreciation of it.

BPS BUILDING PLAN TARGETS FENWAY, ROXBURY SCHOOLS

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Local architects Jana Silsby and Jonathan Levi will develop prototype designs for schools serving pre-kindergarten to sixth-grade pupils, and students in seventh to twelfth grades as part of Mayor Michelle Wu’s Green New Deal for Boston Public Schools.

Silsby, of D.C.-based DLR group, led the design process for the new Boston Arts Academy while at a previous employer, Perkins Eastman. Levi’s firm, JLA, designed the new Dearborn STEM Academy. The models will reflect studies of specific sites of existing schools and future locations.

In mid-May Wu announced the Green New Deal, a \$2 billion overhaul of BPS facilities based on an evaluation of buildings conducted in 2021. McKinley Prep High School at 97 Peterborough ranked second-worst of more than 120 buildings evaluated, and the McKinley Middle School at 50 St. Mary’s Street ranked fifth-worst.

The City’s website [visit <http://boston.gov/gnd-bps>] provides an overview of the program and lists priority projects—among them five schools in Roxbury, including Madison Park High—and an interactive map. In addition to assessing the physical conditions of the buildings, the evaluation also took into account an opportunity-index ranking that measures whether a school serves a high-needs population.

The Green New Deal includes a \$175,000 design study in the City’s 2023 budget to evaluate all four McKinley programs and their respective locations—on Warren Avenue the McKinley Elementary School and the McKinley South End Academy, and in the Fenway the McKinley Middle School and McKinley Preparatory High School—with a promised “new build” and a commitment of City funds.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

Community Night at Fenway Park

PHOTO: PATRICK O’CONNOR



On May 20, the Boston Red Sox recognized Fenway-connected groups and individuals prior to the game against the Seattle Mariners. Pictured from left are Genevieve Day of the Fenway Alliance; Phil Pham and Yeanie Bach, owners of Phinista Cafe; State Sen. Will Brownsberger ; State Rep. Jay Livingstone and his children; State Rep. Jon Santiago; District 8 City Councilor Kenzie Bok; Boston Police Captain Steve Sweeney; Brianna Millor, Chief of Civic Engagement for the City; and Enrique Pepen, Director of the Office of Neighborhood Services.

MAYOR’S COFFEE HOUR DRAWS MORE THAN 100 AT RAMLER PARK



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF BOSTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Mayor Michelle Wu visited the West Fens on May 18 for an hour-long Neighborhood Coffee Hour at Ramler Park. Following short speeches from Wu and other elected officials, the mayor spoke with attendees. If you missed the event, ten more take place around the city in June, including at sites in the South End (June 10) and Roxbury (June 13). View the schedule at www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/neighborhood-coffee-hours. Shown here in photos clockwise from top left:

- 1 Sam Fidler, Fenway resident and staff member in the City’s Arts & Culture office, got into his work by contributing to the community painting canvases.
- 2 DJ A.a.Ron Myers of A Trike Called Funk (beneath striped umbrella) inspired an impromptu dance party.
- 3 Luis Sanchez of the Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants took advantage of the chance to speak one-on-one with Mayor Wu about tenants’ rights.
- 4 Six-year-old Benjie Vaduva and his mom, Anne-Marie, showed off their gift of flowers.

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At 89, Jacqueline Royce Fights For the Environment On Multiple Fronts

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

On her 89th birthday, Jacqueline Royce was recognized as a tireless climate activist who continues to work relentlessly on environmental issues unique to our community. The recognition was recommended by Carol Lasky, co-chair of the Ward 4 Democratic Committee.

Royce has worked with Gas Leaks Allies and the Boston Climate Action Network. She's an active member of the Green Committee of the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay (NABB) and has focused on honoring and seeking recognition for the Muddy River as ancestral and unceded homeland of the Massachusetts Nation. A co-founder of both the Boston

Clean Energy Coalition and Muddy River Initiative, Royce cares deeply about our community—and this recognition acknowledged that.

As co-sponsor of the Muddy River Initiative, Royce shares the helm with Carolyn Reeves as the group moves into another spring and summer. A team of volunteers has focused on cleaning the area around the Ipswich Bridge. Royce calls this area crucial because it's the last section of the Muddy River before it flows under Storrow Drive and into the Charles River. Teams of volunteers have cleaned this



area of the river with the help of a modified WaterGoat filtration system. [A net strung across the river, the WaterGoat traps debris in the water; volunteers pull it to shore to collect the trash it captures, then redeploy it in the water.]

In a recent article for Northeastern's *The Scope*, Xinyu Lu and Jiawen Xu report that up 500 gallons of sewage flow into Boston Harbor daily through its rivers. Rainwater picks up pollutants from lawns, houses, and streets and flows directly into the river.

Royce emphasizes that we must pay attention to the whole river and not just parts of it.

Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.

Residents Push Back on Apartments Proposed Near Mission Church



BY ALISON PULTINAS

At the 1558 Tremont Impact Advisory Group (IAG) meeting on May 9, negative comments abounded on the proposed seven-story, 139-unit apartment complex.

"It's horrific," exclaimed Richard Giordano.

"Too high, too dense," said Cindy Walling

"A nonstarter," declared Martin Beinborn. "Tell the developer [that] fine tuning doesn't cut it."

At the meeting, architect Dartagnan Brown of Embarc Studios offered some fine-tuning—proposing 108 units instead of 139, fewer studios, and altered setbacks. However, meeting attendees protested the appropriateness of such a large rental building in a neighborhood of three-family homes. The height—seven stories on a steep slope—will block many neighborhood views of the landmarked Mission Church and rectory at 1545 Tremont.

No new plans have been filed on the BPDA website. The agency has scheduled another public meeting for June 21, with

comments due June 23 to project manager Dan Polanco at Dan.Polanco@boston.gov.

Former BPDA project manager Lance Campbell held an initial public session virtually in March. Soon after, residents began a petition campaign opposing the proposed development. According to Ellen Moore, a Worthington Street, resident, more than 180 letters were submitted in March and April.

Keruffles with Polanco, the project manager who succeeded Campbell, began when an announcement of an IAG meeting for Monday, May 9, was posted just the Friday afternoon before. Two IAG members, Lois Regestein and Ricardo Sanchez stated they were not notified. A video recording of the meeting was posted on May 27.

The site poses complications. First, Savage Properties made a deal with the Redemptorists, inheritors of the former O'Connor funeral home, that guaranteed 47 parking spaces forever for Mission Church and Mission Grammar School.

Second, the site's back history introduces some twists. 1558 Tremont was the homestead of Timothy McCarthy,

The white line in the photo at left shows how the apartment complex proposed for 1558 Tremont would block views from the St. Alphonsus Street entrance to Fitzgerald Park. The map below shows the proposed protection area for the landmarked Mission Church complex.

century. It has become difficult to visualize significant features because of the building's current condition, which includes facade modifications dating to its time as a funeral home from the 1950s to the 1980s. Jason Savage has owned the property since 2016.

Behind 1558 sits the large parking lot used by the Church and the parochial school. The asphalt presumably rests on

puddingstone rock—the quarry on this side of the hill stretched from Alleghany to St. Alphonsus streets. Any construction on the site would require jackhammering of the underlying layers of rock.

In early March, community members made a submission to the Boston Landmarks Commission requesting an amendment to the 2005 landmark designation for the Mission Church complex. The amendment would add a protection zone that could preserve historic view corridors.

Gary Walling, spokesperson for the group that submitted the application, said there has been no response since Director Rosanne Foley confirmed receipt of the petition, which contained 37 signatures, along with the required maps, photographs, and narrative. Foley did explain that the Boston Landmarks Commission has been understaffed for several months and is in the midst of a move from City Hall to the former Kirstein Branch Library building at 20 City Hall Ave. The current process for landmarking requires a meeting with the Boston Landmarks Commission director before the commission can vote on an application.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.



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PHOTO: RUTH KHOWAIS



AFTER A PANDEMIC BREAK, EARLY-MORNING BIRD WALK RETURNS TO ITS NATIVE HABITAT

BY RUTH KHOWAIS

One of the casualties at the height of the Coronavirus pandemic was the loss of the annual Bird Walk sponsored by the Fenway Civic Association. But on May 15 this year, like the swallows returning to Capistrano, the Bird Walk was back and once again led by Emerald Necklace naturalist Stephen Baird of the Friends of Jamaica Pond.

At left, Stephen Baird of the Friends of Jamaica Pond searches for birds in the Fens near Jersey Street and Park Drive.

“Birds of the Back Bay Fens” was a morning walk through the Fens, along the Muddy River, Agassiz Bridge, and Victory Gardens. Along the way, Baird pointed out nesting sites, bird calls, and signs of

climate change, including changing migration patterns.

A tiny warbler was the first find of the day. Baird said that warblers and vireos have come back in large numbers. More than 25 species of birds were spotted that morning, including a Baltimore oriole, a red-winged blackbird, a northern mockingbird, a mallard duck sitting on its nest, a male house sparrow gathering feathers for his nest, a pair of goldfinches, and a cardinal singing. A highlight was the sight of the great blue heron, a year-round visitor, catching fish in the Muddy River. Also, several painted turtles were sunning themselves along the riverbank.

For more information and to hear sound clips of bird songs, check out www.FriendsofJamaicaPond.org

Ruth Khowais lives in the West Fens..

Fountain’s Spray Means Summer’s On The Way

PHOTO: ALISON PULTINAS



One sure sign of summer in the city: the Children's Fountain at the Christian Science Plaza has returned. On hot, sunny days, the fountain attracts families, with small children running through the fountain and parents watching from stone benches cooled by the shade of a ring of linden trees. Water play hours run 9am–9pm, weather permitting. (Fun fact: in a 2017 essay in Landscape Architecture Magazine, landscape architect Gary Hildebrand called the plaza's trees “the single greatest geometric planted form in Boston—unparalleled in our city and uncommon in North America.”)

CITY HOPES TO EXPAND RECYCLING TO MATTRESSES

It’s a familiar sight during “Allston Christmas”—mattresses left on the sidewalk during the big weeks for students’ moving into and out of apartments. The City has opened a solicitation process for a potential large-scale program for recycling or reusing residential mattresses, diverting them from landfills or incineration. Documents are available at <https://www.boston.gov/bid-listings/15870386> or at the Public Works contract office, Room 714 in City Hall.

S O X B O X

Tue, June 14	7:10pm
Wed, June 15	7:10pm
Thu, June 16	1:35pm
Fri, June 17	7:10pm
Sat, June 18	7:15pm
Sun, June 19	1:35pm
Mon, June 20	7:10pm
Tue, June 21	7:10pm
Wed, June 22	7:10pm

@ THE CENTER

The Fenway Community Center is now open six days a week. Visit <https://fenwaycommunitycenter.org/> for more details. Masks and vaccines required.

- Tuesdays at 11:30am: AGE STRONG FITNESS—LATIN DANCE.
- Wednesdays at 6:00pm: GUIDED MEDITATION.
- Thursdays at 1:30pm: TAI CHI.
- Wed, June 15 at 6:00pm: FENWAY SCOOP. Join for a virtual conversation featuring updates from BPD Sergeant Paul A. DeLeo, Jr. bit.ly/FenwayScoop

Northeastern Awards \$30,000 in Grants to Local Organizations

Last month Northeastern announced the recipients of its annual Community Grants and the Neighbors Uplifting Neighbors Awards. Any Boston-based community group, nonprofit, or school that has engaged with Northeastern students, staff, or faculty in the last three academic years was eligible to apply. Local recipients include Mission Hill Neighborhood Housing Services, The Fenway Alliance, Fenway Cares, and the Fenway Parent Group.

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FENSVIEWS

Nuclear Power Won’t Fix Climate Crisis. Only Renewables Can.

BY SAJED KAMAL

Hurricanes, tornadoes, cyclones, typhoons, rising sea levels, floods, droughts, desertification, forest fires, heatwaves, freakish weather patterns, climate migration, destruction of biodiversity, outbreaks of new infectious diseases and deaths due to climate change, thawing permafrost, and the Arctic and Antarctica melting—climate change speaks louder than ever, and there is no respite. Globally, we are in a state of perpetual emergency, and humanity faces an existential threat to its survival.

The COP26 UN Climate Change Conference, held in Glasgow, Scotland last fall, was hailed as “humanity’s last chance to save the planet.” However, it did not accomplish enough to alleviate the threat. Thanks to over 500 lobbyists representing the fossil-fuel industry—along with political leadership with vested interests—

the demand to “phase out” coal was watered down to “phase down,” with some countries

maintaining that they will build additional coal-powered plants. Thousands of activists from around the world, including researchers united as “Scientist Rebellion,” condemned COP26 for its failure to agree on an action plan to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030. In closing, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres remarked that “it is an important step but is not enough. We must accelerate climate action to keep alive the goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.” The latest report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, released in April of this year, warns that progress is too slow, and we are running out of time.

By exploiting the concern over the coal-climate change connection and propagandizing nuclear power as a “zero-carbon” or “carbon-free” alternative, the nuclear industry and advocates pushed nuclear power as a viable alternative to coal.

But nuclear power is not a “zero-carbon” or “carbon-free” alternative. Less emission of carbon, compared to burning fossil fuels, does not make nuclear power “zero-carbon” or “carbon-free.” According to physicist and systems theorist Fritjof Capra and Pier Luigi Luisi, professor of biochemistry at the University of Rome 3, “nuclear energy creates significant greenhouse gases and pollution. When the entire fuel cycle is considered, a nuclear plant emits 27 percent of the CO2 emitted from a coal plant.”

Moreover, the pro-nuclear propaganda ignored other problems, including:

- no permanent solution to mounting nuclear waste,
- runaway costs for construction, maintenance, as well as the reprocessing of spent fuel,
- depletion of a nonrenewable fuel source (uranium),
- bombmaking by-product of plutonium and the risk of theft,
- weapons proliferation,
- decommissioning challenges and costs,
- terrorist attacks, and
- security.

Among the most authoritative critics of nuclear proliferation are four former heads of nuclear-power regulation in the United States, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.

On Jan. 25, in a joint statement, they said: “the central message, repeated again and again, that a new generation of nuclear will be clean, safe, smart and cheap, is fiction. The reality is nuclear is neither clean, safe or smart; but a very complex technology with the potential to cause significant harm. Nuclear isn’t cheap, but extremely costly. Perhaps most importantly nuclear is just not part of any feasible strategy that could counter climate change.”

By choosing one disaster over another, the nuclear push cleared the path for countries to entrench deeper into a dead-end fossil fuel-nuclear path. It raises the question: are we—especially the “developed” countries—even capable of transitioning out of it? Is there an alternative?

The answer is, Yes! There are revolutionary developments with renewable energy technologies with an incredible range of options and designs that are both economically and environmentally advantageous. Experts know that a transition is completely possible and such a transition is happening.

The global energy scenario is undergoing a transition toward renewables with growing opportunities and advantages like plummeting costs, record investments, innovation in manufacturing, efficiency, durability, designs, storage, transmission and applications, job creation, affordable financing, cultural demand. and global accessibility of renewable energy technologies.

The prospect has prompted some countries such as Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Uruguay, and Costa Rica to set their goals of transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. Other countries are following through projects, policies, legislations, proposals, pledges.

But the current pace is not enough, and it is a race against time. Climate change knows no border, and its impact is global. Unless the entire world is safe, no place is safe. Policymaking and practices must be mobilized and accelerated. This is the message—also a warning—for the world, as well as for each community, and a call for action.

In such action lies hope!

Fenway resident Sajed Kamal, EdD, has been a renewable energy and sustainable development educator internationally for 40 years, setting up pilot projects in the United States, Bangladesh, Armenia, El Salvador, and Zimbabwe. He has also taught at universities and served as a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists Speakers Bureau for 10 years. He is the author of a dozen books and recipient of numerous awards including the Boston Mayor’s First Annual Green Award for Community Leadership in Energy and Climate Protection; a Lifetime Achievement Award from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency; and the Rachel Carson Award of Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light. For an overview of pioneering initiatives in renewable energy initiatives in Boston, including the Fenway, during the 1990s through early 2000s, see his book, The Renewable Revolution: How We Can Fight Climate Change, Prevent Energy Wars, Revitalize the Economy and Transition to a Sustainable Future (2011).

Founder of Speak For The Trees Keynotes Our Annual Meeting on July 7

We’re excited to announce that David Meshoulam, founder of Speak For The Trees, will address the Fenway News Association’s 2022 annual meeting on Thursday, July 7. The meeting begins at 6:30pm and will be held virtually.

Speak For The Trees works to “improve the size and health of the urban tree canopy in Boston,” with a particular focus on environmental justice and education.

Anyone in the Fenway, Mission Hill, or Audubon Circle can join the Fenway News Association. Our bylaws require you to join at least 14 days before the meeting if you want to vote in our elections, which will take place at the meeting. Current members appear at right. Please email fenwaynews@gmail.com by June 23 if you wish to join or have us take you off our rolls. And we look forward to seeing you on the 7th!

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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 <

Our next issue will appear on
Friday, July 1.

> DEADLINE <

The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is
Friday, June 24.

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FENS VIEWS

In Support of State House Staff’s Unionizing Rights

BY JONATHAN COHN

Earlier this spring, staff of the Massachusetts State Senate announced that they had successfully collected a majority of authorization cards to form a union with the IBEW. They organized to secure livable wages, protection from workplace

and much, much more. But more than half of full-time House staffers and a quarter of Senate staffers earn less than \$45,000 a year, according to a 2019 report by the MassINC. With ever-growing housing costs in Boston and throughout the Commonwealth, many staffers have to take second jobs just to make ends meet. Moreover, in a state that prides itself on our role in health care reform, it is shocking that Massachusetts State Senate staffers face a 60-day delay in eligibility for health insurance benefits.

When State House staff don’t receive appropriate compensation and safe and healthy workplace conditions, we limit who can even consider entering public service in the first place. When we don’t have all of the diverse voices of the Commonwealth at the table, we miss vital perspectives in crafting policy. And given that staff are so

often a pipeline to future elected officials themselves, putting up barriers to possible staffers of color, immigrant staffers, or working-class staffers makes our legislature more likely to stay unrepresentative of the Commonwealth. Moreover, a high-stress, low-pay work environment puts all staffers at risk of burnout, creating high turnover that hinders staffers’ abilities to fully develop their skills—or that makes lucrative lobbying gigs seem more attractive.

The right to organize and bargain collectively is a fundamental principle of American democracy. In our Commonwealth, we celebrate the protections that unions grant to our teachers, ironworkers, pipefitters, coffee shop employees, teaching assistants, and more. If employees of the executive and judicial branches have the right to unionize,

legislative staff also deserve the protection and support of a union if they so choose. The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee is proud to support the organizing efforts of the Massachusetts State House Employee Union. We are grateful for the concerns that these staff members have elevated to a statewide level, and it is time that the legislature solve these decade-long workplace issues by recognizing this historic unionization effort. We hope that all of the legislators representing Back Bay, the Fenway, and the South End—and those across the Commonwealth—will listen to the voices of staff and support the voluntary recognition of the Massachusetts State House Employee Union.

Jonathan Cohn lives in the East Fens and chairs the Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee.

GUEST OPINION

harassment and sexual violence, healthcare from day one of employment, and a seat at the table in workplace matters.

So much that happens in our State House would be impossible without the hard work of the staff. They are the ones responding to constituents, drafting and redrafting bills, meeting with advocates,

LETTERS

Childcare Dialogue Continues

In the May 2022 *Fenway News*, we ran an opinion piece by Karla Rideout on the childcare system. This led to an email conversation on creative solutions to the problems Rideout described. We’ve edited and condensed the conversation, which we publish here.

With the massive building boom going on in the West Fens/Kenmore/Longwood areas, developers are required (I believe) to provide community benefits in their development agreement. What if the community benefit of a community center

was changed to providing space for childcare (no rent)? This could allow a childcare organization to have a major reduction in their operation costs.

Second, not only is there a demand in the Fenway community for childcare, but I suspect there is also demand from employees in the Longwood Medical Area. The hospitals in the LMA could provide a subsidy to the childcare organization for each employee with a child or children in the childcare center.

With all the development that is going on, I’m not talking about one childcare center, but perhaps two, three or even four.

Developers need to step up to their social responsibility.

—STAN EVERETT, WEST FENS

Karla’s op-ed is great. She really lays out the problem and the history and then points of the fiscal year 2023 state budget and where we need to put the money to address the early childhood education problem. Stan’s comments are also on the mark.

I just wanted folks to know that groups in the Fenway are working on this issue. Operation P.E.A.C.E. and Fenway CDC have been meeting with one of the developers, WS, who has agreed to provide a 10- slot daycare center in its proposed [Fenway Corners] development.

—RICHARD GIORDANO, MISSION HILL

That’s wonderful news about WS Development’s providing free space. I had spoken at a virtual meeting (thanks to

Tim Ney) with WS about the possibility of including appropriate space for early-education programs, but never heard back. It’s great to hear it being proposed. Free rent is a big step in reducing the costs of running programs.

Increasing local, state and federal funding is also important. Salaries need to increase to a respectable level, and parents shouldn’t need to pay \$10,000 to \$20,000 for care. It would be reassuring if the idea of space in new construction could come with guarantees that the space will remain for childcare, even if the building is sold.

Hopefully, these and other options will become reality. The need for quality child care doesn’t go away.

—KARLA RIDEOUT, EAST FENS

PANDEMIC BUSINESS CLOSINGS ADD UP

BY MARY ANN BROGAN

As 2022 moves along and we think of the state of our neighborhoods, it is time to pause and reflect on what we’ve lost to COVID. While it is common for businesses and restaurants to come and go as neighborhoods evolve in the normal course of time, the pandemic has left gaping holes.

We compiled a list of some businesses and restaurants that have closed. If we didn’t include one, it doesn’t mean they’re not missed by their patrons, and we encourage readers to email us with any we might have missed.

- **Audubon Circle/Kenmore Square:** Sichuan Gourmet, Whole Foods, Eastern Standard, Island Creek Oyster, The Hawthorne, UBURGER, Japonaise Bakery closed for renovations in 2021, but even thought it has missed several announced reopening dates, it hasn’t officially closed.
- **Massachusetts and Huntington avenues (East Fens):** Starbucks, Moby Dick, Symphony Cleaners & Tailors, Boston Market, Blick Art Materials.
- **Mission Hill:** Flann O'Brien's and AC Hardware.
- **Prudential Center and Boylston Street:** Barnes & Noble, Lir, The Pour House, and McGreevy's..
- **West Fens:** NE Design, Tiger Mama, CVS (closing June 15), Oath Pizza, by CHLOE, Bar Louie, and Boston BeerWorks.

There is some good news around Kenmore Square. Blue Ribbon Sushi and Pescador will be opening in the Commonwealth Hotel. Garret Harker, the man behind Eastern Standard and Island Creek Oyster, will be open a new restaurant up the block in the Bower apartments at 771/ 775 Beacon St., part of the Fenway Center project. *Mary Ann Brogan lives in the East Fens.*

Garden Contest Sets July 13 Deadline for Applications

Mayor Michelle Wu announced the 26th annual Mayor’s Garden Contest, which spotlights the hard work of Boston’s urban gardeners. Gardeners have until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13 to submit their gardens for award contention. Gardeners, or those nominating their favorite gardeners, may find printable and online nomination forms at www.boston.gov/mayors-garden-contest. The preferred method of entry is to submit photos through the online application. Alternatively, contestants may request an application by emailing their name and address to gardencontest@boston.gov. Paper applications are available in English and ten additional languages.

COMMUNITY meetings

FRI, JUNE 3 The Ward 10 Democratic Committee sponsors a **CANDIDATE NIGHT** at Puddingstone Tavern, 1592 Tremont St. The confirmed candidates are Nika Elugardo, running for senator in the Second Suffolk District; Mark Martinez, running for state representative in the Seventh Suffolk District; Mary Ann Nelson, running for state representative in the 15th Suffolk District; and Sam Montañó, also running for state representative in the 15th Suffolk. The speaking program will begin at 6:30pm.

TUE, JUNE 7:

- **IMPACT ADVISORY GROUP VIRTUAL MEETING** FOR the **775 HUNTINGTON AVENUE** project in Mission Hill. The meeting will address overall project, potential impacts, and possible mitigation. A presentation will be followed by questions and comments from IAG members. 6pm. Register at bit.ly/3PG0rxt to get the Zoom link. Contact Ebony DaRosa at Ebony.DaRosa@Boston.gov or (617) 918-4419 with any questions.
- Fenway CDC hosts an **AFFIRMATIVELY FURTHERING FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOP**. Register at tinyurl.com/AFFHJune7. Contact Cassie White at cwhite@fenwaycdc.org or (857) 217-4370 with any questions.

WED, JUNE 8, 6-8pm, PARCEL 13 AIR RIGHTS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS to discuss the revised letter of intent submitted for Air Rights Parcel 13 at Boylston and Massachusetts Avenue next to Hynes Station. Visit bit.ly/3x1xMvE to register for the meeting link. Send questions to BPDA project manager Sarah Black at sarah.black@boston.gov.

THU, JUNE 9 The Fenway CDC hosts its monthly **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

MEETING. Join them on Zoom at 6pm. Register at tinyurl.com/FCDCorganizing and contact Cassie White at cwhite@fenwaycdc.org or (857) 217-4370 or Ishraq Boutaleb at iboutaleb@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 807-0050 with any questions.

TUE, JUNE 21 Virtual public meeting on the **1558 TREMONT STREET** project in Mission Hill. The meeting will include a presentation followed by Q&A and comments from the general public. The proposed project will include demolition of an existing three-family structure and the construction of a seven-story rental apartment building with 1,730 square feet of café/retail space and dedicated parking. The total gross square footage of the project will be approximately 120,543 gross square feet. Contact Daniel Polanco at Dan.Polanco@Boston.gov with any questions. Register for the meeting at bit.ly/3l2awqu to receive a Zoom link. 6pm.

THU, 6/23 Join **MISSION HILL NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES** for its annual meeting at 1 Brigham Circle Plaza. Refreshments and sign-in begin at 5:30pm. The main program—including election of board members, guest speakers, and entertainment with the band Soul of Boston—begins at 6pm.

MON, JUNE 27 Public Meeting on the **775 HUNTINGTON AVENUE** project in Mission Hill. The meeting will include a presentation followed by questions and comments from the public. The project consists of a new 13-story, mixed-use, mixed-income primarily residential building. Register for the meeting at bit.ly/3LKmHTy to receive a Zoom link. Contact Ebony DaRosa at Ebony.DaRosa@Boston.gov or (617) 918-4419 with any questions.

BU Wins Preservation Award for Fine Arts Building



BY ALISON PULTINAS

Boston University won a Thomas Menino Legacy Award from the statewide historic preservation organization Preservation Massachusetts at an in-person ceremony held at the Copley Plaza Hotel on May 11.

Architect Tom Haines, principal with the Wilson Butler firm did the plans for the renovated School for the Fine Arts building at 855 Comm. Ave. The building was a former auto showroom purchased by Boston University in 1954. Formerly, Buicks were housed behind the showcase

first floor windows, now there is light and views to the renovated art gallery and new study spaces. The major alteration brought back the windows that had been covered with concrete since 1972. The Stone Art Gallery is visible from the sidewalk and accessible from an improved alley entry.

The Stone Gallery summer exhibit titled Field Studies, which features landscapes from multiple artists, opens on June 4. Posted hours are 11am to 5pm. Tue-Sat. However, it's best to confirm hours by phone, (617) 353-3329.



Upper left: BU's School of Fine Arts building at 855 Comm. Ave., with its broad display windows. Above: In a vintage postcard showing the Noyes Buick complex, the renovated buildings sits to the right.

APPLY FOR 'LOVE YOUR BLOCK' MINI-GRANTS BY JUNE 10

The City's newly named Office of Civic Organizing (formerly the Office of Public Service and Community Outreach) has announced the return of the Love Your Block mini-grant program. Residents or community groups (nonprofit only, please) can apply for up to \$3,500 to carry out neighborhood-beautification projects that bring residents together. Examples include organizing cleanups, painting murals, planting trees and flowers, repairing park equipment, and more. All projects must take place on City-owned land or rights of way. If you've got an idea for bettering your neighborhood and bringing neighbors together, consider applying. Application deadline is June 10, 2022 at 5pm. Visit bit.ly/LYB-Grants for guidelines and to download an application.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Barnes & Noble will close its massive store at the Prudential Center in June. But take comfort, book lovers—the *Boston Guardian* reports that Cambridge's highly regarded Harvard Bookstore (not to be confused with the Harvard Coop) will take over the space in the second half of 2023.



➡ **The Globe reported that the MFA has returned a 1,700-year-old Roman bust to Italy after it determined that looters stole the work from a storage facility during World War II. The museum acquired the piece from a Swiss gallery in 1961.**

➡ Along with three other Boston locations, baristas at the Starbucks at Beth Israel voted unanimously to join a union, bringing the number of area Starbucks voting to unionize to six.

➡ **Farewells: Harry Christophers ended 12-plus years as artistic director for Handel & Haydn with a Symphony Hall performance of Handel's Creation on May 1. And the Rev. Nancy Taylor delivered her final sermon after leading Copley Square's historic Old South Church for 17 years.**

➡ A 15-year-old boy faces an attempted-murder charge following a shooting at Ruggles Station that left a man with serious injuries. The *Globe* reported that the unnamed juvenile was held without bail prior to a dangerousness hearing.

➡ **Area theater critics handed Huntington Theater Company six wins at a virtual ceremony marking the annual Elliot Norton Awards. Three of Huntington's awards (outstanding production, director, and ensemble) went to its updated adaptation of Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye.**

➡ **Symphony Hall.** ➡ **Andrew Stokes of BU's School of Public Health worked with colleagues to calculate excess death—the amount by which recorded deaths during the pandemic have exceeded the average totals recorded in pre-pandemic years—and concluded official figures likely have left out up to 200,000 fatalities. The official count surpassed 1 million last month.**

- Fresh off her win in the Food Network "Tournament of Champions," **TIFFANI FAISON** told WBUR's "Radio Boston" to expect an announcement in June about her new restaurant in the old Tiger Mama space at Boylston and Kilmarnock in the West Fens.
- A feature in the *Globe* on the best burgers around Boston (tied to a review of *The Bob's Burgers Movie*) included a Fenway surprise: the chuck/

- wagyu burger served at Japanese tavern **HO-JOKO** in the West Fens.
- New faces at TimeOut Market in the West Fens include **LA SAISON BAKERY**, with Mideastern-inflected goodies, and **SIENA FARMS**, a mainstay of area farmers markets. The produce monger will offer CSA shares with pick-up at the market.

EATS
BEAT

DASHBOARD

TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP

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

STREET CLEANING

Street cleaning (and towing) resumed on April 1. For more information, check the City's web page with temporary transportation information, <https://bit.ly/2KJ3TXV>.

TimeOut MARKET

THE THIRST
TRAP WE
ALL NEED...



15 KITCHENS. 2 BARS.
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Fenway Ball Gala

Wednesday, June 22, 2022 6pm – 9pm
Harvard Club of Boston
374 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

Join us to celebrate Fenway CDC's accomplishments with an evening of dining, music, and dance. Become an event sponsor or purchase your tickets at fenwaycdc.org. For inquiries, please contact Iris Tan at itan@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x 25.



Fenway Community
Development Corporation
Improving Lives and
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Photo Forensics: Historic Images Show How The Neighborhoods Has Changed

IMAGE: © NORTHEASTERN LIBRARY/FAYFOTO BOSTON COLLECTION

Records at the Northeastern Library date this aerial photo of the Fenway to 1955–1964. Based on the cars parked on the triangular lot near the bottom—now part of Northeastern’s campus—we’re guessing 1960. Note the on-street parking along Agassiz Road as it cuts across the park in the middle of the image; the large parking lots along Boylston Street in the West Fens; and the curved ramp conneting Boylston Street and Commonwealth Avenue near the right edge. That ramp originated in the Olmsted plan but was torn up to make way for the Bowker Overpass, which opened in 1966.



PHOTO: SPENCER GRANT

Former Globe photographer Spencer Grant took this photo of Charlotte Carter, a Fenway resident he photographed in the Victory Gardens in 1971. We tried to track down information about Grant, but our inquiries hit a wall. Please email FenwayNews@gmail.com if you knew her; we’ll share whatever we learn in a future issue.

Neighborhood Newsline

Wu Revives Mission Hill Triangle Architectural Commission

The Wu administration has revived the Mission Hill Triangle Architectural Commission. Mission Hill’s only historic district, the Triangle includes Wigglesworth and Worthington streets and the abutting blocks of Huntington Avenue and Tremont Street (minus one block on Tremont between Wigglesworth and Brigham Circle). According to a press release, “After a long period of commissioner vacancies, we are pleased to report the recent appointment of five new members” to the commission. A Worthington Street resident said it’s been at least six years since the commission last met, a perplexing delay for neighbors.

The new group convened virtually on May 18 to elect officers and to hear one application. Katie Genovese will chair the commission, and Ellen Moore will serve as vice chair. Other members are Triangle residents Pat Edraos and Cindy Walling, with Kirsten Hoffman representing the Boston Landmarks Commission.

The applicant at the May 18 meeting, Q Nails & Spa at 712 Huntington Ave. requested permission to attach a sign of white PVC letters to to the façade above the red awnings. The newly designated commissioners agreed with Landmarks Commission staff that wood or other non-plastic material would be preferable for the installation. The group plans to meet again on June 15 at 5:30pm.

CPA Office Gears Up For 2023 Round Of Proposals

The process of applying for 2023 grants under the Community Preservation Act (CPA) begins with submission of an eligibility form by the end of August. CPA grants fund projects that advance affordable housing, open space, and historic preservation. On June 8, CPA staff will hold a virtual Open Space and Recreation Workshop from 12 to 2pm for potential applicants. Interested applicants should email Thadine.Brown@boston.gov to register.

Good news for advocates considering park or playground projects—the City’s CPA office has hired an open space and recreation consultant who will start on June 13. For several years, specialists have worked with the CPA office to advise applicants proposing historic-preservation initiatives and review their submittals. The new consultant will play a similar role for landscape projects.

Find more information about the submittal process at www.boston.gov/community-preservation/how-apply-community-preservation-funds.

Wentworth Relaunches Sweeney Field Redevelopment

As we’ve previously reported, Wentworth Institute of Technology’s athletic field, across Huntington Avenue from the Museum of Fine Arts, will relocate to the top level of a new parking structure on Parker Street between Prentiss and Station streets. Wentworth has projected completion of that project is in 2023, although construction hasn’t started. That move will open the way for redevelopment of Sweeney Field, the current site, bounded by Ruggles Street, Parker Street, and Huntington. The big news there is that Wentworth will relaunch planning for the site. The school received approvals in 2013 for planned development area zoning and had proposed erecting multiple buildings, including one at 18 stories. Going back to the drawing board, Wentworth’s administration announced the choice of a new development partner, Huntington Development Group, a joint venture of The Fallon Company, Owens Companies, and Waldwin Development Company.

Comments Due June 16 As Parcel 3 Reveiw Gets Under Way

Community review of two development proposals submitted in 2022 for Roxbury’s seven-acre Parcel 3 has begun. The scheduled process will involve the BPDA-selected project review committee (PRC) meeting privately for several sessions to develop recommendations to the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee (RSMPOC) by September. Some community activists, however, feel the timeline is too compressed and want it slowed down.

On May 16, the two teams competing for the project gave a virtual public presentation to more than 170 participants. The proposals have been posted online at www.bostonplans.org/planning/planning-initiatives/plan-nubian-square-parcel-p3, and comments from the public are due by June 16.

The 21-person PRC includes seven members of the RSMPOC and 14 others selected

from many applicants. Two Mission Hill residents, Matilda Drayton and Mary Ann Nelson, will serve on the PRC.

The developers who submitted proposals both shaped their development plans with the help of local organizations and companies. New York-based Tishman Speyer includes Ruggles Progressive Partners on its team, and HYM worked with the coalition My City at Peace.

Design Commission Wants More Answers On Longwood Place

Consultants working on plans for the Skanska Company’s redevelopment of the Simmons University residential campus have reached an impasse with the Boston Civic Design commissioners. After three subcommittee meetings, commission members still have basic questions about the potential development’s public realm, especially whether its largest green space belongs next to Brookline Avenue or elsewhere on the parcel. Commissioner Deneen Crosby raised concerns at all the meetings about the loss of significant mature trees, a concern echoed by Mik Young-Kim at the May 24 session. The proposed underground garage also could compromise the growth of new trees. More subcommittee meetings are expected in June.

Tufts Awards 35 Grants To Three Local Initiatives

The Tufts Community Grants program has awarded \$70,000 in grants to 35 groups in the university’s four host communities. Tufts distributes the grants, funded by donations from faculty and staff, each year to local charitable organizations. Thie size of grants this year doubled to \$2,000. The selection committee funded 35 of the 90 proposals it received, with three going to local groups:

- **FENWAY CARES** received a grant for food supplies for its biweekly distribution supporting food-insecure families and seniors in the Fenway.
- **FENWAY COMMUNITY CENTER** received a grant to support free community-building programming for Fenway-area seniors.
- **SOCIEDAD LATINA** received funds to prepare mental health-and-wellness care packages for 50 high school youth enrolled in its Summer Learning Academy

Hospitality Workers Rally to Oppose the Hynes Sale

On June 1, hospitality workers and members of UNITE HERE Local 26 employed at the Hynes Convention Center and nearby hotels—including the Sheraton Boston, Westin Copley Place, Hilton Back Bay, and Fairmont Copley Plaza—marched in opposition to a sale of the Hynes proposed by Gov. Charlie Baker as part of an economic development package. Marchers worry that they’ll lose well-paid hospitality jobs at the center and nearby hotels, which have long attracted visitor attending meetings and events at the Hynes. The workers marched along Boylston Street and gathered outside the Hynes for a speaking program.z

SENIOR EVENTS

All Peterborough Senior Center programs require masks. Masks are encouraged at the Fenway Community Center and Ramler Park. To attend these events, RSVP to Tracey or Sara at (617) 536-7154. For more information about Operation PEACE programs and senior programming, visit www.operationpeaceboston.org.

- Tue, June 14 at 12pm: **TOWN HALL & SENIOR CHARLIECARD SIGN UP** with State Sen. Brownsberger at the Fenway Community Center.
- Tue, June 21 at 1pm: **AUTHOR**

APPEARANCE WITH ALISON BARNET reading an excerpt of her book, *South End Incident: A True Story* at the Peterborough Senior Center.

- Every Tue at 11:30am: **TECHNOLOGY CLASS** at the Peterborough Senior Center.
- Every Wed at 12pm: **BINGO** at the Peterborough Senior Center.
- Every Thur at 11:30am: **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION** at Ramler Park. In case of rain or extreme heat, at the Fenway Community Center.

The Arts

King Boston Launches ‘Embrace Ideas Festival’

BY STEVE WOLF

Early last month, King Boston broke ground on “The Embrace” sculpture on Boston Common. The artwork has the highest profile of several initiatives undertaken by the nonprofit, established to honor Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King, who met while students in Boston.

Beyond “The Embrace,” set for a December unveiling, major elements of the King Boston program include establishment of the Nubian-Square-based Center for Economic Justice to “address racial disparities in wealth, housing, public education, and employment” through scholarship, policy, and advocacy; and major support for Roxbury’s 12th Baptist Church, a congregation rooted in the 19th-century Abolition movement and the church where King preached while studying for his PhD at B.U.

This first Embrace Ideas Festival, running from June 13 to 17 this year, adds a new element to the mix: an annual citywide festival of culture and scholarship intended to “amplify anti-racism” and lay out a vision of Boston transformed into a more inclusive city that welcomes everyone. “Keynotes, panels, and live music,” say the organizers, “will shine a light on how we can interrupt our zero sum game thinking when it comes to racial justice and realizing a democracy worthy of us all.”

The festival will move among six venues, including Harvard Medical School, MassArt, and Nubian Square. All but Nubian Square will host a daylong program organized around themes such as “The Saving Power of Culture” and “Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations.”

King Boston has gathered a broad group of leaders and thinkers for its panels, keynotes, and performances. Some high-profile participants include Dr. Lee Pelton, president of the Boston Foundation; Boston *Globe* columnist Jenée Osterheldt; Hank Willis Thomas, designer of the Embrace Memorial; Robin Rue Simmons, consultant to Evanston, Illinois’s reparations program; Michael Curry, activist and head of the Mass. League of Community Health Centers; and Latoyia Edwards, broadcaster at NBC10 Boston.

The closing program, June 17, takes place at MassArt and then rolls into the final event, a free block party to celebrate Juneteenth, the holiday marking June 19, 1865, the date the last enslaved Americans were officially liberated in Texas. The party runs from 4 to 9pm at 4 Palmer St. in Nubian Square.

Steve Wolf lives in the West Fens.

HARK! A HARP IN THE PARK

Harpist Lishan Tan, a graduate student at New England Conservatory, performed at Ramler Park on May 12 for the Peteborough Senior Center. (Photo by Ruth Khowais)

‘Designing Motherhood’ Opens at MassArt

Organized by a curatorial team that includes design historians, birth advocates, and experts on the history of medicine and midwifery, “Designing Motherhood: Things that Make And Break Our Birth” explores human reproduction by looking at design and art from the 19th century through today. The show’s nearly 200 works include historic and contemporary breast pumps, baby monitors, forceps, and maternity clothes, alongside vintage advertisements, and contemporary art across media. The exhibit opens June 11 at the MassArt Art Museum and runs through December 18. Visit <https://maam.massart.edu/exhibition/designing-motherhood> for details.

Neighborhood ARTSline

Presentation Traces Fenway, Kenmore History

Author Anthony Sanmarco distills his book *Kenmore Square and The Fenway of Boston Through Time* in a presentation at the Boston Public Library on June 9. Packed with historic photographs, Sammarco’s book traces how both neighborhoods grew from marshy backwaters to dense urban quarters. The talk begins at 6pm in Rabb Lecture Hall at the Copley Square branch. For details and to reserve a seat, visit bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/61fa92dd600a0f410028ad8a.

Commencements Bring Big Names, Honors

Singer-songwriter James Taylor extolled the universal power of music in his commencement address to 229 New England Conservatory graduates last month. The day of celebration included a video message from Ukrainian cellist Denys Karachevtsev, who

captured worldwide attention in March when he played Bach’s *Cello Suite No. 5* outside a ruined government building in Kharkiv.

More than 900 graduates attended Berklee’s commencement at Agganis Arena, the school’s first in-person ceremony in three years. President Erica Muhl presented honorary doctorates to Beatle Ringo Starr, R&B luminary (and Berklee alumna) Lalah Hathaway ’90, composer and producer James Newton Howard, and legendary bass player Chuck Rainey.

Recent Berklee Grad Wins Fulbright Award

Recent Berklee alumnus Calvin McCormack has won a Fulbright Nehru Grant to study and conduct research in India for the 2022-23 academic year. The Baltimore native will travel to rural Uttarakhand state to design, develop, and test digital instruments for people with disabilities, a group that has historically been overlooked by musical-instrument designers.

I-PHONE TUTOR WANTED!

Can you help a blind person learn to use an Apple 12 iPhone? Competitive hourly wage paid. Please call (617) 963-4767 for details.

June CALENDAR	
Now ➤ Sun, 6/5	Tue, 6/7
Berklee’s Electronic Production and Design Department hosts CONNECT 2022 EDI SUMMIT , bringing together artists, educators, manufacturers, and music tech innovators to explore technologies and music-making for electronic instruments. Under the theme “Machines and Musicianship,” discussions and performances will focus on the intersection of digital instrument technology and adaptable applications for musicians who want to weave eclectic elements into their music and for academic leaders looking to start electronic-music programs. Visit emamo.com/event/connect-2022-edi-summit for details, including the schedule.	NEWCASTLE SARANAC RIBBON-CUTTING. 10am. 599 Columbus Ave. Contact Richard Giordano at rgiordano@fenwaycdc.org or (617) 267-4637 x19 with any questions.
Now ➤ Sun, 6/26	Wed, 6/8
Huntington Theater premieres COMMON GROUND REVISITED , bringing Boston history to life on stage with an intricately woven piece inspired by the 1985 Pulitzer Prize- and National Book Award- winner <i>Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families</i> by J. Anthony Lukas. At the Huntington’s Calderwood Pavilion, 527 Tremont Street, South End. Tickets start at \$25; visit https://www.huntington-theatre.org/ for more information.	The Boston Public Library hosts the final speaker in the 2022 LOWELL LECTURE SERIES MARQUEE SPEAKERS . In this final lecture, held virtually, Dr. Eddie Glaude, Jr., <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author of <i>Begin Again: James Baldwin’s America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own</i> , confronts the history of a country that is “always changing, but never changes,” delving into the ethics of anti-racism, and the complexities of democracy. 6pm. Learn more and register: https://tinyurl.com/9pdvjxez .
Fri, 6/3, 6/10, 6/17, and 6/24	Thu, 6/9, 6/16, 6/23, & 6/30
The Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series offers free fitness programming all summer. On Fridays, join them at 10am in McLaughlin Playground for GENTLE YOGA .	The Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series offers CHAIR YOGA on Thursdays at 10am in Symphony Park, 39 Edgerly Road.
	Tue, 6/14
	Fenway Civic Association ANNUAL ROSE GARDEN PICNIC . Join Fenway Civic for a free evening with food, music, and a chance to stroll the Kelleher Rose Garden in bloom. 6pm. Outside the garden, across from 73 Park Drive. Rain date, June 15.

Open House at Fenway Studios



The artists of Fenway Studios opened their doors—and their homes—on April 30 and May 1. Artist Jim Connelly displayed his work in his studio.

MFA Spotlights Mission Hill Artists

On Memorial Day the MFA welcomed state residents with free admission. Simultaneously, working it sponsored Mission Hill Community Day in collaboration with Mission Hill Main Streets. Visitors to the Shapiro Courtyard saw works created by Diablo Glass School students, paintings by Itsuo Kiritani, and copies of the limited-edition book, Mission Hill: Presence, Absence and Transformation, designed by Dan Vlahos for Dragan Grujic's INFocus Camera Club. At right, former Mission Hill resident Jim Farrow talks with Itsuro and Elizabeth Kiritani.



PHOTO: ALISON PUTINAS

PHOTO: DAVE GREEN



NEA BACKS BERKLEE CITY MUSIC PROGRAM WITH \$25,000 GRANT

Berklee College of Music has received a \$25,000 award from the National Endowment for the Arts' Grants for Arts Projects. The funding will support the Berklee City Music High School Academy and Preparatory Academy programs. The Academy offers fourth- to eighth-grade students lessons in music theory, master classes, and after-school ensembles, as well as access to performance opportunities, visiting-artist workshops, and other resources on the Berklee campus. Using a troupe model that focuses on community and connectivity, the Academy produces two multidisciplinary performances each year, in December and in May to celebrate the end of the program.

Berklee City Music Program students perform at the Berklee Performance Center.

FENWAY PORCHFEST

Saturday, July 9th, 2022
(rain date July 10th)
12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

MUSICIAN PORTAL NOW OPEN!

www.fenwayporchfest.org

A partnership of Fenway Community Development Corporation, Fenway Alliance, and Fenway Civic Association.

Eat Here!

The pandemic hammered local restaurants. Because independent eateries do so much to define our community, we collaborated with the Mission Hill Fenway Neighborhood Trust to create the Eat Here! campaign. It starts with full-page ads that will run in

our next 12 issues and list roughly 80 non-chain, local restaurants. So...Eat Here! and help our neighborhood restaurants thrive. That will keep them contributing to everything that makes the Fenway, Mission Hill, and Audubon Circle such special places to live.



Audubon Circle

Audubon Boston
838 Beacon Street
(617) 421-1910
www.audubonboston.com/site/

Bar 'Cino
1032 Beacon Street
(617) 608-3220
barcino.com/brookline/

Futago Udon
508 Park Drive
(617) 505-6157
www.facebook.com/Futago-Udon-564602680690873/

Giggling Rice
(TAKEOUT ONLY)
1009 Beacon Street
(617) 655-8443
www.gigglingricethai-togobrookline.com/

Japonaise Bakery
(TEMPORARILY CLOSED)
999 Beacon Street
(617) 566-7730
www.facebook.com/CafeJaponaise/

Sol Azteca
914 Beacon Street
(617) 262-0909
www.solaztecaboston.com/

Taberna De Haro
999 Beacon Street
(857) 743-4035
www.tabernaboston.com/



Mission Hill

AK's Takeout & Delivery
1427 Tremont Street
(617) 541-0300
www.akstakeout.com/aks-roxbury/

Brigham Circle Chinese Food
728 Huntington Ave.
(617) 278-2000
orderbrighamcirclechinesefood.com/

Chacho's Pizza & Subs
1502 Tremont St.
(617) 445-6738
www.chachospizza-subs.com/

Chilacates Mexican Street Food
1482A Tremont St.
(617) 286-3888
www.chilacates.mx/location/chilacates-mission-hill/

Crispy Dough Pizzeria
1514 Tremont St.
(617) 445-7799
crispydoughpizzeria.com/

Flames Jamaican Restaurant
746 Huntington Ave.
(617) 743-4035
flamesjamaicanrestaurants.com/index-2.html

Ginger Exchange
1625 Tremont St.
(617) 739-8888
<https://www.gingerexchange.com/mission/#>

Halal Indian Cuisine
736 Huntington Ave.
(617) 232-5000
www.halalindiancuisineboston.com/

Il Mondo Pizzeria
1502 Tremont St.
(617) 445-6738
ilmondopizza.com/

Laughing Monk Cafe
737 Huntington Ave.
(617) 232-8000
www.laughingmonk-cafe.com/

Lilly's Gourmet Pasta Express
1528 Tremont St.
(617) 427-8080
lillysgourmetpasta.com/

Mike's Donuts
1524 Tremont St.
(617) 427-6828
www.mikesdonutsboston.com/

Milkweed
1508 Tremont St.
(617) 516-8913
www.eatatmilkweed.com/

The Mission Bar and Grill
724 Huntington Ave.
(617) 566-1244
www.themissionbar.com/

Montecristo Mexican Grill
748A Huntington Ave.
(617) 232-2228
montecristomission-hill.com/

Nachlo Mexican & Pakistani Cuisine
1443 Tremont St.
(617) 516-8730
nachloboston.com/

Papa's Pizza Co.
682 Huntington Ave.
(617) 648-7272
papaspizzacompany.com/

Penguin Pizza
735 Huntington Ave.
(617) 277-9200
www.thepenguinpizza.com/

The Puddingstone Tavern
1592 Tremont St.
(617) 435-7663
thepuddingstonetavern.com/

Solid Ground Cafe
742 Huntington Ave.
(617) 445-6738
www.solidgroundcafe.com/

The Squealing Pig Pub
134 Smith Street
(617) 566-6651
squealingpigpubs.com/boston/

Sushi Today
1562 Tremont St.
(617) 738-0888
sushi-today.com/

Tavern of Tales
1478 Tremont St.
(617) 7080172
www.tavernoftales.com/

Tremont House of Pizza
1590 Tremont St.
(617) 566-5120
tremonthouseofpizza.com/



Eat Here!

Amelia's Taqueria
1076 Boylston St.
(617) 233-2100
<https://www.amelia-taqueria.com/>

The Behop
1502 Tremont St.
(617) 445-6738
<https://www.chacho-spizzasubs.com/>

Bobo Cafe
137 Mass. Ave.
[No phone or URL available]

Dumpling Palace
137 Mass. Ave.
(617) 266-8888
<https://www.dumping-palace.com/>

Energize
265g Mass. Ave.
(857) 317-3868
<https://energizeboston.com/>

Ginger Exchange
137 Mass. Ave.
(617) 867-9999
www.gingerexchange.com/symphony/

Haju Kitchen
175 Mass. Ave.
(617) 982-7118
haju-kitchen.business.site/

Ichiban Yakitori
144 Westland Ave.
(617) 236-7907
ichibanboston.net/

Love Art Sushi
1 Haviland St.
(617) 982-6953
loveartsushi.com/

Mumbai Spice
251 Mass Ave.
(857) 350-4305
mumbaispiceboston.com/

Oakleaf Cakes Bake Shop
12 Westland Ave.
(617) 299-1504
oakleafcakes.com/

Pad Thai Cafe
6 Hemenway St.
(617) 267-2828
www.padthai.cafe/

Pavement
44 Gainsborough St.
(617) 859-7080
pavementcoffeehouse.com/

Pho Basil
177A Mass. Ave.
(617) 262-5377
phobasilboston.com/

Saigon Fusion
201 Mass. Ave.
(617) 236-1464
www.facebook.com/Saigon-Fusion-111976630370661

Shin Hakata Ramen
173 Mass. Ave.
(857) 350-3923
www.shinhakataramenboston.com/

Symphony Sushi
44 Gainsborough St.
(617) 262-3888
symphonysushi.com/

Sombrero Chiquito
197A Mass. Ave.
(857) 265-3254
sombroverboston.com/

Supreme Pizza
177 Mass Ave.
(617) 247-8252
www.eatsupremepizza.com/

Tori Japan
1110 Boylston St.
(857) 265-3642
www.torijapan.com/

The Westland
10 Westland Ave.
(617) 208-6292
www.westlandboston.com/

Woody's Grill & Tap
58 Hemenway St.
(617) 375-9663
www.woodysfenway.com/



West Fenway

Basho Japanese Brasserie
1338 Boylston St.
(617) 262-1338
www.bashojapanese-brasserie.com/

Bennett's Sandwich Shop
80 Peterborough St.
(857) 239-9736
www.bennettssandwichshop.com/

Blackbird Doughnuts
20 Kilmarnock St.
(617) 482-9000
www.blackbirddoughnuts.com/

Citizen House & Public Oyster Bar
1310 Boylston St.
(617) 450-9000
www.citizenpub.com/

College Pizza
50 Queensberry St.
(617) 266-4919
www.collegepizza-menu.com/

El Pelón Taquería
92 Peterborough St.
(617) 262-9090
www.elpelon.com/

Eventide Oyster Co.
1321 Boylston St.
(617) 545-1060
www.eventideoyster-co.com/

Fiouna's
90 Peterborough St.
(617) 247-7717
www.fiouna.com/

FoMu
140 Brookline Ave.
(857) 284-7229
www.fomuicecream.com/

Gyro City
1502 Tremont St.
(617) 266-4976
www.gyrocity.com/

Hojoko
1271 Boylston St.
(617) 670-0507
www.hojokoboston.com/

Kappo Sushi and Ramen
86 Peterborough St.
(857) 263-8168
www.sushikappo.com/M&J_Teriyaki

130 Jersey St.
(617) 424-0900
www.mjteriyaki-ma.com/

Nathalie Wine Bar
186 Brookline Ave.
(857) 317-3884
www.nathaliebar.com/

Pavement
1334 Boylston St.
(857) 263-7355
pavementcoffeehouse.com/

Orfano
1391 Boylston St.
(617) 916-9600
www.orfanoboston.com/

Phinista Cafe
96 Peterborough St.
(617) 266-7700
www.phinista.com/

Regina Pizzeria
1330 Boylston St.
(617) 266-9210
www.pizzeriaregina.com/fenway.html

Rod Thai
94 Peterborough St.
(617) 859-0969
www.rodthaifenway.com/

Saloniki Greek
4 Kilmarnock St.
(617) 266-0001
www.salonikigreek.com/

The Sipping Room by Breeze
132 Jersey St.
(617) 412-6668
www.facebook.com/thesippingroomby-breeze/

Sojuba
1260 Boylston St.
(617) 424-1260
www.sojubaboston.com/

Sufra Mediterranean Food
96 Peterborough St.
(781) 645-8080
www.suframediterraneanfood.com/

Sweet Cheeks Q
1381 Boylston St.
(617) 266-1300
www.sweetcheeksq.com/

Thaitation
129 Jersey St.
(617) 585-9909
www.bostonthaitation.com/

Thornton's Fenway Grille
100 Peterborough St.
(617) 421-0104
www.facebook.com/thorntonsfenwaygrille/