



THE

Fenway News

HYPERLOCAL NEWS FOR THE FENWAY, AUDUBON CIRCLE, KENMORE SQUARE, UPPER BACK BAY, PRUDENTIAL, LONGWOOD, AND MISSION HILL SINCE 1974 • VOLUME 49 NUMBER 8 • JULY 28-SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

BPDA Okays 1,600,000 sq. ft. Fenway Corners Proposal

BY ALISON PULTINAS

The Fenway Corners North and West development plans approved at the BPDA board meeting on July 13 drew mixed public feedback. In a unanimous vote, the board approved the massing, height, location, and uses for the multiphase development as well as proposed public-realm changes and community benefits.

The nomenclature can get confusing. The site designated as “North” occupies Lansdowne Street between the Cask ‘n’ Flagon and the House of Blues. Fenway Corners West covers everything else—seven new buildings on Jersey and Van Ness streets and Brookline Avenue. Yanni Tsipis, senior vice president of Fenway/Seaport Development at WS Development, has been the public face

for the proponents, comprising Fenway Sports Group, WS Development, and the baseball-souvenir retailer Twins Enterprise.

Altogether the development would contain eight buildings, two of them residential.

At the July 13 hearing, Tsipis said perhaps no other part of the city experiences the level of foot activity that the Fenway does. Added to the typical ball game and concert crowds are Target shoppers and nightlife seekers on the not-so-wide sidewalks of Brookline Avenue and side streets.

The plan promotes new walking options to Fenway Park with the extension of Richard Ross Way and a retail-oriented Arthur’s Alley connecting to a pedestrian-only Jersey Street.

The public weighed in at the hearing, some with “full-throated support,” as resident Parker James expressed. Sandeep Karnik had concerns about increased wind and shadows from the high-rise buildings. Alex Sawczynec said he was conceptually in favor, although stated that significant points remain to be addressed. Noticeably, the trade union representatives, speaking universally in support of the future development, outnumbered residents.

Jennifer Mecca, deputy chief for transit-oriented development for the MBTA, wrote a nine-page letter listing five major local MBTA initiatives that could be funded through transit-mitigations funds from the project to meet the increased demand and suggests that earlier in the process is the time to spend those dollars. According to Mecca, “Project submissions show an estimated 60 percent of new trips using public transportation.”

SHARON DURKAN WINS DISTRICT 8 COUNCIL RACE

Kenzie Bok’s resignation from the City Council in April triggered a special election to fill the District 8 seat. The election took place Tuesday, July 25, and Sharon Durkan defeated Montez Haywood 70 percent to 29 percent in an extremely low-turnout contest. Voters will face a repeat of the race this fall when the two run again to secure a full term.

CONCERT ALERT

AT FENWAY PARK (START TIMES FROM LIVE NATION)

JUL 31
P!NK WITH PAT BENATAR,
6:00-10:30PM

AUG 1
P!NK WITH PAT BENATAR
6:00-10:30PM

AUG 2
FALL OUT BOY
5:45-10:30PM

AUG 16-18
MORGEN WALLEN
5:00-10:30PM

AUG 19
ZAC BROWN BAND
7:00-10:30PM

AUG 21
GUNS & ROSES
5:30-10:30PM

REPORT NOISE OR BAD FAN BEHAVIOR

Help document noise and other problems by calling ALL of these numbers:

CITY LICENSING BOARD → 617-635-4170

SOX COMPLAINT LINE → 617-226-6424

CITY PROBLEM LINE → 311

Promised community benefits from the April filing include restoration money for the Duck House, a historic former comfort station in the Back Bay Fens on Agassiz Road. At the meeting, more specific details were shared for the promised daycare facility. In his comments, resident Tim Ney asked that Fenway families get priority for slots at the facility, which has a 100-child capacity, and requested that a planned outdoor play area be

accessible after hours. According to Fenway CDC’s Rich Giordano, WS will “front load” its Inclusionary Development Policy (IDP) payments.

Days after the board vote, sports fans weighed in, zeroing in on the seven-story Lansdowne building. Comments on fan sites like bosoxinjection.com raised concerns about future ballpark parking and questioned whether

FENWAY CORNERS on page 5 >

Containing Stubborn Phragmites Remains a Challenge



BY LESLIE POND

Recent sightings of phragmites regrowth along the Muddy River have some Fenway residents feeling anxious about the return of the invasive reed after most large stands—many of which had reached an estimated 15 feet high and extended in wide swaths for decades—were removed as part of the Muddy River Restoration Project. The fast-growing species in the Muddy River can narrow channels, reduce water flow, and crowd out native plants and wildlife habitats.

One example of regrowth is along Agassiz Road, looking toward the Victory Gardens. In February 2023, the area had been cleared of a large stand of phragmites in preparation for spring

planting of shrubs (above).

By June, phragmites had started to grow back higher than the new shrubs, reaching more than four feet high in as many months (upper photo, right; the fence stands about three feet high). By late July, much of the new growth had been removed (lower photo, right).

As Matt Eddy, administrator with the Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee (MMOC) for the restoration project, wrote in a February blog post: since total eradication of phragmites is “extremely difficult and prohibitively expensive,” the focus is on long-term management rather than eradication. Such management will include “mowing, chemical treatment, and seeding of the areas

with native species to compete with the phragmites. Most of this work is scheduled for fall, when phragmites is most vulnerable to treatment.”

Eddy concluded, “Keeping phragmites in check over the long term requires vigilance. If you notice stems popping up in the Muddy River area, please let the MMOC know.” Email sightings to info@muddyrivermmoc.org.

Eddy’s May 30 update notes that “the Boston Parks and Recreation Department reports that Phragmites australis within the Restoration Project’s Phase 2 work areas will

be treated twice over the summer and removed in the fall during the recommended time period. The BPRD is also developing plans to remove the invasive reed as it appears in the Phase 1 area. According to Contract Manager Thomas Timmons, “We plan to continue to do so annually as we become responsible for more and eventually all of the project work areas.”

Given how fast this species grows, fans of a healthy and scenic Muddy River hope the City’s plan will prevent phragmites from choking the river yet again for decades.

Leslie Pond lives in the West Fens.



FENSVIEWS

Motorized bikes create serious danger on sidewalks. Ban them.

TO MAYOR WU, SENATOR BROWNSBERGER, AND MS. AVERY:

I hesitated to write this message but in the spirit of “If you see something, say something,” I decided that this needs to be said.

It is not news that our city streets have become very familiar with the presence of

motorized, unlicensed bikes. I do not

LETTERS

expect you to be everywhere documenting every challenging issue that the City and Commonwealth faces, so I want to tell you

what I am experiencing on a daily basis.

The bikes are everywhere. With not a license in sight, they ride freely on sidewalks AND streets with no regard for pedestrians or traffic; lanes or crosswalks; stoplights or directional signals. They are moving at high rates of speed and oftentimes contrary to the movement of the pedestrians and traffic...and all of this is done boldly and aggressively. With bunches of these bikes waiting to be food delivery vehicles, they race to get back to increase their profits. I applaud the work ethic but there are no rules...and they know it. We are not even talking about the dangerous threat that already exists due to the “flash mobs” of these bikes which we know have caused chaos

when they manage to gather. I am concerned. I have seen frequent close calls and sadly, I am afraid it is only a matter of time before it all results in a real tragedy. The bikes have been banned in New York; Ocean City, N.J.; Palo Alto, Calif.; Mackinac Island, Mich.; Orange County, Calif. and in Paris. The issue is on the table in Philadelphia and in several other cities. I really hope that we can be proactive in joining the others in banning these bikes from all of our streets and parks.

I send this with great respect and in the spirit of community.

Most sincerely,

THOMAS JONES
WEST FENS

CORRECTION

Our July issue incorrectly identified the Fenway Community Center as host of the MGM visit and celebration of Delia Alvarez’s birthday. The Peterborough Senior Center arranged the visit, and Delia’s family threw the party (at the Community Center). We regret the error.

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.

> NEXT ISSUE <

Our next issue will appear on **Friday, September 1.**

> DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS <
The deadline for letters, news items, and ads for our next issue is **Friday, August 25.**

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STEAMPUNK SPAN GETS READY TO REOPEN



It took more than 45 years, but the restored Carlton Street footbridge between Brookline’s Longwood neighborhood and the Riverway stands ready to reopen. The Brookline.News website reports that the bridge—opened in 1894, then closed in 1976 and after decades of neglect—will get an official celebration on Sept. 17, although the chain-link fencing now blocking it off may come down before that. For decades, some Brookline residents blocked repair for fear that it would encourage more crime, but reopening proponents eventually carried the day. The project cost nearly \$4 million and includes ADA-compliant ramps and bike “runnels,” tracks built into the main span that let cyclists roll their bikes alongside as they cross on foot. The look of the new bridge recalls the original Victorian-era design.

District 7 Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson Addresses Annual Meeting; Board Welcomes Three New Members



The Fenway News Association held its 2023 annual meeting on July 20 at the Fenway Community Center. Highlights included a keynote address by City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson (extreme right in the photo). Anderson already represents part of the East Fens, but she’ll add a significant new slice—bounded by Mass. Ave., Westland Avenue, Hemenway Street, and Boylston Street—to her district in 2024. In year-end reports, treasurer Steve Chase noted the need for the paper to begin planning for a more digital future, and editor Kelsey Bruun issued a call to readers to submit opinion pieces, letters, and story ideas. Association members elected three new members to the board: Ahmed Abdulfattah (West Fens), Judy Burnette (Kenmore Square), and Carol Lasky (East Fens). As they shared brief bios and their interest in working on the paper, Lasky and Burnette discovered they’d grown up in the same New Jersey beach community. Lower-than-expected turnout of 25 people didn’t dampen enthusiasm for the first in-person meeting since 2019. It just meant that more people took home extra helpings of pizza from Blaze, which refused to allow the paper to pay for the pies at pickup and donated them instead.

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF

Some Mission Hill Projects Advance, But Others, Ignoring City Rules, Hit Roadblocks

BY ALISON PULTINAS

Lots of activity in the Triangle Architectural Conservation District, including new construction. Noteworthy is the June 27 Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) action for the first synagogue in Mission Hill. Harvard Chabad plans to develop a Student & Hospitality Center at 1615-1617 Tremont St. The project undergoes review at a August 3 Triangle Commission hearing (to be held virtually, see <https://www.boston.gov/public-notices/16039401>). The ZBA vote requires the project to conform with the design standards of the Triangle Architectural Conservation District.

The single-family row house at 13 Wigglesworth St. recently sold for \$1,375,000. The Triangle Commission recently reviewed extensive exterior work next door at 11 Wigglesworth St. And at the Squealing Pig tavern at 134 Smith St., there is a proposal to add three floors of compact-living units plus a roof deck. That review falls within the purview of the Triangle Commission.

In June, the BPDA issued a request for supplementary information (RSI)—which requires responses to public comments—for the Jefferson Apartment Group’s proposal for 145 rental units at 45 Worthington St. The parcel doesn’t sit within the Commission’s very small district, but it is adjacent to the row houses.

In the past two months, vigilant Mission Hill residents have kept Ward 10 Inspector

Pernell Jackson of the City’s Inspectional Services Department (ISD) busy issuing work stoppages. The major one involved two vacant—but landmarked—properties owned by Weston Associates at 80 and 100 Smith St. Shockingly, Weston Associates’ representative had applied for and received demolition permits, apparently without any communication with the BPDA or the Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC).

Formerly owned by the Redemptorists, the stone-and-masonry buildings are part of a City-designated landmark, the Mission Church Complex. The demolition application cited unsafe and dangerous conditions but included no corresponding ISD list of violations. Neighbors quickly rallied to question ISD’s approval of the razing of landmarked buildings.

Nearby residents would like to see Weston cited for demolition by neglect for their decades-long lack of care for the properties. BLC Director Rosanne Foley said, however, that Boston doesn’t have a demo by neglect ordinance. Director Foley also stated that no design review application has been submitted, therefore her staff cannot approve demolition permits without a vote from the Commission.

A proposal for 80 and 100 Smith, under a review led by BPDA manager Ebony DaRosa, would replace historic buildings with new residential construction. First, however, the proponents must respond to a 300-plus-page

RSI posted in June on the BPDA website. Presumably, public review will resume when Weston files its response.



IMAGE COURTESY OF BRUNER COTT ARCHITECTS

A second work-stoppage order issued by Inspector Jackson addressed a non-permitted roof deck for the luxury three-condo building under construction at 25 Sachem St. Apparently, exterior stairs to the deck had already been built. The approved plans did not include a roof deck, so an amendment is required. Mayor’s Office representative Maggie Van Scoy said she expects to see a community meeting.

At the end of June, ISD granted a

certificate of occupancy for the 130 Fisher Ave. Roost Up project—conversion of a three-family structure into a 21-bedroom/21-bathroom residence. There were neighborhood rumors of a brief work stoppage due to an abutter’s complaint, though apparently Inspector Jackson did not have to intervene. For renters, Roost Up would supply furniture,

WiFi service, and stock kitchen supplies. Renters could also choose to pay for room-cleaning services.

City Hall also handed down a major decision on July 19—the Public Facilities Commission awarded designation to ODJ, an affiliate of Oxbow Partners, to develop the contiguous lots at Parker and Terrace streets. *The Fenway News* will have more information on that project in a future issue.

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

RESIDENTS’ SWEAT AND PARKS DEPARTMENT’S BLESSING HELP BUILD A REFUGE FOR BIRDS AND BEES ON MISSION HILL

PHOTOS: ALISON PULTINAS, ANN ANTONELLIS, DENNIS PULTINAS



At the June meeting of the Community Alliance of Mission Hill, Ann Antonellis and Dennis Pultinas collaborated on a presentation about McLaughlin Playground’s pollinator meadows. Volunteers manage the steep slopes covered with native plantings overlooking the playground under a commitment from Parks commissioner Ryan Woods to encourage perennials for both foraging and insect/bird habitat in the face of a dramatic falloff in insect populations. Stanford University Ecologist Roberto Dirzo estimates that global insect populations have plunged by 45 percent over the past 40 years. That’s not only an issue for farmers—because pollinators play such an essential role in crop production—but it also affects birds, who stop at the playground on their spring and fall migrations. According to Antonellis, species found in the meadows include Queen Anne’s lace, milkweed, dock, goldenrod, black medic, starwort, soapwort, fleabane, chicory, flowering raspberry, elderberry, and timothy grass.

—ALISON PULTINAS

- 1 The lower meadow in 2021 with healthy stands of milkweed, Queen Anne’s lace, and chicory.
- 2 The upper meadow.
- 3 A bumblebee explores a flowering nightshade
- 4 A vacant bird’s nest found in April 2023.

LEGAL NOTICE

ZONING HEARING

The Zoning Commission of the City of Boston hereby gives notice, in accordance with Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, that a **virtual public hearing will be held on August 9, 2023, at 9:15 A.M.**, in connection with Map Amendment Application No. 759 and a petition for approval of the Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 135, Fenway Corners Project (North), Boston (“PDA #135”), and the Development Plan for Planned Development Area No. 136, Fenway Corners Project (West), Boston (“PDA #136”), filed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency.

Said amendment would amend “Map 1Q, Fenway Neighborhood District,” by adding the designation “D,” indicating a Planned Development Area overlay district to the existing zoning designation of approximately 43,671 square feet, approximately 1.003

acres, of land bounded generally by Lansdowne Street to the south, private property to the west and east, and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority commuter rail right of way to the north (“PDA #135”), and would also add the designation “D,” indicating a Planned Development Area overlay district to the existing zoning designation of approximately 188,717 square feet, approximately 4.33 acres, to several parcels of land located at 70 Van Ness Street, 85 Van Ness Street, 19-23 Jersey Street, 25-27 Jersey Street, 31-37 Jersey Street, 78-88 Brookline Avenue, 92 Brookline Avenue, 100-102 Brookline Avenue, 104-106 Brookline Avenue, 110-114 Brookline Avenue, and 73-89 Brookline Avenue (“PDA #136”).

Said Development Plans would allow for the construction of eight buildings containing approximately 2.083 million square feet (“s.f.”) of Gross Floor Area to contain office, laboratory/research and development, residential, retail, restaurant, commercial, day care and other uses, as well as underground parking to accommodate approximately 1,489 motor vehicles, new open spaces to be made available to the public, and extensive public realm improvements, including the creation of a new connecting roadway between Boylston Street and Brookline Avenue (collectively, the “Proposed Project” or “Project”). One approximately 250,000 s.f. building will be constructed within the Fenway Corners North PDA, and the remaining seven buildings will be constructed within the Fenway Corners West PDA.

This meeting will only be held virtually and not in person. **You can participate in this meeting by going to https://bit.ly/BZC_Aug2023. Copies of the petitions and a map of the area involved may be obtained from the Zoning Commission electronically, and you may also submit written comments or questions to zoningcommission@boston.gov.**

Interpreting services are available to communicate information at this hearing. **If you require interpreting services, please contact zoningcommission@boston.gov or 617-918-4308. The meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2023. Please request interpreting services no later than August 4, 2023.**

**FOR THE COMMISSION,
JEFFREY M. HAMPTON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Neighborhood Newsline

Condos at Holy Trinity Church Inch Toward Approval

THERE IS A QUICK TURNAROUND FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS on two seven-story residential buildings with 115 units planned for 165 Park Drive, behind the Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church. A public meeting is scheduled for July 26, and responses are due to BPDA project manager Quinn Valcich just one week later (quinn.w.valcich@boston.gov).

At the Boston Civic Design Commission's third subcommittee review for the project, held July 18, commissioners continued to question some architectural choices. Nevertheless, the subcommittee reached a consensus to submit the project to the full commission at its Aug. 1 hearing for a final vote. Transom Development's Carson Land admitted that the design had to balance delicately between accommodating the needs of the church, the site constraints—including a grade change from Kilmarnock Street—and planning for 48 income-restricted condominiums. Apparently, those units will carry 50-year deed restrictions, although no public funding is involved. According to Valcich, the project's Impact Advisory Group members include Tribora Kirkland, James Smith, Rico Laing, Kathleen McBride, Pam Beale, Rich Giordano, and Frederica Veikley.

Outbound 55 Buses Gets A New Destination Sign: "Fenway"

THE 55 BUS HEADER NOW READS "FENWAY" on outbound trips, a change made after the 55 Bus Route Coalition met with representatives of the MBTA to brainstorm improvements to increase ridership.

Northeastern Grad Students Celebrate Union-Organizing Ruling

ON JULY 19, HUNDREDS OF ACADEMIC WORKERS with Graduate Employees of Northeastern University-UAW (GENU-UAW) and their allies rallied on Northeastern's campus to celebrate a National Labor Relations Board decision to order a union election. The election will take place Sept. 19 to 21. During the election, all graduate workers performing teaching or research will get to vote on whether to form a union and bargain collectively with the university.

Fenway Health Launches Kenneth H. Mayer Fellowship

IN MID-JULY, FENWAY HEALTH ANNOUNCED THE KENNETH H. MAYER FELLOWSHIP at The Fenway Institute. The fellowship will provide early-stage investigators support for developing independent research agendas and insights into the grant-funding process of the National Institutes of Health and other major funders. The program will start with five fellows. "Together, these fellows are committed to addressing critical issues and unanswered questions in the field of LGBTQIA+ health and HIV. They are already making significant contributions in the fields of infectious disease, general internal medicine, clinical psychology, epidemiology, socio-behavioral sciences, and health services," said Dr. Kenneth Mayer, medical research director and co-chair of the Fenway Institute. "I am incredibly excited to work with our fellows and support their efforts to advance the health and care of LGBTQIA+ people and those living with HIV."

DURKAN MEETS WITH CLIMATE ADVOCATES



At the Boston Women's Memorial on Comm. Ave. on July 6, several representatives of grassroots environmental and climate organizations gathered to discuss their priorities with District 8 City Council candidate Sharon Durkan and seek her input and support. Priorities discussed included broadening awareness of the City's Community Choice Electricity program, which allows consumers to switch to 100 percent renewable energy; reducing fossil fuel use; and conserving urban wilds. Boston Green Action and the Boston Clean Energy Coalition organized the event, which included members of Boston Climate Action Network and Gas Transition Allies and resident activists. Above, Durkan stands with Jackie Royce and Michael McCord of Boston Green Action. In the July 25 special election to replace Kenzie Bok, Durkan ran against Assistant Suffolk County District Attorney Montez Haywood, who lives in the West End.

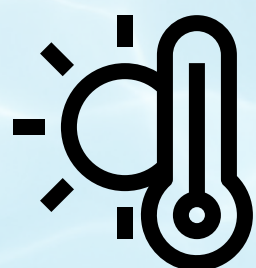
STATE SENATE SEEKS PART-TIME FELLOWS

The State Senate has begun accepting applications for a fellowship program designed for traditionally underserved populations. The program provides paid part-time positions in Senate offices from September to November 2023, and Sen. Will Brownsberger's office will participate. Learn more and apply at <https://willbrownsberger.com/senate-paid-fellowship-program/>.



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DURING HEAT EMERGENCIES AND HIGH HEAT AFTERNOONS, A COOL SPOT POP-UP WITH A HYDRATION AND MISTING STATION WILL BE LOCATED JUST OFF FORSYTH STREET NORTH OF RUGGLES STATION.



STAY COOL

N Northeastern University
Climate Justice and
Sustainability Hub

N Northeastern
City and Community Engagement

Utility Boxes Get An Upgrade

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHARLESGATE ALLIANCE



Two embellished utility boxes now grace Charlesgate Park. Stephanie Li painted the boxes with assistance from Jane Kim-Testa under a commission from the Charlesgate Alliance, which got permission from the Department of Conservation & Recreation. The box in the Grove section, left, celebrates the Muddy River. The other box sits in South Field, where the Alliance hopes to site a dog park in its ongoing plan for revitalization of the park.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

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

Open Newbury Street returned last month, but this year the street will close every Sunday through October 15 to all but pedestrians. Cross traffic will continue on Berkeley, Clarendon, and Dartmouth, but the blocks between those streets, plus everything from Dartmouth to Mass. Ave. will stay blissfully car-free, 10am–8pm. ➡ **Just before this issue**

went to press, City Chief of Policy Mike Firestone directed the Landmarks Commission not to vote at its July 25 meeting on landmark status for the Hotel Buckminster, the oldest building left in Kenmore Square. The vote to designate the hotel would have capped the standard landmarking process, which the Alliance kicked off last fall with a citizen petition and supporting historical documentation. Firestone gave no

reason for the cancellation, according to the Alliance, whose executive director called the move “unprecedented” (and didn’t mean it as a compliment). Developer IQHQ wants to demolish the building—although it would save some of the façade—and replace it with a 215-foot tower. Had the vote taken place, landmark status would not have prevented demolition, but it would have required a more thorough review of how changes would affect the historic fabric of the area. The hotel represents a key link to 20th-century Boston, including early radio broadcasting, World War II operations, and the jazz scene of the 1950s. Converted to a lodging house in the 1970s, the hotel became an affordable-housing flash point in the 1980s—another key piece of the building’s history—as tenants organized to oppose rent hikes. ➡ Boston Children’s Hospital announced that its parent company has completed purchase of Franciscan Children’s, a Catholic rehab and mental-health facility in Brighton. The deal—first floated in 2021—brings Franciscan fully under the Children’s umbrella, although it will still use its old name. It also opens the door for a \$500-million expansion of the Brighton campus. ➡ **Gov. Maura Healey appointed Wentworth faculty member Ilyas Bhatti, former head of the defunct Metropolitan District Commission, to the MassDOT board of directors.** ➡

The *Globe* published a glowing profile of Lourdjinia Louis on the front page of its Metro section. Louis was valedictorian of Madison Park High’s class of 2023. Other area valedictorians included Emeline Rose Boreau (Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers); Joseph Leo Doherty (O’Bryant School of Math and Science); Jakayla Furr (Fenway High); Ariya Patel (Boston Arts Academy), and Kevin Works (McKinley Prep/Mel King Academy). ➡ **If you’ve ever fumed over “convenience fees” for online orders (ICYMI sure has) you’ll understand why it took just 10 days for Fenway-based Toast to rescind a 99-cent fee for online orders above \$10. Restaurants balked, worried that customers would blame them, not the tech company. Toast, which seemed to take over all restaurant ordering during the pandemic, announced in May that it would break its lease for 110,000 SF at 401 Park. It retains a small footprint there through 2024.** ➡ Mystery swirled around Berklee President Erica Muhl, who won’t return from a leave of absence she began in June. Trustees, faculty, and staff at the school stayed mum about why, but a *Globe* investigation found not only dissatisfaction among Berklee students and faculty but also collected harsh assessments from faculty and administrators who left USC while she was dean of its school of fine arts, the position she held before arriving at Berklee in 2021. ➡

Farmers Markets

This month look for late-season blueberries, peak season raspberries and peaches, as well as green beans, celery, and leeks.	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.
	BRIGHAM CIRCLE	Thursday	11:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
	SOUTH END: 500 HARRISON AVENUE (AT SOWA ARTS MARKET)	Sunday	10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

DASHBOARD

TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UPS

BACK BAY	FENWAY	MISSION HILL
Monday and Thursday	Tuesday and Friday	Tuesday and Friday

STREET CLEANING

Street cleaning (and towing) resumed on April 1. In the Fenway, you need to check both City and DCR schedules to see when street cleaning takes place. Find City info at <https://tinyurl.com/s9fyarf8>. See the DCR schedule at <https://tinyurl.com/4usvd8w3>.

FENWAY HEALTH



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

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

SOX BOX

Fri, August 4	7:10pm
Sat, August 5	4:10pm
Sun, August 6	1:35pm
Mon, August 7	7:10pm
Tue, August 8	7:10pm
Wed, August 9	7:10pm
Thu, August 10	7:10pm
Fri, August 11	7:10pm
Sat, August 12	4:10pm
Sun, August 13	12:05pm
Fri, August 25	7:10pm
Sat, August 26	4:10pm
Sun, August 27	1:35pm
Mon, August 28	7:10pm
Tue, August 29	7:10pm
Wed, August 30	4:10pm

> **FENWAY CORNERS** from page 1 views of the Citgo sign will be obstructed. On July 21, *Boston Globe* sport columnist Dan Shaughnessy wrote: “Nice of FSG to unveil its five- to eight-year Fenway Corners plan to build on every available piece of land around the ballpark. The proposed monstrosity that would sit behind the Green Monster looks bigger than the new Terminal E at Logan... Increasingly, it feels like the Red Sox are merely a side hustle in the FSG acquirement/real estate company.”

Alison Pultinas lives in Mission Hill.

TimeOut MARKET

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The Arts

A Cartoon Seen In Water

A man's face in
The Muddy River
Undulating.

Bald with
Features
Clearly drawn.

Drawn
With what?

The face is
A constellation of
Tree branch reflections.

Egg-shaped head
Sullen lips
A frown with,
One suspects,
Some suffering
Behind it.

Sharp chin.
Sharp nose.
Stress lines
Below each eye.

Not
A happy camper.

We recognize him
In our daily lives.

Also,
He looks like
The spectral Wizard of Oz,
All scowl and
No joy,
Bobbing
Up and down to
The rhythm of
The ripples—
Soft,
Massaging ripples.

Maybe
That elemental sourpuss
Who won't go away
Would benefit from
A class in
How to laugh at things.
I'm sure there's one
At continuing ed
Somewhere.

—JOHN ENGSTROM

BERKLEE ALUMS RACK UP AWARDS

BY KELSEY BRUUN

Although the announcement that Berklee College of Music president Erica Muhl won't return next year (see ICYMI on page 5) made headlines, the school generated plenty of other news last month.

TONY AWARDS...

Three Berklee alumni won Tony Awards on June 11. Charlie Rosen received his second Tony for best orchestrations, this time for his work with Bryan Carter on *Some Like It Hot*. Rosen, a 2022 Grammy Award winner for "best arrangement, instrumental or a cappella," won his first Tony in 2020 for co-orchestrating *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*. Boston Conservatory alumni Ben Simpson and Mike Mosallam both received Tonys as producers of *Parade*, which won this year's award for best revival of a musical.

EMMY AWARDS...

In mid-July, 19 alumni received nominations for Emmy Awards in sound mixing, sound editing, and composition. Lena Glikson-Nezhelskaya was nominated for outstanding sound editing for a comedy or drama series (one-hour) for her work on Netflix's *Stranger Things*. Darrin Mann and Stephanie McNally both received nominations in the category of outstanding sound editing for a comedy or drama series (half-hour) and animation, Mann for his work on *Barry* and McNally for hers on *The Mandalorian*. Tony Morales received his second nomination for his compositions on the CNN series *Eva Longoria: Searching for Mexico*, nominated for outstanding music composition for a documentary series or special (original dramatic score). He joins Anže Rozman and Kara Talve in the same category for their work with Hans Zimmer on the Apple TV+ series *Prehistoric Planet*.

MEANWHILE, BACK ON CAMPUS...

This fall Berklee will allow students to declare an electronic digital instrument (EDI) as their principal instrument. As with all current performance majors, students who chose an EDI will be required to pass through an interview, performance, and audition process.

Also this fall, Berklee will launch RISE (Reaching Independence through Support and Engagement), a new initiative dedicated to supporting and empowering first-generation students and their families in navigating college successfully. RISE aims to enhance the student experience through social networks, academic support, financial education, and parent and family engagement, creating a holistic approach to education that can prove crucial to the more than 16 percent of undergraduates who are first-generation college students. Kera Murphy-Perron, director of student success programming, and her team found that first-generation students face unique challenges, including greater financial need, lower rates of degree attainment within 10 years, and less engagement with campus support services compared to their "continuing-generation" peers.

Kelsey Bruun is the editor of the Fenway News.

Swingin' In The Fens



The Jelani Bauman band performs at Ramler Park on July 12 as part of the Neighborhood Concert Series.

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AUGUST 12; 11-1PM
"FENWAY CONNECTS" BLOCK PARTY AT
NEW EDGERLY ROAD
(ACROSS FROM WHOLE FOODS)

CELEBRATE THE SUMMER & EACH OTHER
WITH A CHALK ART & PLAY POP UP!

THANKS TO
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Mission Hill Fenway
Neighborhood Trust

The Arts

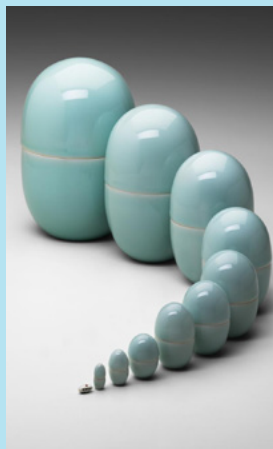
Museums Showcase Unconventional Art Forms

The Gardner Museum's "Presence of Plants in Contemporary Art" brings together works by eight contemporary artists that feature living plants—a particular interest of Isabella Stewart Gardner. In a multi-sensory experience, students and alumni of Berklee and the New England Conservatory will perform to "activate" Rashid Johnson's "Antoine's Organ," (top left) with daily jazz improvisations from 1pm to 3pm and on Thursdays from 6pm to 8pm. The Evans Way facade (far right) features Natalie Jeremijenko's "The Declaration of Interdependence." (Page eight has additional photos.) The exhibition continues through Sept. 17.

Meanwhile, "Tiny Treasures: The Magic of Miniatures" has opened at the MFA. Its 100-plus paintings, drawings, ceramics, and jewelry span from the 7th century B.C.E. to today and showcase the skill required to work at small scale. Highlights include miniature baskets; Egyptian amulets; home decor; a tiny painting by Pablo Picasso; Yagi Akira's "Nesting Covered Boxes" from 1994 (immediate right) and a miniature commode from the Fabergé Workshop (middle right). The exhibit continues through early 2024.

—KELSEY BRUUN

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE ISABELLA STEWART GARDNER MUSEUM



IMAGES COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Art Transforms The Riverway

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STUDIO WITHOUT WALLS



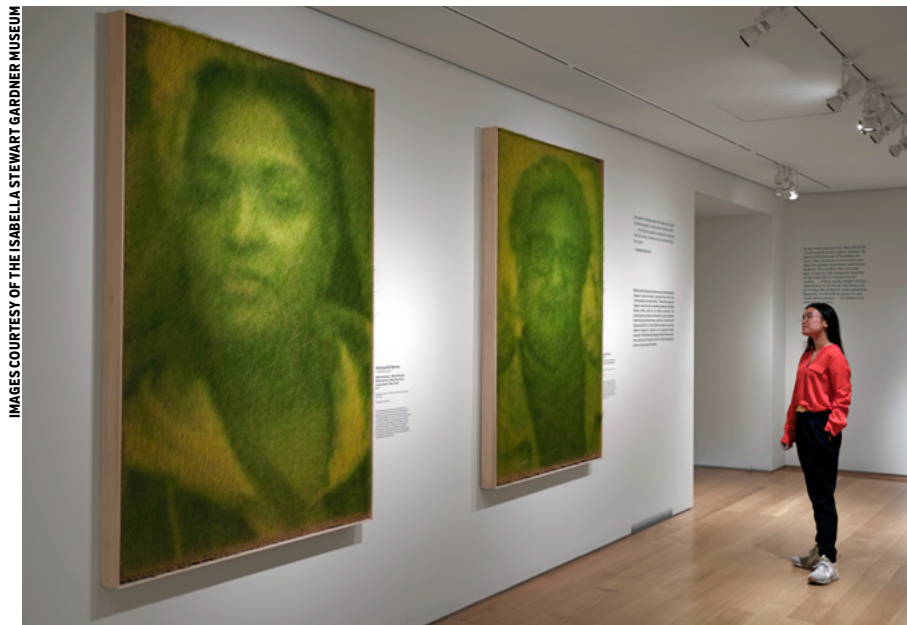
Even Frederick Law Olmsted's artistry can do with a little embellishment now and then—in this instance, the 24th exhibition by Brookline's Studio Without Walls, which continues through Sept. 4 on the Riverway. You'll find 16 sculptures concentrated near the Longwood stop on the MBTA's D Line. We picked five of our favorites, which generally explore themes of the natural world and humans' unnatural impacts on it. Left to right, "Honoring" by Anna Kristina Goransson; "Carry t-HeART" by Linda Hoffman; "Lamb and Ewe" by Madeleine Lord; "Blue Gastropods" by Anne Alexander; and "Flux" by Stacy Latt Savage. Learn more about the artists and their works at www.StudioWithoutWalls.org.

A TROMPE L'OEIL JORDAN HALL...AT JORDAN HALL

PHOTO: STEVE WOLF



New England Conservatory took an image by staff photographer Andrew Hurlbut, enlarged and transferred it onto 3M graphic film, and has installed it on a wall across from Jordan Hall's main entrance on Gainsborough Street.



Left: Ackroyd & Harvey's "Netooesqua/West Woods, Shinnecock Tribal Territory." Right: Cerith Wyn Evans's Still life (In course of arrangement)... VI." The Gardner's summer show, "Presence of Plants in Contemporary Art" remains on display through Sept. 17.

August CALENDAR

Now ➔ Fri, Aug 4

The **MORNINGSIDE MUSIC BRIDGE** program wraps up at New England Conservatory with free concerts featuring "talented young musicians from around the world under the guidance of an internationally renowned faculty." Recitals at Williams Hall or Jordan Hall: 5pm and 7pm (July 29); 7pm (July 31-Aug. 3). Final concert (Aug. 4, 5:30, Jordan Hall) features the MMB string orchestra in the world debut of a piece by composer Atar Arad. **FREE**

Now ➔ Mon, Sep 4

STUDIOS WITHOUT WALLS hosts its annual installation of "site-responsive sculpture" along the Riverway near the entrance to the D Line Longwood stop. The show includes 16 sculptures by 19 artists under the title "The Sum of it's pARTS," and the group's website includes a "treasure hunt" with not-very-difficult questions or riddles that you match to the works. **FREE**

Sat, 7/29, 8/5, 8/12, 8/19 & 8/26

FREE FAMILY FILMS at the Prudential Center's South Court. *Lightyear* (7/29), *Puss In Boots: The Last Wish* (8/5), *The Princess Diaries* (8/12), *Spider-Man: No Way Home* (8/19), *The Bad Guys* (8/26). Doors at 6pm, films at dusk. **FREE**

Tue, 8/1

SUNSET CONCERTS AT SYMPHONY PARK. Enjoy music al fresco, through support from Berklee in partnership with the Fenway Civic Association and the Friends of Symphony Park. 6pm. 39 Edgerly Road. **FREE**

Tue, 8/1, 8/8, 8/15, 8/22, & 8/29

Fit in the Fenway: Samuels & Associates hosts **YOGA FLOW** with The Handle Bar and

The Monica Method, 6pm. The Green at 401 Park.

Wed, 8/2, 8/9, 8/16, 8/23, & 8/30

TAI CHI AT SYMPHONY PARK. Join Sifu Huan Zhang for tai chi, made possible with support from the Mission Hill/Fenway Neighborhood Trust, Northeastern University, and Boston Parks & Recreation. 9am. 39 Edgerly Road. **FREE**

• The Boston Public Library hosts its **CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD SERIES.** Central Library in Copley Square, 6pm. On 8/2, the BPL welcomes pianist Cesare Panizzi. On 8/9, Keana—aka Keerthana Sudarshan—a contemporary R&B pop singer from India performs. On 8/16, flutist Kristalis Sotomayor performs. On 8/23, hear Guatemalan blues singer Mercedes Escobar. On 8/30, 19-year-old Mia Walz, a rising vocalist from Berlin finishes the series. **FREE**

Thu, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, & 8/24

CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD at the MFA. Tucked inside the Calderwood Courtyard, this series showcases the hottest, most diverse acts from Boston and around the globe. Doors at 6 pm, music at 7:30 pm. Food available for purchase. Tickets at <https://www.mfa.org/series/concerts-in-the-courtyard>. \$24–\$30. MFA, 465 Huntington Ave.

Thu, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, & 8/31

The Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series offers **CHAIR YOGA**, great for everyone but especially those who prefer to move with some support. In this class we will energize our bodies, cultivate resilience, explore spinal movements and build core strength and flexibility. Led by Michelle Coleman. Symphony Park, 10am. **FREE**

Fri, 8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25

The Boston Public Library hosts lunchtime

CONCERTS IN THE COURTYARD. Central Library in Copley Square, 12:30pm. On 8/4, enjoy Latin American popular and classical hits with Juan Carlos Ruiz on vocals and guitar and Josaphat Roberto Contreras on vocals and piano. On 8/11, join the BPL for "compelling and beautiful" instrumental piano music from Ben Cosgrove. On 8/18, Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Band brings passion, virtuosity, and contagious energy to the courtyard. On 8/25, join Boston Lyric Opera for a sneak peak into the 2024/25 season. **FREE**

Sat, 8/5

BPL BOOK SALE. All proceeds from the sale go to the City-Wide Friends of the Boston Public Library, a community-led organization that supports the BPL. For details, visit citywidefriendsbpl.org, contact 617-859-2341, or write cwfbpl@hotmail.com. Sales take place the first Saturday of every other month at the Central Library in Copley Square in the McKim Building. 10am–4pm.

Mon, 8/7

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING 101: BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING. Let the Small Business Administration help you get "procurement-ready" to market your firm's products and services to the federal government through our Resource Partners Network. Federal government contracting can represent a very profitable market for your business—but it can also be extremely complex to get started and thrive. 5pm, Central Library in Copley Square. **FREE**

Sat, 8/12

The **LANDMARKS ORCHESTRA** performs "Mozart and More," a free concert at the Hatch Shell. The program includes Mozart's *Symphony #35 (Haffner)*, Rossini, and Roberto Sierra's *Guaracha*. Bring a blanket or

low chair and food. Concert begins at 7pm. **FREE**

Wed, 8/16

IS THIS THING ON? AN ORIENTATION TO PODCASTING. In this orientation, the Boston Public Library will equip you with the knowledge and lingo to start your podcasting journey. This workshop will be held in the Exchange Classroom in the Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center. 5:30pm, Central Library in Copley Square. **FREE**

Thu, 8/24

BANDS ON BLACKFAN. Head to Emmanuel Lawn (33 Ave Louis Pasteur) to hear Far-ayi Malek. There will also be food trucks, games, giveaways, and more. 11:30am to 1:30pm. **FREE**

Massachusetts Historical Society hosts **CARIBBEAN AMERICANS & POLITICS.** The Caribbean American Carnival Association of Boston (CACAB) hosts the city's largest BIPOC celebration, an economic boon for many minority-owned small businesses. Since 1973, the event has grown into an enormous festival of inclusive cultures, cross-culture costumes, masqueraders, music, steelpan orchestra, vendors, and much more. Marking the 50th anniversary, our panel discusses this year's celebration, Caribbean politics in Massachusetts, and CACB's evolution from its founding. A hybrid event, with in-person reception at 5:30pm, program at 6:00pm. Register at www.masshist.org/events/caribbean-americans-politics-celebrating-50-years-caribbean-american-carnival-boston. **FREE**

SENIOR EVENTS

To attend, RSVP to Tracey or Sara at (617) 536-7154. For more information about Operation PEACE programs and senior programming, visit www.operationpeaceboston.org. Some events take place at the Peterborough Senior Center (PSC), and others at the Fenway Community Center (FCC).

- Tue, August 1 at 12pm: **TRIVIA AND BINGO** at PSC
- Tue, August 8 at 12pm: **DECOUPAGE WITH SARA THEOPHALL** at PSC
- Wed, August 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 1pm: **TECH CAFE WITH LITTLE BROTHERS FRIENDS OF THE ELDERLY** at PSC
- Thu, August 17 at 12pm: **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION** featuring a Town Hall with State Sen. Will Brownsberger and Senior CharlieCard sign-up/renewal at FCC
- Thu, August 24 at 12pm: **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION** featuring a presentation on assisted living with Susan Bailis Center community relations director Douglass Warren

@ THE CENTER

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

- Thu, August 10 & 24, 1:15pm: **CHAIR YOGA WITH HANDS TO HEART CENTER**
- Sat, August 12, 11am–1pm: **FENWAY CONNECTS. Celebrate the summer with chalk art and play pop up at New Edgerly Road in front of Whole Foods**
- Tue, August 22, 6–8pm: **LEARN TO MAKE PASTA with celebrity Chef Joe Gatto. Tickets at <https://bit.ly/chefjoegatto>**
- Wed, August 30, 5:30–7:30pm: **WATERCOLOR SEASCAPES WITH FENWAY STUDIOS ARTIST ELI PORTMAN**
- Thu, August 31, 6pm to 7pm: **BEN CUBA AND MIDNIGHT MOTION perform at the FCC**

COMMUNITY meetings

WEDNESDAYS VITA visits the Kirstein Business Library & Innovation Center with free drop-off or remote tax assistance. Taxpayers must show Social Security cards for all individuals included in the tax return. 700 Boylston Street. 4–7pm.

FRIDAYS Staff at the LEGAL SERVICES CENTER AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL will provide advice and referral information to library patrons about civil legal issues. Join at <http://bit.ly/LSCBPL> or by phone at (646) 558-8656; dial meeting ID when prompted: 886 1508 1914. 10am–12pm.

THU, AUG 3 Visit the Parker Hill Branch of the Boston Public Library **ONE-ON-ONE TECH HELP.** Have questions about your computer, cellphone, or using eBooks? Need guidance on safe Web browsing, email, or

Microsoft Word? Talk one-on-one with a neighborhood librarian! Sign up for a 1-hour appointment by calling the branch at 617-427-3820 or email parkerhill@bpl.org.

THU, AUG 10 Join the Fenway CDC for its monthly **ORGANIZING COMMITTEE MEETING.** All are welcome! For details, contact Leo Ruiz Sanchez at lruizsanchez@fenwaycdc.org or 857-302-0523.

SAT, AUG 19 The Boston Ward 4 Democratic Committee invites all to its **ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL**, co-hosted by Mayor Michelle Wu. It's an afternoon of friendship and community—and a chance to meet our elected officials while enjoying some of the best ice cream in the world. Titus Sparrow Park, 75 W. Rutland Square. 2–4pm.